



**Fourth Session  
of the  
Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water**

**Draft Resolution**

**15-10-2018**

**Cairo, Egypt**



## DRAFT RESOLUTION NO. 1/4-ICWM/2018

*The Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water (Steps on the Road), held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt from 14-16 October 2018 (5-7 Safar 1440H),*

**Underscoring** the significance of cooperation among Member States for the implementation of the OIC Water Vision, including cooperation related to Water Resources to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation in addition to cooperation in sharing of knowledge and exchange of experiences to address water-related challenges in the OIC Member States;

**Referring** to the OIC 2025: Program of Action adopted by the Thirteen Islamic Summit held in Istanbul in April 2016, which called upon Member states to strengthen cooperation for the implementation of the OIC Water Vision and attainment of the goals and targets defined therein;

**Welcoming** the adoption of the OIC STI Agenda 2026 by the first OIC Summit on the science & technology held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 10-11 September, 2017 in particular priority No.3; Safety of water, Food and the Environment and recommendations and targets related to water use, recycling and management;

**Recalling** the resolutions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for water (Istanbul, Turkey, 17-19 May 2016), which inter-alia approved the Terms of Reference for the OIC Water Council and also requested Member States to designate national focal points;

**Recalling** relevant resolutions adopted by successive sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) particularly Resolution No. 45/5 – S & T on OIC Water Vision adopted by the 45<sup>th</sup> Session of CFM held in the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018;

**Recognizing** the importance of better water management, water infrastructure and greater access to a safe, reliable and affordable supply of water and adequate sanitation services in improving the living standards, human health and social wellbeing of the Member States;

**Recalling** the Ministerial declaration of the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council, particularly article 23 related to the commitment of improving cooperation across borders in transboundary water to achieve universal and sustainable access to safe drinking water;



**Mindful** of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by United Nations particularly Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation and its associated targets related to increasing water-use efficiency across all sectors to ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity challenge;

**Gravely concerned** by the adverse impacts of water scarcity and drought, climate change, and desertification on poverty and food insecurity, particularly when it leads to increased pressure on water resources, threaten the ecosystems of drainage basins and degrade the water quality of international watercourses;

**Recalling** the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development“ 2018-2028;

**Recognizing** the importance of creating partnerships at the national, regional and global levels, among stakeholders from the public and private sectors, members of civil society and academia for improving water governance to ensure sustainable utilization of water resources and ensuring provision of water and sanitation for all;

**Emphasizing** that watercourse states are entitled to benefit from the resources of these watercourses, provided that all the appropriate measures are taken to prevent the causing of significant harm to watercourse states;

**Acknowledging** the importance of allocating adequate financial resources for the development of water infrastructure and emphasizing need for mobilizing additional financial resources in the form of domestic and international public and private funding;

**Appreciating** SESRIC for preparing the OIC water Report 2018 that took stock of the present situation of water and highlighted challenges faced by the OIC Member States;

**Acknowledging** the keynote speech on water footprint as a tool for water resources management;

**Taking note** of the panel discussions on enhancing integrated water resources management to achieve sustainable development goals during this session, and

**Having considered the Report of the Secretary General;**



1. **Encourages** the Member States to implement the OIC Water Vision;
2. **Decides** the composition of the Water Council for two year term (2018-2020) as follows; ----- OIC General Secretariat; and relevant OIC institutions and international organizations as observers;
3. **Expresses** deep concern at the acute shortage of water resources in the state of Palestine due to the punitive measures of the Israeli occupation authorities including the blockade of Gaza strip; and requests the international community to assume its responsibilities in compelling Israel to strictly abide by its commitments under international law including international humanitarian law and to halt all its illegal measures in the occupied Palestinian territory;
4. **Reiterates** OIC Member States sharing international watercourse basins to establish all-inclusive regional and bilateral arrangements to enhance cooperation and coordination between riparian states, based on consensus decision making and mutual benefits to achieve universal and sustainable access to safe drinking water and to safeguard the interests of all relevant riparian countries, furthermore increasing joint investments and consensual plans for the development of river basins, lakes and aquifers;
5. **Takes note** of the outcome of the panel discussions on enhancing integrated water resources management to achieve sustainable development goals and calls upon the OIC Water Council to suggest practical measures for the implementation of the recommendations made;
6. **Calls upon** Member States to prepare and adopt national strategies and plans and align their implementation activities for the achievement of the water related SDGs particularly SDG No.6 and its associated targets as well as the objectives of the International Decade for Action “Water For Sustainable Development” 2018-2028;
7. **Emphasizes** the importance of active coordination among the national focal points (NFP) of the Member States, OIC General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions for the implementation of OIC Water Vision and reiterates its request to the Member States that have not designated NFPs to do the same at the earliest;
8. **Requests** the IDB and other financial institutions to consider financing agreed upon projects by the Riparian Countries after concluding the relevant studies to assist



- them in achieving the SDGs, preserve the sustainability of shared water resources and implement the OIC Water Vision;
9. **Commends** SESRIC for the Preparation and dissemination of a specific capacity building questionnaire on water resources among the Member States to share necessary information with SESRIC;
  10. **Calls upon** the Member States, OIC institutions and relevant national and civil society organizations to actively arrange and participate in the programmes for capacity building and human resource development in the water related areas;
  11. **Welcomes** the establishment of a network of water institutes of the Member States to facilitate exchange of Knowledge, experiences and best practices in the domain of water among the Member States;
  12. **Calls upon** the Member States, OIC General Secretariat and other OIC relevant institutions to help the educational and research institutes working on water-related issues in the Member States to share and enhance knowledge and to carry out collaborative research activities;
  13. **Encourages** the OIC institutions, international financial institutions including the Islamic Development Bank (**IDB**), and other international partners to coordinate their efforts for assisting the OIC Member States to pursue the implementation of the OIC Water Vision in a synergistic manner;
  14. **Decides** to hold the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water in 2020 in -----;
- Or: Mandates** the OIC Secretary General to consult Member States about the venue for hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> session of Islamic Conference of Ministers responsible for Water in 2020;
15. **Requests** the Secretary General to take appropriate steps for the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water.