

REPORT

OF

THE ONLINE MINISTERIAL SESSION
OF THE 3rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ISLAMIC
ORGANISATION FOR FOOD SECURITY (IOFS)

ANKARA, THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

DECEMBER 03, 2020

RABI AL-THANI 17-18, 1442 H

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE 3RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ISLAMIC ORGANISATION FOR FOOD SECURITY

ANKARA, TURKEY, 03 DECEMBER 2020

Introduction

1. At the invitation of the Government of Republic of Turkey, the Ministerial Session of the 3rd General Assembly of Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS) was held online in Ankara, Republic of Turkey on 03 December 2020.
2. The Session was attended by delegates from twenty-nine (29) Member States of IOFS, and sixteen (16) member states of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) as well as representatives of eighteen (18) OIC, regional and international organisations. List of Participants is annexed to this Report.

Opening Ceremony

3. The Session opened with a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. Thereafter, the Chairman of the First Part of the session, His Excellency, Eng. Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Mohsen Alfadley, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia started chair the Assembly.

Election of the Bureau

4. The Assembly approved the composition of the Bureau of the Session as follows:
 - Republic of Turkey (Chairman)
 - Republic of Mali (Vice Chairman)
 - State of United Arab Emirates (Vice Chairman)
 - Republic of Kazakhstan (Rapporteur)
5. Republic of Turkey took over the Chairmanship for the next period till the 4th General Assembly.
6. Following his assumption of chairmanship of the 3rd General Assembly, His Excellency, Mr. Bekir Pakdemirli, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey welcomed all delegates to the General Assembly and conveyed congratulation message and warm wishes of His Excellency, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of Turkey.

Keynote Speeches

7. His Excellency, Eng. Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Mohsen Alfadley, in his speech stated that the global pandemic caused many negative effects and consequences especially in food production systems and food supply & chains. Therefore, the international community should have rigorous attention unto national strategies for food security, execution of programmes supporting the agricultural sector and rural development, especially small farmers, rural residents and vulnerable groups, enhancement of intra-state trade of food commodities, among others. His Excellency informed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has spared no effort during its Chairmanship in IOFS in supporting its projects and programmes and ensured to continue these activities further.
8. His Excellency, Mr. Bekir Pakdemirli in his address outlined that in order to build up a food security resilience, there is a need for cooperation in strengthening mutual trust and ties which are vital elements of a secure, prosperous and united international community and also His Excellency shared his optimistic insights about the outcomes of the 3rd General Assembly of IOFS, as expects to receive useful feedbacks, fruitful and sustainable results and promising proposals from the Member States to enhance cooperation on *“Building up Food Security Resilience within the OIC Region”*. His Excellency highlighted experience of Turkey, particularly on managing food loss and waste. Turkey has recently launched a campaign, namely *“Save Your Food”* with the cooperation of UN FAO, aiming at reducing food losses and waste by raising public awareness both at national and international level and thus the state sets a good example on food security domain.
9. In his own keynote address at the Opening Session, His Excellency, Mr. Tarig Ali Bakheet, Assistant Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation updated upon the decisions of the latest and just concluded 47th Session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), which took place in Niamey, Niger on 27-28 November 2020 on matters of food security and rural development. Particularly, the CFM underlined the necessity to develop an OIC food security reserve, strategic agricultural commodities, and to apply modern technology, science, and innovation in addressing the various challenges to food security within the OIC region.
10. His Excellency, Mr. Yerlan Baidalet, Director General of IOFS, in his address stressed out that 2020 has been an unprecedented and challenging period that

affected all parts of the world, especially the OIC region, with the COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent drawbacks. Global food systems have been tested by both environmental and biological factors that reflect the urgent need for more resilient, strong, and powerful food system that can bear the responsibility at national, regional, and international level. The immediate global reaction to COVID-19 was having in place all the measures for an appropriate lockdown and closing borders to protect all countries from the spread of the pandemic. Such action affects the flow of food supplies, disrupts food chains, and leaves farmers facing challenges without support and consequently the produce remains rotten at fields. His Excellency underlined that the food we need should be nutritional, safe, Halal and enough for everybody and IOFS believes in the entire modality *From Gene to Fork* as a complete ecosystem to achieve this aspirational goal.

Report of Senior Officials Meeting

11. The Assembly received the Report of the Senior Officials Meeting, represented by His Excellency, Mr. Akif Ozkaldi, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey. The SOM was preparatory to the ministerial segment of the General Assembly, considered and approved the various resolutions, featuring, *inter alia*, the following issues/programmes:
 - Membership, Administrative and Financial Matters
 - OIC Plan of Action on Development of Strategic Commodities (Wheat, Cassava and Rice+...+ Palm-Oil)
 - Establishment of the OIC Food Security Reserve
 - Establishment of the Islamic Food Processing Association
 - Food Security Governance
 - IOFS Programmes on Science, Technology, and Innovation
 - Agri-Food Trade and Investment Promotion
 - Food Humanitarian Programmes
 - Enhancement of IOFS Food Balance Database.
12. During the country debates, esteemed Republic of Tunisia declared its intention to sign the Statute of IOFS in due course. Furthermore, delegates from following states/organisations have intervened with very supportive statements and valuable insights and proposals:

Bangladesh, UAE, Azerbaijan, Iran, Tunisia, Pakistan, Indonesia, Palestine, Egypt, Mali, Nigeria, SESRIC, ICARDA, ITFC, AAAID, SMIIC, UN WFP, COMCEC, ISESCO, among others.

Vote of Thanks

13. At the end of the Second Session, the General Assembly addressed a note of appreciation to the Government of Turkey for hosting the meeting and excellent arrangements, which ensured the success of the historical event.

**Ankara, Turkey/
The Secretariat of IOFS
Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan
03 December 2020**