



Concept Note on the International Conference of IOC Member States on the Development of an IOFS Food Security Reserves

The endeavours of global communities to reduce worldwide hunger to zero (Sustainable Developing Goal-SDG) by the year 2030 is facing a major challenge with the numbers of malnourished people rising to more than 820 million by 2018. Even more drastic consequences are expected to arise this year with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and global warming exacerbating the ability to sustain food growth and avoid post-harvest losses.



OIC Member Countries' across Africa and Asia populations particularly have an immense challenge. According to FAO reports around 2 billion people worldwide experience moderate to severe food insecurity¹. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) reported that 26 countries will be in food insecurity while they are already at the levels of chronically hungry. In addition, 1.5 billion children globally who are currently out of school and depend on school meals to avoid going

hungry. The global situation will be even more vehement, according to the WFP a record 235 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2021, a near-40 percent increase on 2020 which is almost entirely from COVID-19, according to the newly published Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2021. See [Global Humanitarian Overview 2021 | Global Humanitarian Overview \(unocha.org\)](#)

This situation requires the need to move toward consolidation of efforts among OIC/IOFS Member States (MS) to attain the goals of zero food insecurity and emergency humanitarian hunger alleviation across the Muslim World. The FSR needs to be framed to respond to this emergency situation and situations of food shortage including agro-climatic prevention measures which will require structural efforts by governments as well as social safety nets.

The 7th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 26-28 April, 2016 requested further studies on the modalities for the creation of OIC Food Security Reserves. Due to the postponement of 8th MCFSAD, the Draft Protocol of OIC FSR was due to be submitted for consideration and approval within the 3rd IOFS General Assembly.

The Third General Assembly of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) held online in Ankara, the Republic of Turkey, on 02-03 December 2020/17-18 Rabi Al-Thani, 1442H, resolved (RESOLUTION № IOFS/GA/3-6-2020 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OIC FOOD SECURITY RESERVE)

¹ [In Brief to The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 \(fao.org\)](#)

'Having considered the report of the Director General on this issue, 1. Underlines the well-done work by the Secretariat in respect of: a) proposing the new pioneering approach that enables transboundary share of reserves among OIC countries; b) commissioning an international consulting firm hired by virtue of TA Grant graciously provided by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), that will shape the operational mechanisms of the Protocol; c) collecting the relevant data; d) the on-going discussions with a various public and finance institutions upon the draft of the Protocol; and e) conducting experts meeting held online on 09 November 2020;

2. Appreciates the intention of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to support the programme and co-finance the Grain Fund project including the feasibility study; 3. Commends the trade financing, trade development and capacity building activities of International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) in agricultural sector and food security and welcomes aspiration of (ITFC) for its in-kind support to the establishment of the Grain Fund and managing its resources; 4. Demands from the Secretariat in coordination with Member States and experts to address technical issues related to the concrete quality standards of reserved products, preservation and storage expenses, all technical and financial details of the Food Security Reserves as well as to avail viable mechanisms of the Grain Fund operation; 5. Emphasizes the need to conduct further in-depth study of the subject and assessment of existing food reserve banks worldwide and based on learnt pros and cons to propose the best solutions for reliable OIC food security reserves; 6. Invites OIC Member states to provide the necessary political will in supporting the programme and to nominate relevant experts to discuss the draft Protocol'. (Adopted in Ankara, 03 December 2020.)

The outcome of further work on the development of a feasibility study on the Food Security Reserve was for the IOFS Secretariat to engage experts to enhance the preliminary study and to give effect to a virtual conference of member states to further debate and reach some consensus on the way forward for the development of the FSR.



Basic Principles of the OIC Food Security Reserves

The Main Purpose: to facilitate the access of food in the OIC Member States through coordination of national food stock policies and national food reserve for guaranteed provision to the population during the period of food shortage.

Management Mechanisms to include: real-time monitoring of the food security situation of Member States by being equipped with an extensive information and analytical system, that assesses and evaluates the risks, threats, and scale of problems in the food security area, and is used to regulate online the FSR activities (withdrawals and replenishment of food reserves). This monitoring mechanism requires complimentary and integrated data from member states that predicts likely scenarios in the medium to long-term but also has the capacity for MS to identify immediate needs and trigger a response. Whether that is centralised by region or operates independently state by state will be dependent on the reliability of existing systems.

Governance: providing supervision and coordination in the implementation of the FSR by a Steering Committee composed of representatives from all OIC Member State. FSR should be sufficiently autonomous where the management of reserves should be independent and transparent.

Structure: The FSR consists of grain or other principal food commodity and a financial element in a combination determined and in the form of an obligation as to the volumes of production and storage by Members States' Steering Committees in consultations with the FSR Steering Committee and with other functions to decide on the amount, type of food for stockpiling, physical storage and distribution mechanisms for emergency food supply obligations.

Management structure of the Regional FSR



Study on FSR

Currently, the study on the OIC FSR is being carried out within the IsDB grant in which the Consultant is to provide detailed substantiated recommendations on the FSR, which will include:

- proposals for grouping of countries in Regional FSR;
- the required volumes of food commodities in Regional FSR
- types of food commodities in Regional FSR;
- mechanisms and options for withdrawing stocks;
- possible mechanisms for supporting regional reserves, which participating countries do not have sufficient potential;
- principles of managing regional reserves.
- challenges and risks to effective operation of a FSR.

WFP's Corporate Alert System has been updated, highlighting countries and sub-regions where low resource levels, important life-saving needs, and COVID-19 intersect with compounding risks in the next six months. Within these are OIC/IOFS member states which

are affected including and featured at the highest level are Yemen and Afghanistan, Central Sahel (Bakino Faso, Mali and Niger)², Mozambique.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Top Countries of Concern per November's Corporate Alert System



² [Central Sahel: the humanitarian emergency the world is ignoring | World Food Programme \(wfp.org\)](https://www.wfp.org/stories/central-sahel-the-humanitarian-emergency-the-world-is-ignoring)