

**Attachment 9****The First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Health****Kuala Lumpur Declaration 2007**

**We, the Ministers of Health of the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, participating in the First Session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers, having met in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (12-15 June 2007) and having reviewed the priority public health issues facing the Islamic Ummah:**

**Considering** that health is central to overall human development and the reduction of poverty;

**Considering** the resolution of World Health Assembly 60.28 on pandemic influenza preparedness plan sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccine and other benefits;

**Acknowledging** that health interventions in conflict ridden areas can contribute to advancing peace;

**Recognising** that health is a crucially important economic asset resulting in increased labour productivity and educational attainment;

**Desiring** to achieve the objective of Joint Islamic Action, a new vision of the OIC to face the challenges of the muslim Ummah in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, solidarity in action in dealing with eradication of poverty and public health issues particularly diseases and epidemics;

**Recalling** the provision of the OIC Ten -Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Summit Conference held in Makkah Al Mukarramah that mandated the Islamic Development Bank to coordinate with the OIC General Secretariat in order to make the necessary contacts with the World Health Organization and the other relevant institutions to draw up a programme for combating diseases and epidemics, to be financed through the special fund that will be created within the IDB;

**Noting with appreciation** the decision of 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Makkah Al Mukarramah (December 2005) to establish a special fund within the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in order to help address and alleviate poverty and fight diseases and epidemics in the OIC member states;

**Noting** that communicable diseases such as Avian Influenza, Tuberculosis, Malaria and HIV can lead to significant loss of lives and have a negative impact on the economy of OIC Member States;

**Acknowledging** that in today's highly mobile, interdependent and interconnected world, communicable diseases can spread much faster than at any time in history and the threat of newly emerging diseases is growing;

**Noting** that in order to protect the world against these public health threats the International Health Regulations (2005) adopted by all 193 member states of the World Health Organization have come into effect today, on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007;

**Acknowledging** that the International Health Regulations (2005), pandemic preparedness programmes and active international collaboration are essential components in ensuring public health in all countries, including the OIC Member States;

**Noting with alarm** that more than a third of unvaccinated children globally (9.9 million infants) reside in the OIC Member States;

**Noting with concern** that the exclusive breastfeeding rate (up to 6 months) in many OIC Member States is less than 20%;

**Noting with alarm** that maternal mortality due to preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth still remains unacceptably high in many OIC Member States;

**Recalling** the Polio resolutions adopted at the 10th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Putrajaya, Malaysia; the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Istanbul, Turkey; and the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Islamabad, Pakistan;

**Acknowledging** that the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has reduced the global incidence of polio by 99% since 1988, and is working to stop polio in the last four remaining endemic countries in the world, three of whom are OIC Member States;

**Noting the urgent call** made by the last remaining polio-affected countries for additional financial support that is critically needed to close the significant funding

gap of US\$ 540 million required to conduct planned polio immunization activities in 2007-2008;

**Acknowledging** the need for the provision of a body in OIC to facilitate, implement and monitor programmes required to mitigate challenges in health faced by the Ummah;

**Acknowledging** the efforts of Saudi Arabia in preventive practices to avoid transmission and emergence of pandemic diseases during the Hajj pilgrimage.

**Acknowledging** the efforts of some OIC Member States in reducing maternal mortality,

**Noting with concern** the health and environmental degradation, due the Israeli occupation of the Palestine territory and the occupied Golan Heights:

**Recognising** that health security, including biosafety, is integral to international security and is a prerequisite for development;

**Recognising** that tobacco epidemic is one of the greatest threat to health;

**We, the Ministers of Health of the OIC Member States declare as follows:**

1. **Praise** the OIC General Secretariat for taking the lead in promoting public health initiatives among the OIC Member States in collaboration with international organizations;
2. **Congratulate** the Islamic Development Bank on the creation of the Poverty Alleviation Fund, urge the IDB to rapidly operationalize the fund and urge the OIC Member States to further support this fund through generous and urgent contributions;
3. **Applaud** the Government of Malaysia for hosting and sponsoring the first-ever OIC Health Ministerial Conference in Kuala Lumpur, 12-15 June, 2007, and **recognize** the importance of such high-level conferences on a regular and rotational basis;
4. **Congratulate** The Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESTRCIC) for its reference study on tobacco control in OIC Member States;
5. **Congratulate** Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Science and Technology (COMSTECH) for their efforts and contribution in advocating and preparation of guidelines in bioethics and medical ethics;

6. **Urge** OIC Member States to assess the existing national public health systems and develop, strengthen and maintain the core country capacities required under the International Health Regulations (2005) through the mobilization of both domestic and external resources and expertise;
7. **Contribute** to and **actively participate** in the strengthening of the WHO regional and international alert and response systems through close international collaboration and in compliance with the rules and procedures of the International Health Regulations (2005), and ensure and actively participate in effective and transparent international mechanisms in accordance with relevant national and international laws aimed at ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits;
8. **Urge** Member States to strengthen global partnerships and undertake joint actions to ensure solidarity, trust, transparency and optimal synergy and impact and ensure access to, and distribution of, affordable diagnostics and treatments, including vaccines, to those in need, especially in developing countries, in a timely manner;
9. **Urge** Member States to support the implementation of resolution WHA60.28 on: Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: Sharing of influenza viruses, and access to vaccine and other benefits;
10. **Urge** the OIC Member States to intensify their cooperation with the World Health Organization and other international organizations to combat global health concerns including HIV/ AIDS, Tuberculosis , Malaria as well as elements of biosafety and biosecurity;
11. **Reaffirm** our solemn commitment and support the efforts being made by international organizations such as the World Health Organization and UNICEF in assisting the OIC Member States to expand national immunization services to reach all unvaccinated children with vaccines of assured quality that will significantly contribute towards Millennium Development Goals (Target No. 4);
12. **Call upon** our Member States to promote collective self- reliance in vaccine production (SRVP) and supply through strengthening National Regulatory Authorities and improving capacity for vaccine production and distribution in the OIC Member States;
13. **Call upon** the OIC Member States to promote and intensify research and development efforts for product development and health systems research that can greatly enhance public health outcomes;

- 14. Call upon** the OIC Member States to introduce stronger tobacco control legislation to protect present and future generations from the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke;
- 15. Emphasize** the importance of improvement in child health as a vital element in poverty alleviation and **support** cost-effective health programmes, such as immunization and infant as well as young children feeding practices;
- 16. Strongly affirm** that polio eradication is an urgent priority for all OIC Member States, and fully commit to mobilize political, religious and financial support that is needed to achieve this historic goal;
- 17. Call upon** all OIC political and religious leaders to help raise awareness about the safety and benefits of polio vaccination and mobilize support from parents and communities for polio eradication, including in conflict-affected areas;
- 18. Appeal** to the OIC Member States and the Islamic Development Bank, to provide adequate resources for priority public health activities and interventions in the OIC Member States;
- 19. Invite** the **OIC General Secretariat**, the **Islamic Development Bank** and the **World Health Organization** to set up a tripartite consultative mechanism to combat diseases and epidemics;
- 20. Support** the efforts of OIC Member States to strengthen health systems and build capacity to enable a higher proportion of births to be attended by skilled health personnel to reduce preventable maternal and child mortality;
- 21. Urge** all OIC Member States and international organizations including WHO to provide and mobilize adequate resources and support to protect public health and strengthen the healthcare delivery system in Palestine, occupied Syrian Golan Heights and other conflict affected areas;
- 22. Urge** all Member States to fully comply with health regulatory hajj requirements and to take all preventive measures to prevent any outbreak of any health problems in line with International Health Regulation 2005;
- 23. Welcome the generous offer of Malaysia** to facilitate and monitor the implementation of the resolutions and the declarations of this health ministerial conference and decides to form an interim steering committee to assist the Government of Malaysia in accomplishing this task;

- 24. Request** the OIC General Secretariat to present a comprehensive proposal regarding a permanent mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the resolutions and declarations emanating from OIC Health Ministerial Conferences;
- 25. Welcome** the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the second meeting of health ministers of OIC Member States to be held in 2008.