



## SRMUN ATLANTA 2016

*The United Nations Post-2015 Agenda:  
Peace, Security and Development for a Sustainable Future*  
**November 17 - 19, 2016**  
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Esteemed Delegates,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to SRMUN Atlanta 2016 conference and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation(OIC). My name is Megan Hennings and I am honored to serve as your Director. This will be my first SRMUN as a staff member and I'm excited to be a part of this exceptional conference. I previously served as a Chief of Staff and Assistant Director for the Carolinas Conference. As a delegate, I participated in various conferences including Harvard WorldMUN in Seoul, South Korea in March 2015. I graduated from UNC Charlotte in May 2015 with a B.A. in Political Science and Spanish. Currently, I am a full-time staff member in the Office of International Programs at UNC Charlotte and I'm a graduate student in the Applied Ethics in Philosophy certificate program. I am pleased to introduce Nicole Calcagno as our Assistant Director as she joins the SRMUN staff for the first time as well. Nicole graduated from the University of Illinois at Springfield with a B.A. in Communications and minor in Political Science. In previous years, Nicole participated at NMUN in New York City as a delegate and staff member. She currently lives outside Chicago and has a career in radio and broadcasting. Nicole and I have worked diligently to capture the theme of this year's SRMUN conference within our topics. The topics to be addressed are;

- I. Combating Islamophobia, Intolerance, and Discrimination against Muslims; and
- II. Addressing the Progress of the OIC-2025 Employment, Infrastructure and Industrialization Action Priority

The background guide is a good foundation in preparation for this committee but should only be used as a starting point. Delegates are expected to examine the topics in detail and perform additional in-depth research of their own for their position paper and the conference. The position paper should reflect the individual policies concerning the topics and views of the delegate's assigned Member State. It is recommended that delegates find specific actions that their country has taken in regards to the issues at hand. Position papers should also bring forth positive ideas and thoughts to the committee in order to reach substantive resolutions during the conference. Delegates have many resources available to them as they research outside of the background guide. The Technical Appendix Guide is a great place for delegates to begin external research and is available at the end of this background guide. Another easily accessible resource is the SRMUN website which includes prior position papers and training videos.

Delegations are expected to submit a well-researched position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference throughout every session. Position papers should be no longer than two single-spaced pages in length. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit the SRMUN website. ***All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, October 28, 2016 by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.***

As your Director, I am looking forward to an outstanding conference and wish to facilitate an excellent experience for all delegates. Model United Nations is a wonderful opportunity for students to enhance educational, professional, and leadership skills while gaining a comprehensive understanding of international relations and politics. As you prepare for this committee and we move through each session of the conference, I hope you each will be able to take away meaningful lessons and knowledge from SRMUN Atlanta 2016 to further strengthen your school work, personal interest, and future careers. Nicole and I are dedicated to serving this committee and the SRMUN organization as we prepare for another successful conference. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Nicole, or the Director-General J.B. Desselle who will be happy to assist you.

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## The Committee History of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) (formerly Organization of the Islamic Conference) is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations, which has membership of 57 states, spread over four continents.<sup>1</sup> The organization is the “voice of Muslim world and ensuring to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.”

<sup>2</sup> The OIC was established in Morocco on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1969. In 1970 the first ever meeting of Islamic Conference of Foreign Minister (ICFM) was held in Jeddah which decided to establish a permanent secretariat in Jeddah headed by the organization’s secretary general. The ICFM meets yearly to assess the progress of the organization and its goals for the Muslim world. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani is the 10th Secretary General who assumed the office in January 2014.<sup>3</sup> Secretary Madani brings a spirit of collaboration and partnership to the OIC stating in 2015:

*“The stature and strength of any organization and its influence is dependent on its relevance to the people. Every success, no matter how small, in bringing about a change in the lives of the people adds to the Organization’s credibility and commensurately enhances its influence. In this regard, the Ten-Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) launched in 2005 has been a very rewarding experience for the OIC. The underlying vision of the TYPOA has been to make the OIC more reflective of the realities of the 21st Century and expand its activities to become more relevant to the challenges being faced by the Member States. It has contributed significantly in promoting meaningful partnership and cooperation among national, regional and international stakeholders in all areas of peace and development. The route to development is through partnership and cooperation. The OIC stands ready to cooperate with all the partners in realizing our shared aspirations for a better tomorrow.”<sup>4</sup>*

The Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the UN in New York was established following the adoption of the Resolution 3369 on October 10, 1975 by the 30th UN General Assembly (UNGA) Session. This granted the OIC observer status to the United Nations.<sup>5</sup> Thanks to the Secretary General of the OIC, there is a good relationship between the United Nations, the United States Government, and is considered a “bridge” between the Muslim world and the UN as well as the United States.<sup>6</sup> The goals to make that bridge are supported by the OIC’s Ten Year Plan Of Action (TYPOA) and new charter.<sup>7</sup>

The membership of the OIC began with 25 Member States. It has grown to 57 states over a span of 40 years. It has represented the Muslims by helping to protect their interests, cooperating with the UN, dissolving conflicts within its own members, and worked towards eradicating the discrimination of Muslims throughout the world.<sup>8</sup> With a population of almost 1.5 billion people, the international Muslim community looks to the OIC as a platform for cooperation between Member States to address issues and unify the diverse demographic of its community. The OIC has faced substantial challenges in affording areas of global concern such as the Israel/Palestine conflict, human rights abuses, and terrorism.<sup>9</sup> Delegates should pay attention to how the OIC and its Member States have addressed challenges and difficulties in its history in order to create effective resolutions for the future.

Some of the challenges the OIC Member States may face were addressed in the “third extraordinary session of the Islamic Summit”<sup>10</sup> which was held in December of 2005, established the Ten-Year Program of Action (TYOPA) which includes joint action of Member States, promotion of tolerance and moderation, modernization, extensive reforms in all spheres of activities including science and technology, education, trade enhancement, and emphasizes

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<sup>1</sup> “About” Organization of Islamic Cooperation website (OIC) [www.oicun.org](http://www.oicun.org) accessed March 4, 2016

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> “Building partnership and cooperation for development,” <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/bc-wea-global-weather-fahrenheit-227/> (accessed July 24, 2016)

<sup>5</sup> “Mission” Organization of Islamic Cooperation website (OIC) [www.oicun.org](http://www.oicun.org) accessed March 5, 2016

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> “The Organization of the Islamic Conference,” <http://www.cfr.org/religion/organization-islamic-conference/p22563> (accessed July 24, 2016)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

good governance and promotion of human rights in the Muslim world, especially with regard to rights of children, women and elderly and the family values enshrined by Islam.<sup>11</sup>

Building upon the success of the original 10-Year Programme of Action, the OIC convened 2015 to issue a second 10-Year Programme of Action. This secondary decree continues the strategic goals and vision of the first with updates and reassessment of the status in many areas of the member states.<sup>12</sup>

The organization itself consists of a few main groups. Those groups would include:

- The Islamic Summit: This is a group of Kings and other heads of states and is the ultimate authoritative body of the OIC. They only meet every three years to make decisions and keep the committee on track.
- The Council of Foreign Ministers: They meet once a year to implement general policies.
- The General Secretariat: The main body of the group who does all the of the policy work.<sup>13</sup>

The OIC's charter directs focus on the following issues:

- “Enhance and consolidate the bonds of fraternity and solidarity among the Member States;
- Safeguard and protect the common interests and support the legitimate causes of the Member States and coordinate and unify the efforts of the Member States in view of the challenges faced by the Islamic world in particular and the international community in general;
- Respect the right of self-determination and non-interference in the domestic affairs and to respect sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of each Member State;
- Ensure active participation of the Member States in the global political, economic and social decision-making processes to secure their common interests;
- Reaffirm its support for the rights of peoples as stipulated in the UN Charter and international law;
- Strengthen intra-Islamic economic and trade cooperation; in order to achieve economic integration leading to the establishment of an Islamic Common Market;
- Exert efforts to achieve sustainable and comprehensive human development and economic well-being in Member States;
- Protect and defend the true image of Islam, to combat defamation of Islam and encourage dialogue among civilizations and religions;
- Enhance and develop science and technology and encourage research and cooperation among Member States in these fields.”<sup>14</sup>

Moving forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the OIC faces global international concerns over radicalism and political instability within its Member States. Secretary Madani places international security risks at high priority and condemns uses of terrorism and violence all over the world.<sup>15</sup> Delegates should take this into consideration when researching the topics at hand and where these concerns affect Member States and possible resolutions.

The current Member States represented in the OIC include: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Albania, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Republic of Azerbaijan, Kingdom of Bahrain, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Benin, Brunei-Darussalam, Burkina-Faso, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Chad, Union of The Comoros, Republic of Cote D'Ivoire, Republic of Djibouti, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Gabon, Republic of The Gambia, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Guyana, Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Iraq, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Republic of Kazakhstan, State of Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Lebanon, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Republic of Maldives, Republic of Mali, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of Mozambique, Republic of Niger, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Sultanate of Oman, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, State of Palestine, State of Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Sierra Leone, Republic of Somalia, Republic of The Sudan, Republic of Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Tajikistan,

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> “The OIC - 2025 Programme of Action,” [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/pages/typoa/en/poa\\_v4\\_en.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/pages/typoa/en/poa_v4_en.pdf) (accessed July 24, 2016)

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> “About” Organization of Islamic Cooperation website (OIC) [www.oicun.org](http://www.oicun.org) accessed March 6, 2016

<sup>15</sup> “We Must Understand Why Some Muslims Turn Radical,” TIME. <http://time.com/4128647/radicalization-of-muslims/> (accessed July 24, 2016)

Republic of Togo, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Turkmenistan, Republic of Uganda, State of The United Arab Emirates, Republic of Uzbekistan, Republic of Yemen.<sup>16</sup>

The current observing states include: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central African Republic, Kingdom of Thailand, The Russian Federation, and Turkish Cypriot State.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> “OIC Member State Countries,” <http://www.oicexchanges.org/members/oic-member-state-countries> (accessed July 24, 2016)

<sup>17</sup> “Observers,” [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/page/?p\\_id=179&p\\_ref=60&lan=en](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/page/?p_id=179&p_ref=60&lan=en) (accessed July 24, 2016)

## I: Combating Islamophobia, Intolerance, and Discrimination against Muslims

### *Introduction*

At the Seventh OIC Observatory, Islamophobia was defined as “a contemporary form of racism that continues to grow in many parts of the world.”<sup>18</sup> The word itself is created from two words. Islam, of course, is a religion while ‘phobia’ is defined as “an abnormal, intense and irrational fear of a given situation, organism or object.”<sup>19</sup> If you combine the definition of the two words, Islamophobia can be defined as “an abnormally intense and irrational fear of Islam.”<sup>20</sup> Other definitions include “...fear or suspicion of Islam, Muslims and matters pertaining to them.”<sup>21</sup> Islamophobia directly can affect access to proper education, access to proper housing, which leads to unequal access to the labor market for Muslims.<sup>22</sup> They also face things like a lack of proper places of worship and burial facilities.<sup>23</sup> Several Muslim women endure a headscarf ban in restaurants and other such public places.<sup>24</sup> Racial profiling can occur as well. Muslims sometimes endure unethical and extreme police practices stemming from racial profiling.<sup>25</sup>

With the rise of terrorism throughout the world, many Muslims have faced discrimination, profiling, and intolerance. A Columbia University survey of Muslim students in New York public schools found that police as a result of racial profiling had stopped 28 percent.<sup>26</sup> This has become a huge problem all over the world. This topic has such brevity among the OIC that it became one of the leading topics of the OIC’s Ten Year Plan. The injustice against Muslims threatens individuals but their religions, education, and daily lives.

### *Current Issues stemming from Islamophobia*

Due to Islamophobia, Muslims all around the world are facing a myriad of issues that are impacting their quality of life. Muslims face discrimination and other barriers such as language and racial profiling, which have disadvantaged them in achieving adequate housing, education, jobs, places of worship and burial. Language barriers have made it extremely difficult to achieve basic necessities such as receiving the proper healthcare. “Not only do cultural backgrounds differ among these healthcare workers, language differences also serve as a barrier to effective communication.”<sup>27</sup> Housing is another challenge Muslims face. In India for example, Muslims face challenges obtaining housing and it’s clear that “everyday discriminations are affecting Muslims, alienating them from a mainstream India that they very much want to be a part of.”<sup>28</sup>

Muslims battle with proper education as well. Globally, Muslims have the lowest literacy rate due to a lack of education. This has led to a large number of Muslims unable to find proper jobs.<sup>29</sup> “Islamic education is of course has the highest objective, and more than that can hardly be imagined. The aim of Islamic education is Character

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<sup>18</sup> *Report on Islamophobia*. Seventh OIC Observatory Report On Islamophobia. Saudi Arabia. 2014. Page 7. [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/upload/islamophobia/2014/en/reports/islamophoba\\_7th\\_report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/upload/islamophobia/2014/en/reports/islamophoba_7th_report_2014.pdf) (Accessed April 5, 2016)

<sup>19</sup> Zafar Iqbal. “Islamophobia or Islamophobias: Towards Developing A Process Model,” Spring 2010: Page 90.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ömür Orhun. “Combating Intolerance and Discrimination Against Muslims.” Organization of Islamic Cooperation. [www.oicun.org](http://www.oicun.org)

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Abdul Malik Mujahid. “Islamophobia Statistics.” Sound Visions, USA 2011. <http://www.soundvision.com/article/islamophobia-statistics-usa-2011> (Accessed April 8, 2016)

<sup>27</sup> Khalid M. Almutairi, “Culture and language differences as a barrier to provision of quality care by the health workforce in Saudi Arabia.” National Center Biotechnology Information. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4404475/> (Accessed April 8, 2016)

<sup>28</sup> Humaira Ansari. The Challenges of Being Muslim in India. <http://www.msn.com/en-in/news/weekendreads/the-challenges-of-being-muslim-in-india/ar-BBku0Jj> (Accessed June 06, 2016).

<sup>29</sup> Ibrahim B. Syed. “Education of Muslim Children-Challenges and Opportunities.” [www.missionislam.com](http://www.missionislam.com) (Accessed June 06, 2016).

building.”<sup>30</sup> Without that character coupled with discrimination against Muslims, obtaining proper education and jobs would be difficult.

A lack of the proper places to worship is also a problem. A French minister, Thierry Mandon has been vocal about this issue. He states "There aren't enough mosques in France. There are still too many towns where the Muslim religion is practiced in conditions that are not decent."<sup>31</sup> Despite the lack of education for Muslims, one of the biggest threats that Muslims face is racial profiling, especially in airports. An Iraqi student was removed from a flight because he was “speaking Arabic in a way that was perceived to be threatening.”<sup>32</sup>

There have been some steps put into place to help combat Islamophobia. There has been global action taken when Islam has been attacked. For example, a German Islam critic made some discriminatory remarks in an article he published and someone “filed a criminal complaint about him. The result: a 1200 euro fine for insulting faiths”<sup>33</sup> In another instance, “A federal judge rejected a pro-Israel group’s assertion that its free speech rights were violated when the MBTA turned down a subway advertisement on the grounds that the ad was demeaning or disparaging.”<sup>34</sup>

Going forward, some of the things the OIC recommends Muslim communities to do are to “continue holding Open Mosque Day so as to improve interfaith and intercultural dialogue.”<sup>35</sup> They are also working with authorities and asking “local law enforcement agencies and police forces to introduce a system to monitor and record Islamophobic crimes.”<sup>36</sup> Despite many efforts made by the OIC, there is still work to be done but there are programs set in place to help facilitate this work in progress.

### ***The Growing Concern of Islamic Refugees***

The alarming number of Muslim refugees has become a very serious international issue. Since the onset of the Syrian Civil War, many Syrian refugees have fled to many neighboring Islamic countries. “More than half of the world’s refugees – almost 12 million people – live in Jordan, Turkey, Palestine, Pakistan, Lebanon and South Africa, despite the fact these places make up less than 2% of the world’s economy.”<sup>37</sup> The large influx in refugees has only put further strain on these countries, preventing them from providing the adequate resources need to intake and care for all the refugees. According to the U.N., “appalling living conditions’ in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan have prompted Syrian refugees to abandon these ‘safe’ areas for Europe.”<sup>38</sup> Without the basic necessities, they cannot survive.<sup>39</sup>

Besides safety, the biggest concerns for Islamic refugees are their living conditions, discrimination against refugees, lack of proper food, education, and housing for refugees. The refugees face many of the same challenges as Muslims around the world. “More than 300,000 refugees have come into Europe through Greece this year alone. If safe zones don't work in countries where the threat of violence is small and jobs are at least theoretically available, they're surely not going to work in areas where daily violence remains a real risk and employment is out of the question.”<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Ibid

<sup>31</sup> Henry Samuel. “French Minister agrees that lack of mosques encourages radicalization.” The Telegraph. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/11519452/French-minister-agrees-that-lack-of-mosques-encourages-radicalisation.html> (Accessed June 6, 2016)

<sup>32</sup> Haroon Moghul. “The unapologetic racial profiling of Muslims has become America’s new normal.” 20 April, 2016. <http://qz.com/665317/the-unapologetic-racial-profiling-of-muslims-has-become-americas-new-normal/> (Accessed June 6, 2016)

<sup>33</sup> *Report on Islamophobia*. Seventh OIC Observatory Report On Islamophobia. Saudi Arabia. 2014. Page 55. [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/upload/islamophobia/2014/en/reports/islamophoba\\_7th\\_report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/upload/islamophobia/2014/en/reports/islamophoba_7th_report_2014.pdf) (Accessed June 6, 2016)

<sup>34</sup> Ibid

<sup>35</sup> Ibid

<sup>36</sup> Ibid

<sup>37</sup> Kate Lyons, *Six wealthiest countries host less than 9% of world's refugees*. The Guardian. 17 July 2016.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/18/refugees-us-china-japan-germany-france-uk-host-9-per-cent>

<sup>38</sup> David Bier. “A “Safe Zone” is no alternative to accepting Syrian Refugees.” The Hill <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/international/262748-a-safe-zone-is-no-alternative-to-accepting-syrian-refugees> (Accessed June 6, 2016)

<sup>39</sup> Ibid

<sup>40</sup> Ibid

Some groups have helped or tried to help Islamic refugees. As a response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis, the Syrian American Council tried to plead with the United States to create a private sponsorship program for Syrian Refugees. The Council was able to get the support of the Syrian American Medical Society, Syria Relief and Development, Arab American Institute, Turkish Heritage Organization, Muslim Public Affairs Council, Islamic Society of North America, Karam Foundation and Watan USA.<sup>41</sup> This letter sparked other efforts as well. Many human rights organizations also urged President Barak Obama to accept 100,000 Syrian refugees as well as 100,000 other refugees.<sup>42</sup> Although the United States did not agree, they changed their end of year goal to admit 85,000 refugees, including 10,000 from Syria.<sup>43</sup> Other groups helping the Syrian refugee crisis are the UNHCR. They have “deployed more than 700 staff to the region to carry out and lead the largest emergency response in the world.”<sup>44</sup>

While there are groups trying to help these refugees, some groups fear them and are calling to close their borders. Some concerns in the west and the European Union would include those of letting terrorists in. They have developed heaving screening for refugees, especially Syrian ones. They claim there are “massive gaps in the American vetting process for refugees, which they claim could allow terrorist ‘sleeper agents’ to slip through the cracks and carry out acts of terror on American soil.”<sup>45</sup>

### ***Rights of Women and Children***

The basic rights of women and children are violated everyday. Muslim women are being banned from wearing their Hijab in different situations. “Spanish clothing brand Zara has been under fire for not allowing a Muslim woman wearing a headscarf to shop at one of its stores in Paris.”<sup>46</sup> While some women do wear their Hijab without issues, there are plenty of women who face them. “Footage shows a security guard at the store denying entry to the woman customer who was wearing a Hijab.”<sup>47</sup> Women also face issues in the workplace regarding the Hijab. “The French government bars public employees from displaying their religious beliefs on the job.”<sup>48</sup> France also took other drastic measures against Muslim women’s garb. France “banned the wearing of ‘conspicuous religious symbols’ including the Muslim face veil, known as the niqab.”<sup>49</sup> This ban was not only a plight on Muslim women but “the ban was eventually extended to schoolchildren and even parents who wanted to accompany classes on trips.”<sup>50</sup> For Muslim women, wearing a Hijab is a part of who they are and a symbol of their faith.

Despite some countries banning the Hijab, others have accommodated working women who wear them. “Edmonton police approved a design for a Hijab headscarf for female officers of Muslim faith. The Hijab design covered the head and neck, but not the face.”<sup>51</sup> Some sporting organizations have made accommodations for female athletes who wear a Hijab during events, such as FIFA.<sup>52</sup> The OIC has also begun to do things to help ensure that women can advance. They developed a Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women, known as OPAAW, where one of their main goals is to promote “Women empowerment; Eradication of poverty, achievement of sustainable development and promotion of adequate resources and support for achieving gender equality.”<sup>53</sup> Keeping in mind that each Member State has their own views on women and their role, this was a joint plan developed in the OIC.

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<sup>41</sup> Ibid

<sup>42</sup> Ibid

<sup>43</sup> Ibid

<sup>44</sup> “Syria.” UNHCR. <http://www.unrefugees.org/where-we-work/syria/> (Accessed May 6, 2016)

<sup>45</sup> Evan Bonsall. Are Syrian Refugees Really A Security Risk? Harvard Political Review. <http://harvardpolitics.com/united-states/syrian-refugees-really-security-risk/> (Accessed June 6, 2016)

<sup>46</sup> Sanskrity Sinha. “Muslim woman wearing Hijab denied entry at Zara store in Paris.” <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/muslim-woman-wearing-hijab-denied-entry-zara-store-paris-1529617> (Accessed June 10, 2016)

<sup>47</sup> Ibid

<sup>48</sup> Jay Akbar “French ban on Muslim headscarves is upheld by human rights court after woman sacked for refusing to remove hers loses appeal.” Daily Mail. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3335020/French-ban-Muslim-headscarves-upheld-human-rights-court-woman-sacked-refusing-remove-loses-appeal.html> (Accessed June 6, 2016)

<sup>49</sup> Ibid

<sup>50</sup> Ibid

<sup>51</sup> *Report on Islamophobia*. Seventh OIC Observatory Report On Islamophobia. Saudi Arabia. 2014. Page 60. [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/upload/islamophobia/2014/en/reports/islamophoba\\_7th\\_report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/upload/islamophobia/2014/en/reports/islamophoba_7th_report_2014.pdf) (Accessed May 26, 2016)

<sup>52</sup> Ibid

<sup>53</sup> “STRENGTHENING WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION AND ROLES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN OIC MEMBER STATES,” The 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Women’s Roles in the Development of OIC Member States. (Accessed June 6, 2016)

Muslim children often face discrimination in schools. In California, more than half of the Muslim students have experienced bullying stemming from religious discrimination. That is a rate that is double that of their non-Muslim peers. “Across California, less than 10 percent of middle school and high school students overall reported harassment on campus based on their religion, according to state data.”<sup>54</sup> Groups such as the Islamic Networks Group (ING) are working to help prevent bullying of Muslim children. They work through school intervention programs focusing on sharing their image of “Building a positive self-image and a respectful attitude towards others are both key to preventing bullying.”<sup>55</sup>

### ***UN Conference on Interfaith Cooperation to Combat Islamophobia***

In efforts to combat this growing problem, Pakistan and the OIC hosted a UN Conference on Interfaith Cooperation to Combat Islamophobia. As part of the World Interfaith Harmony Week observances, the conference was held as a modest effort to bring all people together in solidarity, and create a defense of Islamic values and respect for each other’s faith, as part of human family to promote solidarity.<sup>56</sup> The speakers at the conference mainly stressed that unity among Muslims internationally would help bridge the gap and help combat islamophobia in the west. Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi spoke at the conference and stated “expressions of such hate and prejudice have provoked physical and psychological violence against Muslims and their businesses, mosques and community centres in some countries. Almost all Muslim communities have been subjected to such intolerance. Many live in fear. Their alienation expands the divide between faiths and cultures within and among nations.”<sup>57</sup> This was an effort to bring the Member States together in solidarity. It also began further discussions about combating Xenophobia and how to bring more harmony to different faiths.

### ***Conclusion***

Islamophobia is something that is very real and rampant. By addressing the current issues affected by Islamophobia, the safety of Muslim refugees, and the rights of women and children, awareness and ideas to combat this problem will be brought to the forefront. “This phenomenon has two additional adverse consequences: First, it undermines efforts of integration and brings about negative trends in attempts to create an atmosphere of harmony. Second, an even wider fault line between the Muslim world and the Christian world may emerge. Therefore, both from a micro-social angle and also from a global perspective it would be wise to put an end to such practices.”<sup>58</sup>

### ***Committee Directive***

Delegates should analyze what is being done to combat Islamophobia. Delegates should familiarize themselves with different challenges and issues that would help and hinder combating Islamophobia. Prepare to discuss different methods and actions to help this process along. What methods have been effective? What groups have been successful? Keeping in mind the responsibilities of the Member States on a global scale as well as their specific views, according to the OIC Charter:

1. All Member States commit themselves to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter;
2. Member States are sovereign, independent and equal in rights and obligations;
3. All Member States shall settle their disputes through peaceful means and refrain from use or threat of use of force in their relations;

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<sup>54</sup> Ibid

<sup>55</sup> *Bullying Prevention Guide*. Islamic Network Group. Page 7.  
[http://www.ing.org/downloads/ING\\_Bullying\\_Prevention\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.ing.org/downloads/ING_Bullying_Prevention_Guide.pdf) (Accessed July 9, 2016)

<sup>56</sup> “Battling Islamophobia : UN moot calls for promoting interfaith harmony,” Daily Times  
<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/06-Feb-2016/battling-islamophobia-un-moot-calls-for-promoting-interfaith-harmony> (Accessed July 9, 2016)

<sup>57</sup> Masood Haider. “Pakistan calls on world to combat Islamophobia,” Dawn.  
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1237791> (Accessed July 9, 2016)

<sup>58</sup> Ömür Orhun. “Combating Intolerance and Discrimination Against Muslims.” Organization of Islamic Cooperation.  
[www.oicun.org](http://www.oicun.org)



4. All Member States undertake to respect national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of other Member States and shall refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of others;
5. All Member States undertake to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security and to refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs as enshrined in the present Charter, the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law;
6. As mentioned in the UN Charter, nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the Organisation and its Organs to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State or related to it;
7. Member States shall uphold and promote, at the national and international levels, good governance, democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law;
8. Member States shall endeavor to protect and preserve the environment.<sup>59</sup>

Are the member states fulfilling their duties? What member states need to increase their efforts? Which member states are leading the way? How would you combat islamaphobia without trampling on the sovereignty?

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<sup>59</sup> "Charter." Organization of Islamic Cooperation. <http://www.oic-oci.org/is11/english/Charter-en.pdf> (accessed July 18, 2016).

## II: Addressing the Progress of the OIC-2025 Employment, Infrastructure and Industrialization Action Priority

### *Introduction*

The Ten Year Programme of Action within the OIC serves to implement and achieve the tenants of the OIC charter for all Member States. Through joint effort and strategic vision, the 2015 Ten Year Programme seeks to address seventeen major issues including peace and security, Poverty, Agriculture, Employment, Education, Health, Moderation and interfaith harmony, and Human Rights and many other issues. The Programme is designed to help guide Member States in policy creation and eradicate common issues encountered by its Member States to encourage growth and development of each nation and the Organization.<sup>60</sup> Through the debate and discussion of this committee, we will specifically address the 2025 Ten Year Programme of Action as it relates to employment, infrastructure, and industrialization action priority. As the OIC enters the second decade of this robust Programme, delegates should thoroughly investigate the topic at hand in terms of where the issues derive from, how problems have been successfully combated at national and regional levels, where there is possibility of collaboration and shared success, and what paths forward can the OIC's Member States take collectively to ensure prosperity for themselves and the Organization.

### *History*

In 2005, the OIC introduced the Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) with the following opening statement;

*“The Muslim World is faced with grave political, socio-economic, cultural and scientific challenges with implications for its unity, peace, security and development. OIC Member States would need to cooperate decisively in order to face these challenges and to take necessary initiatives to overcome them. It has therefore become imperative for them to take joint actions within the framework of the OIC, based on common values and ideals so as to revive the Muslim Ummah's pioneering role as a fine example of tolerance and enlightened moderation, and a force for international peace and harmony.”<sup>61</sup>*

With that decree they created the Ten-Year Programme of Action, which focused on six major areas; intellectual, political, economic, scientific, education, and cultural issues. The Programme called on Member States to create more avenues for Islamic solidarity in national, regional, and international markets. Platforms focused on intra-OIC trade, economic collaboration, and addressing poverty levels. An overarching mid-term review of the progress of the Programme was conducted in 2010. The review mobilized OIC's Standing Committees, Subsidiary Organs, and Specialized Institutions to review the timeline of implementation of the Programme's objectives and goals.<sup>62</sup>

A few of the frameworks that the OIC implemented included that all Muslim nations ratify and implement the provisions of the OIC Charters to create unity.<sup>63</sup> To address extremism, the TYPOA called for all Member States to condemn terrorism, increase dialogue and discussions among civilizations, and hold more Islamic symposiums to spread a correct civilizational view of Islam and dispel prejudices.<sup>64</sup> One major area the TYPOA looked to take major strides towards improving Human Rights. Member States were encouraged to condemn human rights violations, join or create an Anti-corruption Body, create training sessions Training seminar to be organized by the General Secretariat in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, and the creation of an OIC Human Rights Body.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> “About OIC,” <http://www.oicun.org/2/23/> (accessed July 24, 2016)

<sup>2</sup> “The Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit,” OIC, <http://www.oic-oci.org/ex-summit/english/10-years-plan.htm> (accessed April 20, 2016)

<sup>62</sup> “The Organization of Islamic Cooperation: Politics, problems, and potential” Page 111. <https://books.google.com/books?id=NVKsCQAAQBAJ&lpg=PA136&dq=ten%20year%20programme%20of%20action%20oic&pg=PA111#v=onepage&q&f=true> (accessed July 24, 2016)

<sup>63</sup> “FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIC 10-YEAR PROGRAMME OF ACTION.” Organization for Islamic Cooperation. <http://www.oic-oci.org/baku2006/english/Implementation%20of%2010-year%20POA.pdf> (Accessed Jun 10, 2016)

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

However, TYOPA was not able to achieve all of its goals by its completion in 2015. There were still major problems with market access for all Member States. There are still issues with tariffs on some goods as well as other non-tariff obstacles.<sup>66</sup> These obstacles prevent many national products from being available in other OIC markets. Another major issue not addressed by TYOPA is the lack of market knowledge and efficiency.<sup>67</sup> There is a lack of knowledge on OIC member's markets, products, and business opportunities. More efforts alongside with the work done by the Islamic Centre for Development and Trade. Also, there is no common administrative procedure when it comes to foreign trade.<sup>68</sup> The unique and complex procedures for customs, banking, shipping and the lack of many trained executives and specialists in international trade has caused intra-OIC trading inefficient and hard to comply by for many members wishing to expand national products into other markets. The final major issue that was highlighted by the end of TYOPA is the lack of adequate infrastructures and transports.<sup>69</sup> Many Member State's poor internal infrastructure makes it hard for business markets to spread through the OIC community. A more accessible are would greatly help improve intra-OIC trade. The Ten-Year Programme of Action reached its end in 2015, and a new Programme was created to reach 2025.

The goals of the new Ten-Year Programme are similar to those of the first Programme but take into account the progress resulting from the first decade of strategic programming and development. Focus has been placed on the solidarity of all Member States, with a more synergistic approach to every issue.<sup>70</sup> Although security and political stability are highlighted interest giving the current state of international affairs concerning the Muslim world, the new Programme also seeks to resolve underlying social and economic issues in order to strengthen the foundations of its Member States in further hopes to increase national and regional stability to combat violent extremism.<sup>71</sup>

### ***Employment, Infrastructure and Industrialization Action Priority***

The OIC as a whole is a front of increasingly potential resources with regards to employment opportunities, ranging from agriculture and mines to trading capabilities. Despite this, Member States have fallen short in the global arena, having a far less GDP per capita than other developing countries.<sup>72</sup> Unemployment rates continue to be an issue, especially for youth and female populations which are statistically higher than global averages for developing and developed nations with some OIC member states having rates over 20 percent in 2013.<sup>73</sup> A number of social and economic conditions lead to these higher unemployment rates including limited labor opportunities, seasonal market changes, and inadequate educational workforce preparation. According to the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection, "Thus, it is clear that unemployment, especially among women and youth, remains one of the major economic and social challenges that face many OIC member states."<sup>74</sup> The committee and Programme will need to address issues of unemployment and less-represented populations in the workforce to increase economic stability.

Despite reports that the OIC countries have improved in regards to poverty alleviation, poverty rates still affect many of the Member States. 21 out of the 48 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are OIC members.<sup>75</sup> One fourth of the Member States' population lives on less than \$1.25 US Dollars per day.<sup>76</sup> "Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon and the result of a complex socio-economic and political structure of a particular state often with both

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<sup>66</sup> "Ten-Year Plan of Action 2016-2025 For Strengthening Intra-OIC Trade." Islamic Centre for Development of Trade. [http://icdt-oic.org/RS\\_67/Doc/Plan%20of%20Action%20of%20ICDT%202016%202025.pdf](http://icdt-oic.org/RS_67/Doc/Plan%20of%20Action%20of%20ICDT%202016%202025.pdf) (Accessed March 16, 2016)

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> "The OIC-2025 Programme of Action," OIC, [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/pages/typoa/en/poa\\_v4\\_en.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/pages/typoa/en/poa_v4_en.pdf) (accessed March 16, 2016)

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> "The Middle East and North Africa Region: An Important Driver of World Agricultural Trade," USDA, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD> (accessed April 27, 2016)

<sup>73</sup> Ibid. Page 5

<sup>74</sup> Ibid. Page 2

<sup>75</sup> "Poverty Alleviation," COMCEC, [http://www2.comcec.org/EN\\_YE/icerik.aspx?iid=220](http://www2.comcec.org/EN_YE/icerik.aspx?iid=220) (accessed April 27, 2016)

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

internal and external causality connections. It is strongly related with hunger, malnutrition, diseases, illiteracy, and low quality of life across the developing world.”<sup>77</sup>

In December 2011, the OIC approved the creation of the Poverty Alleviation Program (OIC-PAP) to combat poverty levels in its member states through collaboration in research, planning, programming, and assistance. The main focuses of the OIC-PAP are to provide a central hub for poverty- related knowledge of best practices and system for evaluating effectiveness in policy and programming combating poverty rates within member states.<sup>78</sup>

As stated in the OIC 2025 Programme of Action, “Developed countries reached their current level of prosperity through transforming their economies from an agriculture-based economy to an industry-based one, and then knowledge and services-based economies and making available a resilient and reliable infrastructure.” The OIC Member States are home to almost two-thirds of the world’s crude oil and natural gas reserves.<sup>79</sup> Collaborative work of the OIC has become a platform for assisting Member States in transitional economies and industries in offering opportunities for economic advancement and cooperation. Programs such as the OIC Trade Fair allow businesses, investors, economic institutions, and government entities to increase intra-OIC trade, learn more about products and services across many markets. Convening every two years, the fair seeks to increase Muslim solidarity and competition in regional and international markets in accordance with the spirit of the Ten-Year Programme of Action.<sup>80</sup>

Many of the OIC’s Member States face issues of inadequate infrastructure needed to foster economic and social development. In collaboration with other entities such as the World Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and African Development Bank, the OIC funds and facilitates infrastructure projects across the Middle East and Northern African (MENA) region as well as other nations of the Muslim world.<sup>81</sup> The World Bank has contributed to the increased infrastructure of the MENA region through funding energy and electricity related projects such as the Broadband Connectivity Initiative launched in 2012.<sup>82</sup>

Transportation and passage development linking nations together has been a main focus of the United Nations in terms of infrastructure in many OIC Member States. Through the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), initiatives such as the “Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq” and the “International Agreement on Railways in the Mashreq Region” were created in the early 2000’s to foster transportation development.<sup>83</sup> The OIC also directly addressed transportation infrastructure in 2011 through the “Transportation Cooperation Framework.” This initiative called upon the increased creation of intra-OIC passages of transportation and better facilitation of travel between Member States through infrastructure, border-crossing mechanisms, and national policy.<sup>84</sup> The committee should address the effectiveness of these previous initiatives and others in relation to the development of infrastructure within the OIC and the progress of the Ten-Year Programme of Action.

Although funding and assistance from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations has been available, many OIC Member States have faced difficulty in securing private partnerships and commercial investment because of security risks, political instability, and market concerns. Following the Arab Spring, investment capital and international private interest in the MENA region decreased bringing the economic growth average to 2.8% in 2013. More economically prosperous Member States such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates have seen an increase in development and investment in infrastructure projects related to business, healthcare,

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<sup>77</sup> “The OIC-2025 Programme of Action,” OIC, [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/pages/typoa/en/poa\\_v4\\_en.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/pages/typoa/en/poa_v4_en.pdf) (accessed March 16, 2016)

<sup>78</sup> “OIC Poverty Alleviation Programme (OIP-PAP),” <http://www.oicvet.org/oic-pap.php> (accessed July 24, 2016)

<sup>79</sup> Ibid

<sup>80</sup> “OIC Trade to feature 30 member states participation,” <http://www.arabnews.com/news/oic-trade-fair-feature-30-member-states-participation> (accessed July 24, 2016)

<sup>81</sup> “Infrastructure investments in the Middle East & North Africa,” Page 333, <https://www.ufrgs.br/ufrgsmun/2013/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Infrastructure-investments-in-the-Middle-East-North-Africa.pdf> (accessed July 24, 2016).

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid. Page 335.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid. Page 337.

entertainment, and tourist services.<sup>85</sup> Discussion from the committee will need to continue to address the barriers faced by Member States in terms of private investment and commercial infrastructure.

### *Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC)*

Established in 1981, the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) serves as a main functional organ in the utilization and fulfillment of OIC goals, strategies, and resolutions in areas concerning business, trade, and economic relations. Its headquarters is located in Ankara, Turkey under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey. The committee consists of representatives from all Member States belonging to the OIC.<sup>86</sup> The committee facilitates discussion of major economic issues facing Member States and promotes collaboration in developing solutions. Through the work and cooperation of the committee, COMCEC exists to further implement OIC economic objectives and increase commercial welfare of all Member States.<sup>87</sup> The COMCEC Strategy defines its core principles as Enhancing Mobility, Strengthening Solidarity, and Improving Governance.<sup>88</sup>

### *Malaysian Capacity Building Programme for OIC Countries*

“Sub-Saharan Africa has one of the highest percentages of people living in extreme poverty<sup>89</sup>” Surreys have shown that “a lack of job opportunities [are] a very big problem in their country.<sup>90</sup>” One issue that Sub-Saharan Africa has is the highest rate of vulnerable employment in the world, at over 77 percent in 2013.<sup>91</sup> Vulnerable employment is defined as “unpaid family workers and own-account workers as a percentage of total employment.”<sup>92</sup> Infrastructure has not transformed, as can be seen in other countries. For example, sub-Saharan Africa has been unable to turn farmers into manufacturing workers, increase their diversity in regards to economics.<sup>93</sup> In 2005, the Malaysian Prime Minister created the Malaysian Capacity Building Programme for OIC Countries (CBP4OICC) in order to better assist OIC countries and Muslim communities through technical and economic assistance.

CBP4OICC started originally with three projects. The first project was called the “Exploitation of Oil and Mineral Resources and Capacity Building in Administrative, Planning and Management Functions in Mauritania.”<sup>94</sup> PETRONAS, a Malaysian gas and oil company, undertook a comprehensive study of Mauritania’s oils and gas market. At the completion of that study, the findings were used to help try and establish a National Oil Company. The Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) also provided the needed technical training for Mauritanian officials.<sup>95</sup> As of 2014, this program was completed and is currently being reviewed by OIC authorities.

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<sup>85</sup> “Middle East FDI: Infrastructure Boom” <https://www.gfmag.com/magazine/april-2014/middle-east-fdi-infrastructure-boom>, (accessed July 24, 2016)

<sup>86</sup> “Standing Committees,” [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/page/?p\\_id=172&ref=58&lan=en#comcec](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/page/?p_id=172&ref=58&lan=en#comcec) (Accessed July 24, 2016)

<sup>87</sup> “About COMCEC,” [http://www2.comcec.org/EN\\_YE/icerik.aspx?iid=111](http://www2.comcec.org/EN_YE/icerik.aspx?iid=111) (accessed July 24, 2016)

<sup>88</sup> “Making Cooperation Work: COMCEC Strategy For Building An Interdependent Islamic World,” <http://www2.comcec.org/UserFiles/File/28.isedak/Tum%20dokumanlar/Strategy/STRATEJI%20RAPORU-finalll%207%20kas%EF%BF%BDm.pdf> (accessed July 24, 2016)

<sup>89</sup> (14) “Sub-Saharan Africa makes progress against poverty but has long way to go,” Pew Research Center, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/09/24/sub-saharan-africa-makes-progress-against-poverty-but-has-long-way-to-go/> (accessed June 10)

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> “Jobless Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa,” Brookings, <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/africa-in-focus/posts/2014/01/30-jobless-growth-africa-sy> (accessed June 10, 2016)

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> “Report of the Secretary General on Economic Affairs,” Organization of Islamic Cooperation. [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/subweb/cfm/40/fm/en/docs/rep/cfm\\_40\\_som\\_rep\\_eco\\_v2\\_en.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/subweb/cfm/40/fm/en/docs/rep/cfm_40_som_rep_eco_v2_en.pdf) (Accessed June 10).

<sup>95</sup> “The Fourth Seniors Officials Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Capacity Building Program for OIC Countries.” Bernama. <http://mrem.bernama.com/viewsm.php?idm=7565> (Accessed June 20).

The second program the CBPOICC undertook was the “Capacity Building in the Palm Oil Industry in Sierra Leone a Palm Oil Industry in Sierra Leone.”<sup>96</sup> Malaysia trained three national Sierra Leone authorities in the industry over 3 months in Malaysia.<sup>97</sup> Then sent two Malaysian palm oil experts to Sierra Leone to help them the Sierra Leone Land Development Agency (SLLDA). This program helped start a new market and industry in Sierra Leone while also increasing the trading market within OIC members. As a part of the program, Sierra Leone has agreed to send 250,00 oil seed back to Malaysia.<sup>98</sup> This program is still ongoing.

The third project that was started in 2005 was the “Development of the Fisheries Sector in Bangladesh.”<sup>99</sup> Similar to the program in Sierra Leone, this program was designed to help build the national market capacities for the fisheries sector in Bangladesh. Through a partnership between the MTCP and the Malaysian Ministry of Agriculture, technical training was provided to local authorities.<sup>100</sup>

The General Secretariat and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has highly commended the Malaysian efforts in these Phase 1 projects and wants to place a higher emphasis on turning capacity building projects into win-win development projects with their beneficiaries. The IDB want to look at Malaysia’s efforts to also create a successful launch point for phase 2 of these projects.<sup>101</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

Basic outlines have been drawn up by the Member States of the OIC in order to tackle each of the issues approached in the 2025 Ten-Year Programme of Action. Specific plans will need to be issued by the OIC as a whole to solve these problems, using the principles of the OIC charter. These issues reflect the goals of the Islamic people as a whole, and as such are crucial to the well-being and livelihoods. Implementation of these goals requires the full support and cooperation of the entire OIC body. Joint country coordination is vital, as well as good governance. Poverty alleviation can be witnessed through different approaches. Employment issues can be resolved through understanding of root social and economic problems leading to inequality and inaccessibility. Collaboration on ideas and plans for development and infrastructure will increase quality and quantity of services and business offered within Member States. Targeting the needs in each country is vital in improving lives on a global scale. A combination of employment, infrastructure and social programs are key to this goal.

### ***Committee Directive***

In order for this goal of the 2025 Ten-Year Programme of Action to work successfully, each Member State will need to work together and implement the plans and programs created by the OIC in their respective countries. Delegates should be well-researched and ready to bring prior knowledge of past initiatives and current projects to the committee in addressing issues of employment, infrastructure, and industrialization. What have Member States learned from the first TYOPA? What positive changes and new areas of interest are needed as the OIC implements the second decade of progress with the new 2025 Ten-Year Programme? In the spirit of the OIC being a platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing, Member States should share strategies and policies that have been effective in combating issues within their nations so that all members may reach successful resolutions with tested programming and implementation. It will be important to attack the issue of poverty bearing in mind the needs of each country for accomplishing the implementation of created plans. Research and discuss factors leading to rising unemployment rates and income inequality experienced by all Member States. On the topic of infrastructure, what past plans are working well for the OIC? Measure the success of current projects and the efficiency of nations and policies in fostering development at various levels. Study how the economic sectors and markets of Member States are transitioning between agricultural, industrial, and service-based economies. How can the 2025 Ten-Year Programme

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<sup>96</sup> “Report of the Secretary General on Economic Affairs,” Organization of Islamic Cooperation. [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/subweb/cfm/40/fm/en/docs/rep/cfm\\_40\\_som\\_rep\\_eco\\_v2\\_en.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/subweb/cfm/40/fm/en/docs/rep/cfm_40_som_rep_eco_v2_en.pdf) (Accessed June 10).

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> “The Fourth Seniors Officials Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Capacity Building Program for OIC Countries.” Bernama. <http://mrem.bernama.com/viewsm.php?idm=7565> (Accessed June 20).

<sup>99</sup> Report of the Secretary General on Economic Affairs,” Organization of Islamic Cooperation. [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/subweb/cfm/40/fm/en/docs/rep/cfm\\_40\\_som\\_rep\\_eco\\_v2\\_en.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/subweb/cfm/40/fm/en/docs/rep/cfm_40_som_rep_eco_v2_en.pdf) (Accessed June 10).

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

<sup>101</sup> “The Fourth Seniors Officials Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Capacity Building Program for OIC Countries.” Bernama. <http://mrem.bernama.com/viewsm.php?idm=7565> (Accessed June 20).

and the OIC better facilitate these transitions and provide support for developing Member States? Consider how each resolution will affect every member state, and how the sovereignty of each Member State will be affected by the resolutions created. Which issues will take precedence? Member States are responsible for their own implementation of programmes recommended by the OIC, and this will need to be addressed as far as all aspects of implementing the plan, such as economic needs. Prioritize the needs of the OIC as a whole. Specifying legal framework is paramount to accomplishing each of the goals of the 2025 Ten-Year Programme of Action.

## **Technical Appendix Guide**

### **I: Combating Islamophobia, Intolerance, and Discrimination against Muslims**

*Istanbul Declaration on Unity and Solidarity for Justice and Peace.* 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Summit Conference. April, 2016. [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/upload/conferences/is/13/en/13\\_is\\_final\\_dec\\_en.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/upload/conferences/is/13/en/13_is_final_dec_en.pdf)

Insight into the OIC's calls to action to promote peace and help combat Islamophobia.

*NGO Law Monitor: Organization of Islamic Cooperation.* The International Center for Non Profit Law. <http://www.icnl.org/research/monitor/oic.html>

Links to individual Member States, articles about the OIC, an overview of the OIC and its functions, the charter, etc.

*Violence Against Muslims: 2008 Hate Crimes Survey.* Human Rights First. <http://www.oic-oci.org/uploads/File/humanrightsfirst-fd-080924-muslims-web.pdf>

Many useful statistics regarding crimes against Muslims and different examples of Islamophobia.

*What you should know about the Syrian Refugee Controversy.* Action Institute Power Blog. 20 November, 2015. <http://blog.acton.org/archives/83541-explainer-what-you-should-know-about-the-syrian-refugee-controversy.html?gclid=CJHhILnqjc4CFQaSaQodEvOL4w>

Good insight and knowledge regarding the Syrian Refugees and what they go through.

### **Topic II: Addressing the Progress of the OIC-2025 Employment, Infrastructure and Industrialization Action Priority**

All Projects - Middle East and North Africa. The World Bank, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/mena/projects/all>

This database and search engine contains many current and past projects facilitated by the World Bank in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region. Member States located in MENA can find information here directly about their state. Non-MENA Member States can use this tool to familiarize themselves with developments among a majority of the committee and as a resource for fostering new ideas and directives. An important part of preparing for committee is being familiar with already developed programs and their effectiveness. Bringing prior research and ideas based upon the effects of previous projects will allow the committee to move forward in enhancing existing projects and creating new plans to better address the issues faced by Member States regarding employment, infrastructure, and industrialization.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation, "OIC Framework For Cooperation on Labour, Employment, and Social Protection" [http://www.oic-oci.org/external\\_web/labor/2/en/docs/final/2ICLM-Framework-English-v2.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/external_web/labor/2/en/docs/final/2ICLM-Framework-English-v2.pdf)

Although previously sourced briefly in the background guide, this document should be researched at a much deeper level in order to gain further understanding of the OIC's current involvement and strategic vision in this topic area. This source contains a significant amount of data and research that can be useful in evaluating the reasons that led to the OIC-2025 Programme of Action and where improvements are needed. The framework also provides insight as to the over-arching issues and trends that effect the Member States of the OIC collectively. Delegates should also note that there are sections to this framework that review existing programs. These sections should be used as a guide in research to further evaluate the current status of these programs and to bring substantive knowledge to the committee discussion.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation; Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries. <http://www.sesrtic.org/index.php>



Statistics are excellent for supporting claims and positions in background research and during debate. This site is a platform for gathering statistical information about all Member States. There is also a feature to create custom reports for specific Member States and specific categories of data. There are also very helpful informational graphics, linked articles, and external resources that can help delegates get a comprehensive view of their Member States and learn about other members of the committee.

Svoboda, E.; Zycck, S.; Osman, D. (2015) "Islamic humanitarianism? The evolving role of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation in Somalia and beyond," *The Heritage Institute For Policy Studies – HPG Humanitarian Policy Group*. <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9457.pdf>

The OIC's role in Somalia can be used as another case study when looking at its past work related to this topic. Poverty alleviation and crumbling infrastructure were two highly important issues that needed to be addressed post-conflict and crisis in Somalia. Current Member States, especially those experiencing political turmoil and economic strife, are currently addressing similar issues regarding poverty rates and underdevelopment. This paper also gives an overview of the OIC, how it interacts with other international organizations, and its involvement directly with Member States.