



OIC/WCOD-9/2026/FINAL.DECLARATION

**ISLAMABAD DECLARATION
OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE OIC MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE ON WOMEN**

**“SOCIO- ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF
WOMEN IN THE OIC COUNTRIES:
CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD”**

**ISLAMABAD, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN
13 JULY 2026**

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation responsible for women's affairs in the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), participating in the 9th Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women, (under the theme "Socio-Economic and Political Empowerment of Women in the OIC Countries: Challenges and Way Forward") held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, from 12 to 13 July 2026;

Recalling the OIC Charter, the OIC Programme of Action, the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW), the Statute of the Women Development Organization (WDO), and the outcomes of previous OIC Ministerial Conferences on Women;

Reaffirming that the teachings and values of Islam uphold the dignity, rights, participation and advancement of women and girls and recognize their vital role in the family, community and society;

Recognizing that women constitute nearly half of the population of OIC Member States and that their full, effective and meaningful participation is essential for sustainable development, economic prosperity, social cohesion and peace;

Acknowledging the progress made by many OIC Member States in advancing women's education, health, economic opportunities and participation in public life, while recognizing that significant disparities and challenges still exist in the OIC geography;

Expressing concern over persistent barriers that limit women's participation in political, economic and professional spheres, including unequal access to opportunities, resources, technology, finance and decision-making processes;

Expressing deep concern over the continued restrictions on girls' education and women's employment in Afghanistan, which are inconsistent with Islamic values that uphold the dignity, rights and advancement of women and girls;

Recognizing the transformative potential of digital technologies, innovation, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies to expand opportunities for women and girls, while noting the risks associated with digital exclusion, cyber harassment, online exploitation and technology-facilitated violence;

Recognizing that poverty, unemployment, lack of financial inclusion, limited access to resources and unequal participation in labour markets continue to impede the socio-economic advancement of women in many Member States;

Expressing concern over the disproportionate impact of armed conflicts, foreign occupation such as Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine, humanitarian crises, forced displacement, terrorism, violent extremism, climate-related disasters and economic shocks on women and girls;

Expressing deep concern over the rise of Islamophobia, xenophobia, racial and religious intolerance, hate speech, discrimination and negative stereotyping affecting Muslim women and girls, particularly those living as Muslim minorities and recognizing that such manifestations often disproportionately target visibly Muslim women, restrict their equal access to education, employment, public services and public life, and undermine their dignity, safety and full participation in society;

Recognizing the growing impact of climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters on women and girls and the need for gender-sensitive adaptation and resilience strategies;

Acknowledging the importance of international cooperation, South-South cooperation and intra-OIC partnerships for sharing experiences, best practices, expertise and resources in support of women's advancement;

We hereby:

1. Commend the efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Chair of the Eighth Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women, in advancing the implementation of the Cairo Declaration and related initiatives;
2. Welcome the convening of the Ninth Session in Islamabad and reaffirm our collective commitment to advancing the empowerment of women across OIC Member States;
3. Reaffirm our commitment to promoting the socio-economic and political empowerment of women and girls in accordance with national priorities, constitutional frameworks and the values and principles of the OIC;
4. Encourage Member States to strengthen policies and institutional mechanisms that promote women's full, effective and meaningful participation in political, public and decision-making processes at all levels;
5. Encourage Member States to promote women's representation in national parliaments, local governments, public administration, diplomacy, the judiciary and peace and security institutions, consistent with national laws and priorities;
6. Emphasize the need to remove educational and professional barriers and ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women and girls in public life in Afghanistan, in accordance with Islamic values;
7. Encourage Member States to expand access to quality education, vocational training, and leadership development opportunities for women and girls;
8. Urge Member States to strengthen women's economic empowerment through improved access to employment opportunities, land, markets, finance, entrepreneurship support and social protection systems;
9. Encourage the development of inclusive financial systems, including Islamic finance instruments, microfinance, digital financial services and women-focused financial products that enhance women's economic participation;
10. Call upon Member States to support women entrepreneurs, small and medium-sized enterprises led by women and women-owned businesses through capacity-building, access to capital, innovation ecosystems and trade opportunities;
11. Encourage Member States to prioritize women's inclusion in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), digital skills development, artificial intelligence, innovation and emerging technologies;
12. Call for efforts to bridge the digital gender divide by expanding affordable access to digital infrastructure, connectivity, devices and digital literacy programmes, particularly in rural communities;
13. Call upon Member States to adopt inclusive policies that address the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities and ensure their equal access to education, employment, health and financial services, digital technologies, social protection systems and public life;

14. Urge Member States to strengthen measures aimed at preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, trafficking, harassment, bullying and other harmful practices in digital contexts;
15. Encourage cooperation among Member States to address cyber harassment, online abuse, exploitation, deep-fake technologies and other emerging digital threats affecting women and girls;
16. Call upon Member States, relevant international and regional organizations to strengthen measures to combat Islamophobia, xenophobia, racial and religious intolerance, hate speech and discrimination against Muslim women and girls in countries with Muslim minority including through legal and policy safeguards, awareness-raising, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, protection from violence and harassment, and measures to ensure their equal access to education, employment, public services, digital spaces and participation in public life;
17. Reaffirm the importance of the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society and recognize the role of women within the family and society while promoting policies that support family well-being and shared responsibilities;
18. Encourage Member States to adopt gender-sensitive approaches to climate action, disaster risk reduction and environmental sustainability, recognizing women as agents of resilience and sustainable development;
19. Call for the integration of women's perspectives and participation in peace-building, conflict prevention, mediation, reconciliation and post-conflict recovery efforts;
20. Express strong solidarity with women and girls of Palestine and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), who continue to suffer gross and systematic violations of fundamental rights under occupation and call upon the international community, including the United Nations to take immediate, concrete and effective measures for enhanced legal, humanitarian, economic, educational and psychosocial support to alleviate their sufferings and strengthen their resilience;
21. Reaffirm support for women and girls affected by armed conflicts, foreign occupation such as Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine, terrorism, violent extremism and humanitarian crises across the Muslim world;
22. Encourage enhanced cooperation among OIC institutions, Member States and international partners to exchange best practices and develop joint programmes aimed at women's empowerment;
23. Welcome the role of the Women Development Organization (WDO) as a key institutional mechanism for advancing women's development and encourage Member States to strengthen cooperation with the Organization;
24. Call upon Member States and development partners to mobilize technical, financial and institutional support including through capacity-building, concessional financing, grants and public-private partnerships, for initiatives advancing the objectives of this Declaration;
25. Launch the "Islamabad Initiative on Women's Digital Inclusion", as a voluntary platform under the auspices of the OIC, aimed at promoting digital literacy, digital entrepreneurship, STEM education, artificial intelligence skills, cyber security awareness and equitable access to digital technologies for women and girls across OIC Member States;
26. Invite interested Member States, OIC institutions and development partners to cooperate in the implementation of the Islamabad Initiative through the exchange of expertise, training programmes, scholarships, mentorship opportunities and best practices;
27. Reaffirm that the empowerment of women and girls is essential to the progress, resilience and prosperity of OIC societies, and that investing in women's education,

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skills, leadership, protection and economic participation is an investment in the future of the Ummah.

28. Request the OIC General Secretariat, in cooperation with the WDO, to develop a compendium of successful policies, programmes, best practices, lessons learned and innovative approaches relating to women's socio-economic and political empowerment in Member States for dissemination across the OIC geography.
29. Express appreciation to the OIC General Secretariat and all relevant OIC institutions for their continued efforts in promoting the advancement and empowerment of women;
30. Request the OIC General Secretariat, in coordination with the WDO and relevant OIC institutions, to facilitate the implementation of the outcome of this Conference and to report on progress to the next session;
31. Express our sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the Ninth Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women and for the excellent arrangements made for its success;
32. Express gratitude to H.E. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for graciously granting his patronage to this Conference and for honouring its opening ceremony with his presence;

Done in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 13 July 2026.