DRAFT[1] DECLARATION

OF THE 1ST MUSLIM DIASPORA FORUM OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES

"FROM ROOTS TO ROUTES"

We, the representatives of the relevant national institutions from the participating Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) responsible for diaspora-related affairs, policies and engagement, attending the **1st Muslim Diaspora Forum of the OIC Member States**, with a focus on **"From Roots to Routes"** in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye, on 8-9 September 2026;

Expressing our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) for their commendable initiative to organize this inaugural Forum, and to the Government and people of the Republic of Türkiye for their warm hospitality; and **expressing also** our appreciation to the participating Member States and to the OIC General Secretariat, relevant OIC institutions and participating international organizations for their contributions to the Forum;

Recalling that Muslim communities and minorities living in Non-OIC Member States account for over one third of the Islamic Ummah;

Reaffirming our commitment to the OIC Charter and **recalling** the relevant resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conference and the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), particularly Resolution No. 1/51-MM on Safeguarding the Rights of Muslim Communities and Minorities in Non-OIC Member States, as well as the Istanbul Declaration adopted by the 51st Session of the CFM, concerning the rights and well-being of Muslim communities, the centrality of the Palestinian cause, and the need to combat Islamophobia, religious hatred, discrimination and negative stereotyping;

Taking note of the relevant work of the OIC General Secretariat and OIC institutions concerning Muslim communities and minorities, the Palestinian

[1] Draft for consideration

cause, human dignity, equality and non-discrimination, moderation, tolerance, peaceful coexistence and social solidarity;

Recognizing Muslim diasporas as multigenerational communities and networks that maintain social, cultural, economic, professional or familial connections with their countries of origin or ancestral homelands, while forming integral parts of and contributing positively to their countries and societies of residence;

Acknowledging the contributions of Muslim diasporas to social cohesion and sustainable development through knowledge and cultural exchange, entrepreneurship, investment, innovation, professional networks, humanitarian solidarity and constructive civic participation, as well as the important roles of civil society and community organizations, women, young people, international students, alumni, professionals and other relevant stakeholders;

Concerned by the challenges faced by Muslim diaspora communities, including Islamophobia, anti-Muslim hatred, discrimination, negative stereotyping, socioeconomic exclusion, vulnerable labour conditions, family separation and barriers to public services, social protection and the peaceful exercise of religion or belief;

Emphasizing that diaspora-related policies and cooperation should respect international law, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the laws of countries of residence, the principle of non-interference in domestic affairs, and the rights, responsibilities and freely expressed choices of diaspora communities;

Convinced that this inaugural Forum offers an opportunity to begin a voluntary process of exchanges, mutual learning, knowledge sharing and technical cooperation among the existing national institutions of participating OIC Member States, in engagement, as appropriate, with the OIC General Secretariat, relevant OIC institutions, international organizations and other stakeholders;

Taking note of the deliberations held during the Forum;

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Present the following considerations to guide voluntary cooperation on diaspora-related affairs:

1. **Affirm** our shared vision of Muslim diasporas as bridges of knowledge, solidarity, development and cooperation between their countries of origin and residence; **recognize** their varied experiences, multigenerational character and contributions to the societies of which they form an integral part; and **support** consultation, closer institutional contact and the voluntary exchange of effective practices on diaspora engagement.
2. **Recall**, in line with established OIC positions, the centrality of the Palestinian cause and the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and to an independent, sovereign and contiguous State on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital; **emphasize** the unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, comprising the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; and **support** the protection of the Palestinian people and unhindered humanitarian assistance throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
3. **Recognize** the contribution of Muslim diaspora communities, including through their organizations and networks, to public awareness of the Palestinian cause and humanitarian solidarity; and **underline** the value in the exchange of related experiences among relevant national institutions.
4. **Express deep concern** over Islamophobia, anti-Muslim hatred, discrimination, negative stereotyping, hate speech and acts targeting Muslims, Islamic sacred texts, places of worship and community institutions; and **reject** the association of terrorism and violent extremism with any religion, race, ethnicity or nationality, which contributes to prejudice and discrimination, including against Muslims.
5. **Note with appreciation** the efforts to improve the accessibility, quality and coordination of consular, civil-documentation, legal-information and digital services for diaspora communities.

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6. **Acknowledge** the economic, social, professional, scientific and knowledge-based contributions of diaspora communities to their countries of origin and residence, extending well beyond financial transfers; and **encourage** voluntary and mutually beneficial links between diaspora expertise and interested institutions in OIC Member States.

7. **Recognize** the contribution of diaspora organizations to community capacity, social harmony, service provision and constructive engagement with wider society; and **promote** the exchange of practices concerning institutional governance, family and intergenerational ties, youth participation, and the preservation of linguistic heritage, values and traditions, with the meaningful participation of women and young people.

8. **Highlight** the role of international students and alumni in wider diaspora and international networks as channels of knowledge, culture, and long-term cooperation; **appreciate** the YTB scholarships granted to the OIC member countries; and **encourage**, where appropriate, academic partnerships, alumni networks, mentorship and professional exchanges supporting their development and continued engagement with their countries of origin and study.

9. **Encourage** voluntary research, policy dialogue and the exchange of aggregate or publicly available information on institutional approaches to diaspora affairs and their development contributions; **welcome** the Forum as an initial platform for mutual learning and institutional interaction; and **invite** interested participating Member States as well as relevant OIC institutions, within their mandates and available resources, to explore capacity building, technical cooperation and knowledge exchange.

10. **Invite** the OIC Member States in sustaining discussions and exchanges in this field and in organizing **subsequent editions of the Muslim Diaspora Forum**, in consultation with the OIC General Secretariat.

Concluded in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye, on 9 September 2026.

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