

## The State of Libya

### Positions for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

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

The State of Libya is facing a major governmental and economic crisis due to the failed transition to a democracy after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi. Libya is also facing an epidemic called Islamophobia. Islamophobia is affecting and destroying our peaceful way of life worldwide. The savage terrorism in the name of Allah is aggressively pushing other countries to make laws against women and young girls around the world by not allowing them to wear the Hijab. The Hijab is a sacred symbol to the Islam Religion. If we as a worldwide Muslim community allow laws that are against our women and young girls wearing the Hijab, no matter where they are in the world, it only continues to perpetuate Islamophobia against all Muslims and the Religion of Islam. The State of Libya denounces any acts of violence or threats executed to carry out a plan to annihilate people of all nationalities, endangering their lives, honor, freedoms, and security or human rights.

**Globally**, Libya supports the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) for identifying that governmental agencies, cultural and religious communities, public and private organizations, civil society representatives and the media bear a special responsibility for the preservation, continuation and enhancement of constructive, peaceful and forward looking relationships among and between cultures, religions and societies.

**Nationally**, Libya acknowledges the Council of Europe (COE) General Policy Recommendation N° 5 for Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, which identified the root causes of discrimination, xenophobia, islamophobia and the rights of Muslim women and children. Libya points out that these same root topics cause poverty and impede social and economic development. Libya supports the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) and RES 60/27-P for recognizing that women played an integral part throughout history contributing to social life and participated in civilization building and training. Libya supports OPAAW proposed Ten-Year Programme of Action recognizing women in the OIC member states should be respected, developed, empowered and active participants in social, political, cultural and economic realms. Libya believes this will lead to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development and adequate resources.

**Regionally**, Libya adopts the Durban Declaration from the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which recognized the importance of equal opportunity for all, enjoyment of human rights, the right to development, to live in peace and freedom and the equal participation in economic, social, cultural, civil, and political life. Libya recognizes and acknowledges all issues propagating islamophobia and adopts all measures listed within the Durban Declaration. Libya continues to cooperate not only with Arab States, but also globally; to develop Plans of Action for education of non-Muslims and to illustrate the fact that Islam is a peaceful religion in all aspects of the definition.

The State of Libya proposes the creation of the Plan of Action on combating islamophobia, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, intolerance and discrimination against Muslims titled **D.E.A.R.**, which stands for **D**enounce, **E**ducate, **A**rrange, **R**eaffirm. All Muslim Communities around the world must come together and **D**enounce- ISIS, ISIL, Al-Qaeda or any other terrorist group, as being related to the peaceful Islam. **E**ducate and prove the positive and constructive role Muslims play in society and the community. Call for a coalition of all Muslims worldwide to spread the culture of peace and participate in projecting the true image of Islam. **A**rrange with local communities, churches, Mosques, Non-Governmental (OSCE and Interfaith Relations) agencies to hold meetings, bazaars and cultural diversity experiences to showcase the true meaning of Islam. **R**eaffirm that any terrorist group cannot and will not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization. United together as one, we can achieve worldwide peace and harmony for all religions.

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

The State of Libya has refrained from financial commitments with the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) due to political instability which was caused by the failed transition to democracy. Libya now wishes to support the ISFD and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in order to bring prosperity to our state and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that remain among the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's

(OICs) member states. Libya, Sub-Saharan Africa and 19 other member states are still among the 48 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and have an extensive population living below the poverty line. The promotion of poverty alleviation and industrialization in Libya urges sustainable fair-trade, employment and education in efforts to successful development.

**Globally**, Libya supports the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Ten-Year Programme of Action (OIC-TYPOA) in promoting education, health, poverty alleviation, intra-OIC trade and investment, infrastructure, along with human rights and other social issues. Libya believes that cooperation and support between private and public organizations and the OIC is essential for the execution of the new goals that the OIC-2025 has established. The efforts and successes of the coalition and cooperation between our member states and international communities are necessary in order to create a strong implementation of sustainable and reliable labor, employment, and infrastructure for means of industrialization.

**Nationally**, Libya supports the Education for Employment (E4E), which as noted by the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labor, Employment and Social Protection, identifies the gaps in existing E4E framework, between the private labor markets and education institutions, and advocates for the importance of the private sector in bridging the gaps and enhancing the linkages. Libya believes engaging in the private sector will create new job opportunities for employment-based education and enhance the labor market skills for Arab youth and women. This will provide equal employment for all. Libya recognizes the Small-Medium Entrepreneurships (SMEs) which has played an existing role in the progress of involving women and youth in the scarce job market. Libya believes SMEs will encourage dynamic and commercial development that increases economic growth and improves production towards an industrialized state.

**Regionally**, Libya acknowledges the United Nations A/RES/69/181, which promotes the awareness of the right to development as requested by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Libya believes that cooperation amongst the member states will lead to successful and sustainable partnership between private and public organizations. Libya adopts the core principles of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) in efforts to promote intra-OIC trade and investment. As means of development and infrastructure Libya agrees on expanding funding under IDB, ISFD and SMEs activities allowing Libya to create programs such as manufacturing industries and networks of transportation. Libya hopes that by implementing the core principles of COMCEC into new programs, it will enhance the mobility, solidarity and good governance. These new programs will champion communication and cooperation for transparent trade between OIC member states.

The State of Libya proposes the creation of a four-step **Plan of Action** that ensures equal accessibility of employment, education, health, poverty alleviation and industrialization titled **F.A.C.E.** which stands for **F**acilitate, **A**dvocate, **C**ontinue and **E**ncourage. **F**acilitate opportunities of equal employment, investment and poverty alleviation through global organizations such as the Islamic Cooperation Humanitarian Affairs Department (ICHAD), by creating a reliable and transparent financial and educational resource of employment, energy and investment in order to increase sustainable industrialization. **A**dvocate for labor protection, safety and health to promote equal employment for all. **C**ontinue implementing capacity building programs that focus on alleviating poverty while creating a sustainable economy. **E**ncourage women and youth to utilize SMEs as a tool to promote economic advancement and development in our society. As a Joint Islamic Action we can develop and grow our nation into a prosperous state.