



المنظمة الإسلامية للأمن الغذائي

Islamic Organization for Food Security

l'Organisation Islamique pour la Sécurité Alimentaire

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REPORT OF THE ISLAMIC  
ORGANISATION FOR FOOD  
SECURITY (IOFS) to the 40<sup>th</sup>  
Session of COMCEC



Istanbul  
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## A Word by the Director General

It is my great pleasure to introduce the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) Report to this esteemed 40<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC).



As we gather to discuss the critical economic and commercial matters facing our OIC Member States, I am honored to reflect on the significant achievements and initiatives IOFS has undertaken since the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of this gathering. This account is of relevance to me, as it is the first time I will be leading the IOFS Delegation to the solemn annual COMCEC Meeting.

Over the past year, IOFS has steadfastly pursued its mission to enhance food security and sustainable agricultural practices across the OIC region. Among our key initiatives, we have launched a series of impactful programs aimed at empowering Member States to confront the pressing challenges of food insecurity, climate change, and agricultural resilience.

The present Report therefore takes stoke of such initiatives, including what had been done in the context of implementation of *IOFS Strategic Vision 2031*, *Africa Food Security Initiative (AFSI)*, and *Afghanistan Food Security Program (AFSP)*, highlighting here the jointly implemented initiative with Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) for supporting farmers in west of Afghanistan. I am happy to note that for such developments, Member States are entrusting us with more mandates for the near future, including the much-needed **IOFS Gene Bank** to be hosted by the Republic of Kazakhstan or **Regional Center for Training and Guidance** on the application of good agricultural practices for Member States and promoting awareness of agricultural insurance among the Member States, as proposed by the State of Qatar.

Finally, reflecting on the pivotal theme of this Session, which is **“Digital Transformation of Payment Systems in OIC Member States”**, I believe that it touches on a crucial subject that resonates across the entire spectrum of development initiatives, including food security and sustainable agricultural practices.

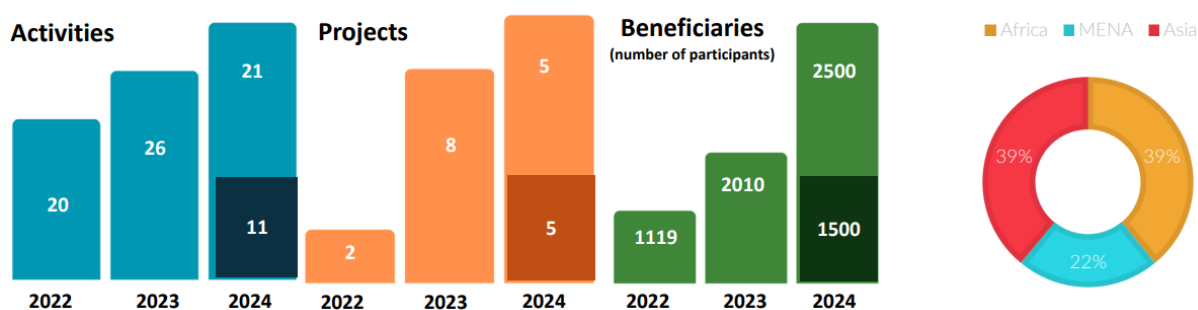
In today’s rapidly evolving global economy, digital transformation has emerged as a powerful enabler of growth, innovation, and inclusivity. Considering that the 50<sup>th</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers (29-30 August 2024, Yaoundé, Cameroon) has approved 11<sup>th</sup> December as OIC Food Security Day, perhaps it would be suggestive that this year we mark such auspicious occasion with further reflections on the digital future of financial systems in supporting sectors like agriculture and food security, which are at the core of IOFS’s mission.



Ambassador Berik Aryn

## A. INTRODUCTION

01. The Secretariat of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) has been overseeing implementation of diverse projects and initiatives since the holding of the 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Meeting, held on 02-05 December 2023 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye.
02. The IOFS is implementing capacity building activities and projects to enhance productivity and resilience of AgriFood Systems focusing on strategic commodities for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), i.e., wheat, rice and cassava, animal development and policy frameworks. IOFS is assisting Member States to access the best technologies, practices and expertise on various aspects of sustainable agriculture and food security.
03. The IOFS continues to grow its intervention and implementation of diverse activities and initiatives within the Member States, as shown in the below chart:



04. The different IOFS Board Meetings have consistently recommended the Organization to opt for a shift for a better in-field presence through implementation of suitable projects within the OIC geography. In this context and to ensure that such direction will be effectively managed, a Project Office was established, and relevant initiatives are now on pipeline within the OIC strategic commodities.

## B. ELECTION OF NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL

05. As mentioned in the previous Report, the 6<sup>th</sup> IOFS General Assembly held in Doha, State of Qatar on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 had, inter alia, elected **H.E. Amb. Askar Mussinov** to the position of Director General of the IOFS, effective from 01 January 2024. He was unable to stay long in the Office, as he unfortunately passed away on 10 February 2024.
06. Following such tragic development, H.E. Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the President of Republic of Kazakhstan, proposed the name of **Amb. Berik Aryn** for the vacant post of Director General. At the Extraordinary General Assembly held virtually on the 22 April 2024, he was confirmed to the post effective from 29 April 2024.
07. It is also important to note that the IOFS counts with a new Assistant Director General, **Amb. Khusrav Noziri**, from the Republic of Tajikistan, who was appointed by the Executive Board with effect from beginning of September 2024.

## C. ENGAGEMENTS OF DIRECTOR GENERAL

08. On 16 May 2024, Ambassador Berik participated at the *First Meeting of the Secretaries of Security Councils of Central Asia*, where main IOFS initiatives were presented, as well as creating a gene bank and establishment of an IOFS Fund for agricultural investments were proposed. Also, non-member Central Asian countries were invited to join IOFS.
09. The Director General attended the *13<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of TURKPA* on 06 June 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. This event provided an excellent platform to introduce the IOFS and encourage Parliamentary Heads from countries that have not yet signed the IOFS Statute to support the joining process actively. The following day, 07 June, the Director General met with Azerbaijani officials responsible for food security and agriculture, including Heads of the Committee on Agrarian Policy and the Committee on Economic Policy, Industry, and Entrepreneurship of the Milli Mejlis, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and Directors of the Agricultural Research Center and the Azerbaijan Research Institute of Crop Husbandry. Our discussions focused on IOFS's new regional initiatives and proposals for collaboration at COP29 in Baku this November.
10. As part of the “New Vision: Power of Business” Forum, the IOFS and Nobel Fest co-organized a highly anticipated session titled “Feeding 1 Billion: Challenges and Opportunities for Agrotech in Central Asia” on 29 June 2024 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The event brought together distinguished leaders in the agri-tech sector to discuss the future of agriculture in the region. Amb. Berik’s presentation was on the IOFS's agri-tech activities, particularly in Central Asia. He emphasized the critical role of technology in enhancing sustainable agricultural practices and ensuring food security for the region’s growing population. This collaboration aims to create a unified strategy for technology adoption, attract larger investments, and address common challenges such as water management and climate resilience.
11. On 22 July 2024, on the sidelines of the 16<sup>th</sup> UN-OIC Biennial General Coordination Meeting, hosted by the IOFS in Astana, a significant Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed by Director General with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), represented by Assistant Director General, Mr. Abdul Hakim Elwaer on behalf of H.E. Mr. Qu Dongyu, FAO Director General. The initiative marks a pivotal moment in enhancing cooperation between OIC and UN Institutions towards achieving shared objectives in food security and agricultural sustainable development.



The Lol underscores the mutual intent of FAO and IOFS to finalize formal agreements in the future, detailing joint cooperation efforts. Initially, these efforts will be country-based and focused on areas such as value chain development, food security governance, sustainable livestock development, and water management. These collaborations aim to leverage each Organization’s expertise and resources to achieve tangible outcomes in enhancing food security and nutrition across common Member States.

12. The Director General delivered a compelling speech at the *International Forum of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) on Food Security and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* held on 05-06 September 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The forum, a pivotal gathering for addressing food security challenges within the SDGs framework, underscores the importance of global collaboration and innovative solutions for landlocked developing countries.



## D. OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION OF IOFS STRATEGIC VISION 2031

13. On 20-21 December 2023, the IOFS and the Arab Organization for Education, Culture, and Science (ALECSO) convened the *International Conference on Food Security in the Arab World during and after Crises*, in Tunis, Tunisia.

A pivotal aspect of the conference was the comprehensive dialogue on Trade and Investment for Agri-Products in the Arab World during the concluding sessions. Diverse perspectives converged, paving the way for collaborative efforts to strengthen trade ties and ensure the region's food security.



14. A three-day capacity-building training titled *Food Banking Regional Network Model: Establishment, Operations, Pillars to Focus* was held on 17-19 December 2023 in Cairo, Egypt. The organization of the event was financially co-supported by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and closely coordinated with the Food Banking Regional Network.



The activity brought together over 60 participants representing government agencies, food banks, civil society, multinational companies, private sector from 20 OIC Member States. The event aimed at showcasing the great experience of Food Banks of certain OIC Member States in implementing food banking

activities. The training not only to familiarize the best practices of establishing and operations of food banks, but practically to allow participants to build the business plan, pillars to consider in setting a food bank, field visit to Egyptian Food Bank facilities, as well as accompany identified non-profit organizations or private sector entities to run food banking system in home countries.

15. On 06-08 February 2024, the IOFS hosted two consultative webinars on the *Development of Material Transfer Agreement for the Wheat Germplasm Exchange* among Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Libya, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Türkiye and Uzbekistan. National Material Transfer and Phytosanitary regulations were shared, SMTA of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, ICARDA and ACSAD agreements were discussed to learn and improve the said MTA.

16. On 19-23 February 2024, the IOFS organized an *Exchange Visit and Hands-on Training Workshop for Best Practices of Wheat Development in Pakistan*, with the cooperation of University of Agriculture Faisalabad and MNS University of Agriculture Multan Pakistan, and Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The beneficiaries included 30 Breeders and agronomists from Egypt, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Libya, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, and Uzbekistan. The aim of the workshop was to introducing breeding expertise to develop climate resilient wheat varieties and hybrids from Australia, USA and Pakistan to experts of CWANA region.



17. On 19-20 February 2024, the IOFS co-hosted an *International Conference of Emerging Technologies for Crop Improvement* at D-8 Center for Agriculture and Food Security, University of Agriculture Faisalabad in Pakistan, in collaboration with ACIAR. The audience included 200+ public and private sector researchers, experts, academia and postgraduate students from Egypt, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Libya, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, and Uzbekistan. The conference introduced the international best practices of genetic biofortification to alleviate global malnutrition from Melbourne University Australia, acquired inheritance and plant breeding for climate change from Kansas State University USA, applied predictive techniques from CIMMYT Bread Wheat Program, hybridity: more than just higher yield from University of Sydney Australia, and speed breeding from Pakistan.
18. The IOFS hosted a webinar on 28 March 2024, titled *Pests and Diseases in Wheat and Rice Farming in Central Asia* to address the critical challenges these issues pose to food security in the region. The event featured experts from various institutions who discussed prevalent pests and diseases, innovative management strategies, and sustainable practices suitable for Central Asia's unique agricultural context. Key presentations included eco-friendly pest management, the use of disease-resistant crop varieties, and the economic impacts of crop diseases.
19. On 04 April 2024, the IOFS hosted a pivotal webinar titled *Integrating Climate-Smart Agriculture into Food Security Policy Frameworks in Central Asia* to mark the launch of a comprehensive 3-year initiative dedicated to embedding Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices into the agricultural policies and food security strategies of five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. This initiative is critical in addressing the need for climate-resilient agricultural systems to ensure sustainable development and food security in the region.
20. IOFS in collaboration with Hamad Bin Khalifa University (State of Qatar) organized a series of webinars. The topics covered were: *Economic Diversification to Promote Food Security in the GCC* (26 February 2024); *Mobilizing Finance for Sustainable Agriculture and Agriculture Productivity* (29 April 2024); *Regional Integration for Food Security* (May 2024). These webinars, with participation of about 100 Member States' representatives, aimed to stimulate discussions, explore potential solutions to existing problems, and highlight advanced international experiences.
21. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, National Center for Knowledge and Innovation in Agriculture, and Southern Agricultural Scientific Research Institute, IOFS co-organized a conference on *Prospects for the Effective Use of Genetic Resources and Crops and the Use of Modern Advanced Cultivation Technologies in Ensuring Food Security* on 10 May 2024 in Karshi, Uzbekistan. More than 21 experts in the field of genetic resources utilization and breeding, new seeds and seed systems, cultivation practices, plant protection and soil health, biofortification and food security with participation of experts from different countries. The conference covered climate-smart breeding, resource-conserving

practices, and genomics, crucial for adapting to climate change and improving food security.

22. With the support of Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the IOFS conducted a training workshop on *Estimation and Implementation of Food Losses and Waste Management*,

sharing the experience of hosts in Riyadh on 6-8 May 2024 in collaboration with Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD). A cohort of 45 participants including government officials, researchers, international experts, entrepreneurs, and youth from Egypt, Djibouti; Iraq; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Libya;



Mauritania, Oman; the State of Palestine, Pakistan, Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen participated. The outcomes included implementation of waste reduction practices and policies and compiling them in the form of comprehensive documentation on food waste with the support of Member States.

23. On 11 May 2024, IOFS conducted a training workshop on *Seeds of Tomorrow: Innovations and Testing for Resilient Agriculture in Central Asia* in Karshi, Uzbekistan with the collaboration of Southern Agricultural Scientific Research Institute. A cohort of 18 local young wheat breeders and PhD students from Uzbekistan were trained in seed diagnostics, seed quality assurance and modern testing technologies to test new seeds entering in the country through seed exchange programs.

24. IOFS conducted a virtual training course on *Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)* on 14-15 May 2024 in collaboration with SESRIC and National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE) Pakistan. The audience was from 18 OIC Member States. The training course introduced role of GMOs for food security, their biosafety, and policy frameworks especially success stories of genome editing in Pakistan.

25. The IOFS on 07 June 2024 conducted the webinar *Safe Food, Better Health* under the framework of the OIC Healthy, Halal and Safe Food Ecosystem, brought together 30 experts from different Member States to discuss the critical issue of food safety in their respective countries. The event aimed to raise awareness about the significance of safe food practices, explore emerging trends and challenges, share best practices, and foster collaboration among stakeholders and international agencies.



26. The IOFS and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) successfully concluded the capacity-building segment of the *Train Stakeholders on the Use of Biotechnology for Sustainable Farming: Harnessing the Potential of Biochar* project on 28-29 August 2024 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The training, which took place at the Kazakh National Agrarian Research University (International Office KazNARU), was marked by the handover of a biochar machine prototype to Kazakhstani institutions, symbolizing a significant step toward sustainable agriculture in the region.



27. In the context of the important cooperation the IOFS has with the Women Development Organization (WDO), a joint workshop on *Economic Empowerment and Climate Resilience of Smallholder Rural Women Farmers for Food Security*, was virtually held on 26 September 2024. It is also important to note that the AOAD offered valuable insights into the subject of the virtual event.

28. In partnership with ICESCO, the IOFS convened a conference on *Smarter Agriculture, Brighter Futures: Implementing Intelligent Agriculture* on 26-27 September 2024 in Almaty, Kazakhstan and hosted by Kazakh National Agrarian Research University (KazNARU). The aim was to dive into the future of farming by exploring the revolutionary impact of IoT sensor networks on agriculture—enabling real-time monitoring, optimizing resources, and enhancing decision-making. It was a unique opportunity to connect with agricultural practitioners, researchers, government officials, and extension specialists dedicated to sustainable agriculture.

## E. AFRICA FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE (AFSI)

29. In collaboration with the Mauritanian Government, COMSTEC, FAO-Mauritania, INRA Algeria, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung Office in Morocco, IOFS organized a capacity building training workshop on the *Application of Artificial Intelligence in Precision Agriculture for Food Security* on 13-15 February 2024. A diverse cohort of 88 government officials, researchers, academia, and representatives from the private sector and industry from Mauritania, Algeria, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Qatar, Türkiye, Pakistan, Uganda. The main focus was on integration of science, education and industry for intelligent agricultural machinery equipment and sharing of best AI and AgriTechs for deployment in water management and irrigation, agricultural extension, vegetable production through cost-effective greenhouse design, spatial

management for crop classification and monitoring, soil moisture and plant health, and assessment of agri-potential.

30. On 04-05 March 2024, in collaboration with Ministry of Water, Union for the Mediterranean, Embassy of Water, Faculty of Sciences Rabat, IOFS co-organized the *Arab Water Management Summit* in Morocco, focused on addressing water scarcity and climate change impacts in the Arab region. The event conducted an analysis of the challenges and solutions related to water in agriculture in the Arab world, including the impact of climate change. Key outcomes included advocating for climate-resilient agricultural practices, modernizing traditional water systems like Khattarat, promoting solar-powered irrigation, and developing water harvesting and flood management strategies. The event enhanced knowledge sharing and set actionable plans to secure sustainable water resources for food security in OIC Arab countries.

31. IOFS also conducted a workshop on *Water Management* on 06-07 March 2024 in Rabat with collaboration of Ministry of Water, Kingdom of Morocco. The cohort from Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, and UAE, and included 8 Government Officials, 12 Researchers, 6 International experts, and 100 Students. The focus of the workshop was developing irrigation systems that blend traditional and modern techniques, such as combining surface irrigation with advanced drip irrigation, to improve water use efficiency in oases.

32. In Kampala, Uganda, the IOFS co-organized with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) workshop on *Enhancing Food Security, Climate Resilience and Agro-Industrial Development through Cassava Production and Processing* on 25-27 June 2024 and presented its preliminary findings from the joint Cassava Value Chain Program project with the IsDB and UNDP. This project encompasses a comprehensive value chain analysis for cassava in the priority countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo, and Sierra Leone. The Regional Cassava Value Chain Program (RCVCP) aims to contribute to food security, foster economic growth, and improve household incomes through enhanced production, processing, marketing, and support for private sector involvement in the cassava value chain. The target countries of the program include Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mozambique, Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Uganda.



33. Additionally, IOFS participated in the first edition of the *African Food Debate* in Algiers, which brought together leaders and experts from ten African countries to

address critical food security challenges. Initiated by the Group of Reflection Filaha Innov (GRFI) and co-organized with the Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research (ISRA), the event featured speeches by key dignitaries emphasizing unity, solidarity, and sustainable development within Africa. High-level officials and international organizations highlighted the importance of economic cooperation, cultural exchange, and addressing issues such as poverty, education, and healthcare.

34. As part of its ongoing commitment to enhancing food security in African countries, the IOFS has strengthened its collaboration with Nigerian farmers through a highly



impactful training program on *Converting Agricultural Wastes to Organo-Mineral Fertilizers through Composting*, held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 02-05 September 2024. This initiative not only underscores the IOFS's dedication to promoting sustainable agricultural practices among its member countries but also directly tackles the pressing challenge of soil degradation, a significant threat to food security, particularly in Africa. The initiative equipped farmers and agricultural professionals with essential skills to improve soil fertility and boost agricultural productivity.

35. The IOFS conducted a training on "Sustainable Organic Fertilizer Production" for Beninese farmers in Porto-Novo, Benin on 11 September 2024. The practical training session conducted at the Songhai Center brought together over 50 farmers and agricultural professionals to learn essential techniques for producing enriched organic fertilizers. This training introduced participants to various composting

methods, including aerobic composting using organic waste materials such as animal manure, crop residues, and food processing byproducts. Detailed guidance was provided on compost pile construction, emphasizing the use of diluted nutrient solutions like rabbit urine, which is rich in microorganisms and nitrogen, to speed up decomposition.

## F. HUMANITARIAN AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS:

36. In relation to the implementation of **Afghanistan Food Security Program (AFSP)**, the IOFS has been advancing the *Wheat Cultivation for Sustainable Development in West Afghanistan* project for 2024. This initiative, in collaboration with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) Herat Office, is crucial for bolstering agricultural productivity and ensuring food security in the Zindajan Sub-Province of Herat, Afghanistan, an area that was severely impacted by the earthquake last year.



The project aims to enhance local agricultural output through the provision of certified wheat seeds, fertilizers, and essential equipment, thereby improving livelihoods for vulnerable communities. With the generous support of the Government of Kazakhstan and TIKA, the initiative will supply two tractors, plough



harvesters, threshers, 45 tonnes of fertilizers, and 15 tonnes of improved wheat seeds with the total project value reaching approximately \$130,000. Furthermore, practical, hands-on training will be provided to farmers during both the sowing and harvesting seasons, equipping them with best practices in seed-saving and expert agricultural guidance. Key activities, including the distribution of equipment and training sessions, are scheduled between 28 September and 3 October 2024, with follow-up activities planned for May 2025. This project will directly benefit 300 farmers, with a special focus on inclusivity, targeting around 50 women to ensure diversity and promote equitable access to resources and opportunities within the farming community.

37. Regarding the evolving emergency situation in **Gaza**, the Secretariat has decided to extend the timeline for the appeal for 1,000 tons of Wheat Flour for Gaza. This extension allows for additional contributions from member countries to ensure a more impactful intervention. So far, the appeal has received \$25,000 from the Republic of Tajikistan, \$15,000 from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and a pledged amount of \$15,000 from the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent. Additionally, as you may know, the Republic of Kazakhstan allocated a voluntary contribution of \$210,000 to the IOFS, part of which will go to Gaza as part of the appeal. The effort aims to reach a target of \$450,000. The IOFS is willing to

collaborate with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for the immediate execution of this appeal once member country contributions are finalized.

As part of this larger goal, the first phase will deliver 200 tonnes of fortified wheat flour, equivalent to 8,000 packages in November 2024. Generous contributions from several member states have made this possible: the Republic of Tajikistan donated \$25,000, the People's Republic of Bangladesh contributed \$15,000, the Republic of Azerbaijan provided \$25,000, and the Republic of Kazakhstan extended its support with a donation of \$50,000.

Coordinated in partnership with the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) and UNRWA, this initiative will ensure efficient and timely delivery through the Jordanian route, with the first 200 tonnes expected to arrive by early November 2024. This marks a crucial step toward the broader 1,000 tonnes appeal. Additionally, consultations with Qatari stakeholders are ongoing, aiming to secure further contributions for a second convoy to meet the remaining target.

38. It is important to note that the IOFS hosted the **16<sup>th</sup> UN - OIC Biennial General Coordination Meeting** at its Premises in Astana on 22-24 July 2024. It entailed productive discussions and outcomes held across three key working groups, including Cooperation on Political Issues, Cooperation on Economic/Scientific Issues, and Cooperation on Cultural, Social, and Humanitarian Issues.



Throughout the meeting, delegates engaged in comprehensive deliberations aimed at enhancing collaboration between the UN and OIC on critical global challenges. Reports from the three working groups underscored progress and identified areas for future cooperation.

Its successful conclusion marked a milestone in international cooperation, setting the stage for continued partnership and collective action on global challenges, as well as catapulting the IOFS as an engaged and collaborative partner for all relevant UN and OIC Agencies.

## G. MANDATES BY 50<sup>TH</sup> CFM:

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39. The following are the most relevant mandates issued by 50<sup>th</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers, held on 29-30 August 2024 in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon:

- 39.1. The decision of launching the **OIC Food Security Day** that is to be celebrated on every 11<sup>th</sup> of December, the day that the IOFS was established in 2013. In this context, a note verbal was circulated to all OIC Member States requesting them to auspiciously mark the date with appropriate initiatives and inform the IOFS accordingly.
- 39.2. The idea of initiating the **IOFS Gene Bank** to be hosted by the Republic of Kazakhstan to serve all Member States. Relevant consultations with concerned Kazakh authorities are ongoing to ensure that the idea is timely and successfully implemented.
- 39.3. The establishment of a **Regional Center for Training and Guidance** on the application of good agricultural practices for Member States and promoting awareness of agricultural insurance among the Member States, as proposed by the State of Qatar. In fact, Qatari relevant authorities have been approached to discuss the best of action to implement this important mandate.
- 39.4. The idea to establish its own **Endowment for Agricultural and Food Assistance (EFAA)** to which the Member States and relevant OIC Institutions were recommended to consider providing their generous financial support to replenish the EFAAD towards achieving its noble goals of supporting Member States in distress and contributing for their agricultural progress.
- 39.5. Additionally, the IOFS has requested the State of Qatar in its capacity of Chair of the 9<sup>th</sup> MCFSAD, to preside over the mandated regional consultations among the three OIC geographical groups in collaboration with SESRIC and IsDB for future review the *Strategic Plan for Ensuring Food Security in the Member States* towards including their national priorities for its adoption at the 10<sup>th</sup> MCFSAD.

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