

Islamabad Declaration



**Adopted unanimously by all present and voting on 29th April, 2014
in the Conference on Networking of Ombudsmen in OIC Member States,
held in Islamabad, Pakistan**

The first Conference on Networking of Ombudsmen in OIC Member States (with its Theme: Strengthening the Institution of the Ombudsman in OIC Member Countries by sharing knowledge, experience, and ideas") held at Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 26-27 Jumadi II 1435 AH (28-29 April 2014 AD).

Whereas it was decided in the 39th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti on 15-17 November, 2012:

".....to establish Networking of Ombudsman Offices in the OIC Member States to promote sharing of expertise and best practices in complaint handling skills, speedy handling of public grievances, capacity building of Ombudsman institutions in Islamic world;....." [Resolution No.4/39-ORG]

Whereas the present day Ombudsman institution has its roots deep in Islamic history and has been an important pillar of the Islamic system of justice;

Whereas given the exigencies of development and nation building it is necessary to strengthen the institution of the Ombudsman in OIC Member States by sharing knowledge, experience, and ideas;

Whereas the office of the Ombudsman is central to good governance through effective oversight of public as well as specific private sector functionaries;

Whereas it is imperative that the institution of the Ombudsman be embraced by, and established in, all OIC Member States especially considering their need for accelerated development in all walks of life;

Inspired by the efforts made by OIC Member countries since 1969 when Islamic States decided to come together on a common platform to actively cooperate with each other in dealing with their socio - economic and political problems by bringing to bear the synergy of their combined efforts in removing the obstacles on the road to their further development;

We affirm our unreserved commitment to 'good governance' as a pivotal factor in national development;

We reiterate our confidence in the Ombudsman institution in making good governance possible; and

We, the OIC Ombudsmen and the participants in this first Conference on Networking of Ombudsmen in the OIC Member States, convened on 28-29 April 2014, in Islamabad, the Capital city of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, under the slogan, "Strengthening the institution of the Ombudsman in OIC Member States by sharing Knowledge, Experience and Ideas," declare as follows:

1. A suitable institutional arrangement be devised so that the change is brought about in an orderly manner. In order to achieve this Objective, an **OIC Ombudsmen Association (OICOA)** be formed to augment their authority to strengthen the Ombudsmen and to undertake effective networking of their offices in OIC States and to establish an **OIC Ombudsmen Association** with its Secretariat, for the present, at Islamabad, Pakistan, till such time that a permanent venue is selected, with the following organizational details:
2. Develop capacity of Ombudsmen personnel in all OIC States by devising training programs tailored to their specific needs;
3. Exchange of information relevant to all aspects of Ombudsman's operations be systematized;
4. There shall be a General Assembly consisting of all member Ombudsmen of the Association;
5. There shall be a Steering Committee to draft Constitution, by-laws, rules and procedure to govern the business of the Association;
6. The steering Committee shall comprise of the following Members of the Association: Guinea; Indonesia; Iran; Jordan; Morocco; Niger; Sudan; Pakistan and Turkey;
7. President of the Forum of Pakistan Ombudsman will Chair the Steering Committee and take necessary measures for its functioning and of the Secretariat;
8. The Steering Committee will finalize its report within one year of this conference session;
9. Further agreed that follow up meeting of the Members will be held periodically to review progress made towards implementation of this Conference Declaration and the next Conference in this context will be decided in due course of time.

Islamabad, 29th April, 2014