



Islamic Chamber Research & Information Center (ICRIC)

**International Conference on
“Women Entrepreneurship in Islamic Countries”
Declaration**

**1 December, 2014
ICRIC Headquarter, Tehran, Iran.**

We, the participants of

“International Conference on Women Entrepreneurship in Islamic Countries”

Held in Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, Tehran, Iran, on December 1, 2014, Organized by

Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC)

Guided by the teachings of Islam which stress the need for taking due care of women and granting them full rights;

Recalling the adoptions of the five Ministerial Conferences on The Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States including: Tehran Declaration (OIC/3-WCOD/2010/DEC), Cairo Plan of Action for Women (OIC/2-WCOD/2008-(OPAAW), Jakarta Declaration (OIC/4-WCOD/2012/DEC/FINAL) and also OIC/3-WCOD/2010/MECH and OIC/3-WCOD/2010/REP-RECOM/FINAL;

Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolutions with regard to women;

Reiterating the OIC’s commitment in addressing various challenges in 21st century faced by women worldwide, in particular women in Muslim society and in continuing efforts aimed towards reducing inequalities in all spheres of life, including access and opportunities to fully participate in development;

Appreciating the efforts undertaken by the OIC in implementing the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action, adopted at the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in 2005 in Makkah;

Acknowledging that women can play a broader role in ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth for the future, and

Recognizing the importance of family in the process of the political, economic and social development of the Islamic societies and **underscoring** that the advancement of women and the promotion of their role within the family and society is a major factor for development in society;

1) Suggest that the issue of women entrepreneurship in Islamic countries to be attached due importance in the next “OIC Ten-Year Program of Action”;

2) Suggest also OIC Member States to More Seriously Consider:

- a) The creation of an enabling environment for economic and social activities of women;
- b) The adoption of the mechanism for the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of women;
- c) The improvement of the means of collaboration on bilateral and multilateral levels to enhance the women entrepreneurship and in this respect, cooperation in implementing:
 - ILO’s Women’s Entrepreneurship Development Programme (ILO-WED),
 - UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy and
 - UNIDO programmes with respect to rural and women entrepreneurs;
- d) The importance of ratifying the necessary laws and relevant international agreements in order to promote women entrepreneurship;
- e) The need for finding opportunities for the participation of women in the decision making process in entrepreneurship areas;
- f) The more active involvement of all related stakeholders including private sector, academics, civil society organizations, philanthropist organizations and the general public to promote women entrepreneurship in Islamic countries, and
- g) Offering necessary incentives and providing financial supports for women entrepreneurs.

3) Recommend

- a) OIC Ministers in Charge of Women to give due consideration to the women entrepreneurship in Ministerial Conferences on the Role of Women in the Development of the OIC Member States;
- b) Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and ICRIC to:
 - More actively hold Businesswomen Forum;
 - Adopt executive policies for improvement of the position of Muslim businesswomen as a necessary action for further enrichment of trade relations among Muslim states;
 - Organize an annual “ Muslim Women Entrepreneurs Award “, and
 - Organize workshops, conduct research and collect, process and disseminate statistics and information about women entrepreneurship.
- c) Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to facilitate access to financial and technical assistance to women entrepreneurs.

4) Call for the more effective participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other institutions of civil society to prepare programs that aim at promoting women entrepreneurship.

5) And Encourage Islamic Business Communities and Private Sectors to:

- d) More seriously consider the investment in women entrepreneurship, and
- e) Develop clear plans, strategies and comprehensive studies to help women entrepreneurs to face up different challenges and difficulties.