



**2nd AKIL KİŞİLER KURULU
TOPLANTISI
WISE PERSONS BOARD
MEETING**

**1 Mart March 2013, Kahire Cairo
Mısır Egypt**

**4. İSLAM ÜLKELERİ
DÜŞÜNCE KURULUŞLARI PLATFORMU
(ISTTP)**

**4th THINK TANKS PLATFORM OF THE
ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
(ISTTP)**

**SONUÇ RAPORU TASLAK |Özet|
FINAL DECLARATION DRAFT |Summary|**

**Think Tanks Forum of the Member Countries of the OIC (ISTTP)
The Second Wise Persons Board Meeting**

1 March 2013, Cairo - Egypt

Draft Final Report (Summary)

“The Second ISTTP (Islamic Countries Think Tanks Platform) Wise Persons Board Meeting”, which had been proposed in the First Think Tanks Forum of OIC countries and confirmed in the second Forum, was held on 25th March 2013, at the margins of the 4th Think Tanks Forum of OIC countries that was held in Cairo, Egypt, by the majority of the following list and according to the following agenda:

A. ISTTP WISE PERSONS BOARD MEMBERS

1. **Amb. (R) Ömür ORHUN**, the OIC and Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies - TASAM, Turkey (Represented by **Amb. (R) Murat BILHAN**, TASAM, Turkey)
2. **Prof. Zaleha KAMARUDDIN**, Rector of the International Islamic University of Malaysia (Represented by **Prof. Dr. Hassan Ahmed Ibrahim**, International Islamic University of Malaysia)
3. **Ambassador Dr. Mostafa DOLATYAR**, The Institute for Political and International Studies, IPIS, Iran
4. **Senator Müshahid Hussain SYED**, Islamabad Policy Research Institute, IPRI, Pakistan
5. **Amb. Humayun KABIR**, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, BEI, Bangladesh
6. **Dr. Yasser Ali**, President of Information and Decision Support Center - IDSC, Egypt
7. **Prof. Shamseldin Zeinal ABDIN**, Khartoum University, Sudan
8. **Dr. Abdul Aziz Sager, Chairman of** Gulf Research Center-GRC, UAE
9. **Elnur ASLANOV**, Chief of the Political Analysis and Information Provision Department of Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
10. **Prof. Dr. Absattar Derbisali**, Director of Suleymanov Institute of Oriental Studies, Kazakhstan

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B. AGENDA OF THE SECOND ISTTP WISE PERSONS BOARD MEETING

1. Introduction
2. Tasks and functions of the Wise Persons Board (Action Plan for the year 2013)
3. Suggestions about possible contributions of the Think Tanks in terms of better economic interplay in the OIC member countries.
4. Future of Democracy, Human Rights and Women Issues in OIC countries
5. Think Tanks and Crises Management in OIC countries (Syria, Palestine, Mali, Somali, Nigeria, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan etc.)
6. Ideas about Improving Social and Cultural Relations among OIC countries
7. Any other business

C. SUMMARY OF THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE MEETING

At the global level, developments in the last decade, compared to the previous periods, have left effects equivalent to a century. Today, when the changes and transformations take place at a dizzying pace, developments in the next ten years will be decisive for the 21st century. In the current system of international relations, the relations are advancing on the basis of multidimensional competition. The nature of the states is changing, too. The role of the state is declining to the level of 10% on the condition that law producing golden share which makes the final decision subjects to the state. There is an ongoing search for a mid-way between the statist and capitalist/liberal approaches. New approaches such as public diplomacy are applied. The role of the universities, NGO's, sportive institutions and private sector play an important role. This situation is closely related to OIC countries. In the current environment, it is possible for the ISTTP Wise Persons Board to contribute for the benefit of OIC countries in two ways:

1. To contribute to the formation of new think tanks that have systematic and functional natures, and sufficient in number and capacity in OIC countries.
2. To support the existing think thanks by guiding them in the civil society and state level and develop recommendations for decision-makers.

In this context, the leading decision, which have taken in the first Wise Persons Board Meeting, that the Wise Person Board should not only stay as a board that gather periodically and discuss some important issues but perform operational tasks in issue areas in the OIC member countries

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like Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Libya etc. A group designated among the ISTTP Wise Persons Board can take study visits in certain countries and prepare reports for decision makers and realize some other activities. Considering the fact that the OIC has appointed a special representative to Afghanistan, it is suggested that the ISTTP Wise Persons Board will assume operational tasks to prepare genuine reports and realize study visits lasting one week at least. Regarding the fact that the Western countries fail to grasp the nature of the region and the USA announced its withdrawal schedule from Afghanistan, such a study group would render the OIC's works on this country more effective if this group can make visits outside Kabul to carry out security-related contacts and establish other contacts with the embassies of OIC countries and other major actors in Kabul.

Economic infrastructure which is to be created among the countries of the OIC will form a basis for political, military and cultural relations. Considering the fact that the main theme of the 4th Forum is "economic integration", effects of the think-tanks and their part to play are vital for OIC countries. In this regard, it is important to develop adaptive mechanisms among the think-tanks of OIC countries and to operate them effectively. It should be kept insight that think tanks can take a great part in improving economic integration through developing social and cultural relations among OIC countries. Think-tanks in OIC countries each have different tasks and functions. What is important is to determine appropriate concepts and to implement coordinated efforts.

An early warning system which is to operate among OIC countries, possibly under the leadership of the Islamic Development Bank and with the contributions of the think-tanks, should be established and economic indicators of the countries should be kept under observation.

It is inevitable to develop trade among OIC countries, to support foreign direct investments, to develop opportunities for cooperation in the fields of education and culture, to promote tourism and to support private sector to pave the way for the mobility of the labor.

In the new process which have commenced with the "Arab Spring, populations, military powers and geostrategic positions of some countries like Turkey and Egypt have come to fore in the multipolar global system. In such an environment, commitments in the level of identities and belongings began to be emphasized more. However, these features are not enough for OIC countries to achieve stability and prosperity inside and to gain a respectable position outside. Islamic world is not able to demonstrate any political, economic and military presence commensurate with its size. This suggests a serious imbalance in terms of global politics. The role of the economy in the coming period will determine the strength of the countries. At this point, the most important threshold is how to promote the production of added value from the

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intermediate and high technologies, in which Malaysia seen at the front and Turkey has taken serious steps, in OIC countries. To develop human resources to produce added value and, in this regard, to reveal 5, 10 and 20 years plans following the example of 2005 Mecca Declaration of the OIC, seem as the most urgent necessity.

On the other hand, considering the experiences of the Western world, it should not be disregarded how a decay revealed by the increase in the welfare of the populations without construction of values and that the contradictions created by this situation in environmental issues and double standards in the humanitarian affairs. At this point, it is clear that OIC countries should develop plans and programs through which they offer their unique contribution in the global arena. Furthermore, the fact that the wealth and prosperity is being shifted hereinafter towards Asia shows that OIC countries should improve economic viability, on the one hand, and take a proactive stance in constructing values, on the other. At this point, cultural and spiritual elements should not be ignored. Considering the Islamic civilization is essentially a “Foundation (Waqf) Civilization”, it is obvious that the foundations and the NGS’s should actively take place inside and outside OIC countries.

Crisis management in OIC countries is vital in terms of stabilizing both domestic and foreign policies and developing and strengthening economic substructure. Some of the most important problems facing OIC countries are ensuring unity in diversity, guaranteeing individual freedoms, freedom of expression and freedom of enterprise, fighting against corruption, providing transparency, accelerating the judiciary and creating sound economic and social infrastructures. Protection of multiculturalism is vital for OIC countries to attain an efficient scientific, cultural, social and economic environment.

OIC countries should continue and improve their dialogue with the Western world in terms of human rights and woman issues etc. within the framework of the UN treaties and agreements considering the Islam’s own references and acquisitions. OIC countries should realize that they are in such an impasse because of the fact that they neglected the woman who constituted half of the community and they should urgently take necessary measurements.

Despite all the criticism, OIC countries, in general terms, are within a stable and promising development trend given the factors such as their human capital and natural resources. At this point, improving human resources with an emphasis on youth and woman issues is vital to build the capacity that OIC countries would need in the medium and long terms.

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The existing network that has been created under the ISTTP structure needs to be developed in order to give effect to the activities of the ISTTP Wise Persons Board and information flow within the network needs to be accelerated. A focus on economic issues within the studies of the Board will constitute a material basis for both the network and the relations among OIC countries, and will allow the expansion and deepening of interaction in other areas. In this regard, the existing web portal, which broadcast in four languages –English, Arabic, French and Turkish- and contains some basic information about the member organizations, should be used more effectively in the bilateral and multilateral interactions.

It has been repeated in this meeting that the numbers of the ISTTP Wise Persons Board should be between 12-15 and it has been confirmed that the works about that two more distinguished persons from Indonesia and Nigeria would take place in the Board should be completed immediately.