



**Rules Governing Observer Status
at the OIC**

CHAPTER I

SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

ARTICLE (1)

These Rules are promulgated in implementation of the Provisions of Article 4 of the Charter of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation adopted by the 11th Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar, Senegal on 6-7 Rabie Al Awal 1429 H (13-14 March 2008).

ARTICLE (2)

Definitions:

The terms indicated hereinafter, wherever appearing in the present Rules, shall have the meaning as indicated opposite each of them:

Charter	:	The Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
Organization	:	The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
Council	:	The Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM).
Secretary General	:	The Secretary General of the OIC.
General Secretariat	:	The General Secretariat of the OIC.
Chairman	:	The Chairman of a meeting of the CFM.
Observer	:	The Observer at the OIC as accepted in accordance with the provisions of these Rules.
Rules	:	Rules governing the Observer Status at the OIC.

CHAPTER II **CATEGORIES OF OBSERVERS**

ARTICLE (3)

Observer status at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation may be granted as set forth by Article 4 of the OIC Charter in accordance with these Rules to applicants from:

- (a) Member States of the United Nations eligible for observer status under the provisions of the Charter and wishing to follow the activities of the Organization as Observers.
- (b) International and regional intergovernmental organizations eligible for observer status under the provisions of the Charter and wishing to follow the activities of the Organization as Observers.

CHAPTER III **CONDITIONS FOR ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**

ARTICLE (4)

The State applying for observer status shall submit the application to the Secretary General, at least 4 months before the convening of the CFM meeting, enclosing a written explanation which shall include the following:

1. Statistics as to the percentage of Muslims in its territory compared to the total population and to the adherents of other religions in this State;
2. Information on the situation of Muslims in this State and on the adequacy of its legislation in force for the Muslim communities, and minorities ensuring them to enjoy their rights on equal basis with the adherents of other religions in this State.

ARTICLE (5)

The State applying for observer status shall commit to protect and promote the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and fundamental freedoms of the Muslim Minorities and Communities holding its nationality on a par with all its other citizens, as provided for in related international agreements.

ARTICLE (6)

The application for Observer Status at the Organization shall include the applicant's commitment to and respect for the principles and objectives of the Charter, and that its conduct shall not be in contradiction with the resolutions, the rules and regulations of the OIC.

ARTICLE (7)

The State applying for observer status shall settle its conflicts with any of the OIC Member States.

ARTICLE (8)

The General Secretariat shall circulate the applications for Observer Status to the Member States at least ninety (90) days before the Council, upon fulfilling the conditions stipulated above.

ARTICLE (9)

The Council shall consider applications for observer status submitted through the General Secretariat, and decisions by the Council to grant observer status shall be adopted by consensus only.

ARTICLE (10)

The Council may cancel or suspend the Observer Status by consensus only if the observer fails to meet some or all the conditions for obtaining this status. The status may be restored upon the absence of the reasons that led to the cancellation or suspension of the observer status by a decision of the Council.

CHAPTER IV

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

ARTICLE (11)

- (a) After the approval of the meeting, the Chairman of a Meeting, whenever he deems it appropriate, may allow the observer to deliver or distribute a statement in the Plenary Session and to make necessary clarifications if deemed appropriate.
- (b) Observers shall have no right to vote or to sponsor draft resolutions nor to submit proposals or draft resolutions. They shall have no right to submit candidatures in any elections within the OIC framework.
- (c) Subject to the Agreement on the Immunities and Privileges of the OIC, the representatives of an observer at the Organization shall enjoy the immunities and privileges necessary for carrying out their functions and missions. These representatives may also enjoy the facilities provided by the host State of the meeting to the members of participating delegations. Invitees mentioned in Article 13 below may enjoy the same facilities.
- (d) Observers referred to in Article (3) may be invited to attend meetings relating to their field of activity according to the provisions detailed in these rules.

- (e) Observers shall not attend the closed sessions of the Meeting except through an initiative from the Chairman after the approval of the Meeting.
- (f) Observers may participate in the OIC Working Groups Meetings at the request of the Chairmen of these Groups after approval of the Member States.

CHAPTER V **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

ARTICLE (12)

The Organization shall not bear any financial obligations resulting from the participation of observers in the meetings.

ARTICLE (13)

Representatives from Muslim communities, institutions and personalities from non-Member States whose action, credibility or participation may help promote the objectives of the OIC Charter, Council or Meetings, may be invited to attend the meetings of the Organization as guests on ad-hoc basis after coordination with the host State.

The Secretary General shall circulate, sixty days before the meeting, for consideration by the Member States a list of the aforesaid representatives who may be invited to attend the meetings of the Organization. In the absence of any objection from any Member State, which must be communicated to the Secretariat at least 30 days prior to the meeting, the Secretary General may recommend to the host country of the meeting in question that these representatives be invited as guests on ad-hoc basis.

The Secretary General shall prepare periodic reports on the situation of Muslim minorities and communities living in the country which was granted the observer status.

ARTICLE (14)

These Rules shall not affect the Status of current observers at the time of their adoption. Those observers shall be governed by these new rules upon their approval by the Council.

ARTICLE (15)

These Rules shall come into force as of the date of their approval by the Council.
