

# Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Fight Against Corruption



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### ■ Abstract:

Corruption has evolved into a global phenomenon that commands the attention of the international community, prompting efforts to develop robust policies for its prevention and control. The impact of corruption extends across administrative, economic, and social dimensions, necessitating stronger measures to combat transnational organized crime, protect resources from illicit exploitation, and safeguard national economies. It also calls for the establishment of more effective justice systems.

International and regional intergovernmental organizations have taken a proactive stance against corruption by ratifying numerous conventions aimed at supporting government efforts in this field. These conventions are widely regarded by state parties as effective mechanisms for promoting good governance, mitigating the risks of corruption, and reinforcing the importance of international cooperation and the recovery of stolen assets.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has shown a strong commitment to enhancing cooperation in the fight against terrorism in all its forms, organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, corruption, money laundering, and human trafficking. This commitment was institutionalized through the adoption of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention for OIC member states on cooperation in the enforcement of anti-corruption laws, along with its associated legal framework. The Convention aims to strengthen the exchange of information and investigations among law enforcement agencies efficiently and promptly, thereby facilitating the prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes. It also contributes to the recovery and return of stolen assets and promotes the exchange of technical assistance and training.



## Keywords

Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Anti-corruption.



## **Introduction:**

Corruption manifests in various forms and is widespread, resembling a quasi-phenomenon at both societal and institutional levels. The more the state or organization strives to combat it through the development of accountability, prevention, and oversight mechanisms, the more new facets of corruption arise, often stemming from weaknesses in the administrative system and ineffective countermeasures. Reports from the World Bank have consistently indicated that corruption is a major barrier to economic and social development in various countries. This highlights the need to understand its forms and manifestations, and to swiftly address its escalation to mitigate its adverse effects.

Corruption refers to any behavior that threatens the public interest and any abuse of public office for personal gain. In general, the destructive effects and negative consequences of corruption affect all aspects of life, wasting money, resources, and human potential, and hindering performance at political, social, and cultural levels.

International and regional organizations have started to focus on combating corruption and transnational organized crime, enhancing international cooperation to recover looted assets to achieve sustainable development goals and promote human rights. Among these organizations is the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which, through its Charter established in 1972, set provisions related to cooperation in combating all forms of terrorism, organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, corruption, money laundering, and human trafficking.

## **Significance of the Research Paper:**

The significance of this research lies in the fact that corruption has serious and negative repercussions on all political, social, and economic levels, whether locally or internationally. It disrupts development, hinders programs and projects, and thus provides a compelling reason for studying its definition and the efforts of international and regional organizations, particularly the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), to address it. This is through the Charter's establishment, its structure, and the roles of its bodies and committees. The focus is on combating corruption through the Makkah Agreement, which calls for member states of the OIC to cooperate in enforcing anti-corruption laws and proposing appropriate solutions to combat corruption effectively.

## **Objectives of the Research Paper:**

The aim of this research paper is to present the efforts of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the steps it has taken to encourage member states to cooperate in combating transnational organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, corruption, money laundering, and human trafficking. It will also explore the legal framework of the Makkah Agreement for member states of the OIC regarding cooperation in enforcing anti-corruption laws.



### **Problem of the Research Paper:**

The research problem lies in the limited studies, research, and references related to the role and functions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in the area of combating corruption.

### **Challenges of the Research Paper:**

The challenges of this research arise from the complexity of the subject of combating corruption, as it intersects with various social, cultural, and educational issues. This complexity is based on the researcher's practical experience accumulated over many years in this field.

### **Methodology of the Research Paper:**

The methodology involves describing and analyzing the current situation. Therefore, the descriptive, comparative, and analytical methods are considered the most suitable research approaches in this context.

### **Outline of the Research Paper:**

#### **Preliminary Requirement: Concept of Corruption**

- **Branch 1:** Definition of Corruption in Language
- **Branch 2:** Technical Definition of Corruption
- **Branch 3:** Definition of Corruption by International Organizations

#### **First Requirement: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation**

- **Branch 1:** Establishment of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
- **Branch 2:** Bodies and Committees of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

#### **Second Requirement: The Makkah Agreement for Member States of the OIC on Cooperation in Enforcing Anti-Corruption Laws**

- **Branch 1:** International and Regional Agreements to Prevent and Combat Corruption
- **Branch 2:** Origins and Stages of the Makkah Agreement for Member States of the OIC on Cooperation in Enforcing Anti-Corruption Laws
- **Branch 3:** Legal Framework of the Makkah Agreement for Member States of the OIC on Cooperation in Enforcing Anti-Corruption Laws

Finally, the paper concludes with the main findings and the key recommendations presented in the research.

## **Preliminary Requirement :Concept of Corruption**

Corruption is no longer a local issue confined to a single country ;rather ,it has become a global phenomenon affecting all societies ,whether developed or developing .As a result ,countries worldwide have taken the initiative—and continue to do so—to combat this scourge ,employing all available technologies to detect criminal activities.

The widespread nature of corruption and financial crimes has had severe consequences for countries around the world ,prompting a unanimous agreement among nations to exert every effort in addressing these financial crimes .In light of this international consensus ,both global and regional efforts have been focused on enhancing capabilities to fight corruption through legislative and institutional reforms ,strengthening international cooperation ,and raising awareness about the risks of corruption<sup>(1)</sup>.

Consequently, international efforts have converged to reduce the phenomenon of corruption<sup>(2)</sup>, as the global community recognizes the severe dangers and far-reaching consequences it entails. Nations began to consider developing strategies and plans to eradicate financial crimes, with international cooperation aimed at combating corruption through the signing of international agreements that seek to impose deterrent sanctions to criminalize this phenomenon<sup>(3)</sup>.

Despite the numerous obstacles to development faced by countries globally, and particularly in the developing world, corruption remains the foremost challenge among these obstacles in all nations<sup>(4)</sup>. This makes it imperative to confront corruption and develop solutions to combat it, reducing both its immediate and potential impacts on developmental trajectories<sup>(5)</sup>.

Corruption has been defined in the messages of God to His servants, as it became pervasive on Earth. The human being, created to worship God and cultivate the Earth, continued to invent means of corruption, until the Earth was overwhelmed by injustice and tyranny. God sent His messages to teach humanity how to correct the corruption it had spread. He set the path toward correction through human stewardship and the cultivation of the Earth<sup>(6)</sup>.

In this section, we will address the aspects related to the concept of corruption

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(1) Mohamed Ahmed Ghanem, *The Evolution of International and Regional Efforts: "The Legal Framework for Transnational Bribery"*, Dar Al-Jamaa Al-Gadida, Alexandria, 2007.

(2) Husted, B.W. *Culture and International Anti-Corruption Agreements in Latin America*. *Journal of Business Ethics* 37, 413–422 (2002).

(3) Ahmed Mahmoud Abu Sewilem, *Combating Corruption*, Dar Al-Fikr, Jordan, 2010.

(4) *Combating corruption: A Comparison of National Anti-Corruption Efforts* Turer, Ahmet. University of North Texas, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2003. 1421385.

(5) Mona Ramadan Mohamed Batyekh, *Public Administration and Corruption: Reality and Aspirations*, Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya, 1st Edition, 2014.

(6) Ahmed Abdel-Lah Al-Maraghi, *The Role of Criminal Law in Combating Corruption*, Working Paper Presented at the 10th Annual Scientific Conference, Faculty of Law, Benha University, April 2016.

through three branches: (First branch) the definition of corruption in the Arabic language, (Second branch) the technical definition of corruption, and (Third branch) the definition of corruption according to some international organizations.

### First Branch: Definition of Corruption in the Arabic Language

By examining Arabic dictionaries and lexicons, it becomes clear to anyone with sound reasoning that the term “corruption” in Arabic is the opposite of “integrity” or “rectitude.” The verb “فسد” (fasada) means to spoil, decay, or deteriorate. It is used in various forms such as “يفسد” (yufsid) meaning “he corrupts,” and “افسد” (afasuda), meaning “decayed” or “rotten.” Furthermore, the term “تفاسد” refers to a situation where people become hostile and sever family ties. The expression “استفسد السلطان” refers to a situation where a ruler becomes hostile to his leader, making him uncooperative. The term “المفسدة” refers to the opposite of “maslha” (interest or benefit), and “الاستفساد” is the opposite of “استصلاح” (reformation or improvement). They also use the term “مفسدة” to describe something that causes harm or corruption in a particular matter<sup>(1)</sup>.

Al-Raghib Al-Asfahani mentioned that the root of “فساد” (corruption) is from the three-letter verb “فسد,” which conveys the idea of deviation or departure from the norm. Corruption refers to the process of something deviating from the proper or expected course, whether in a slight or substantial way. It is the opposite of “صلاح” (rectitude), and can apply to the soul, the body, and things that are no longer upright or aligned with their original function<sup>(2)</sup>.

A study of the various uses of this term reveals that it is also applied to describe damage, decay, disturbance, disorder, drought, and famine. For example, the term “فسد اللحم” (the meat has spoiled) means it has become rotten, and “فسد العقل” (the mind has spoiled) means it has become useless or irrational. Additionally, “فسدت الأمور” (matters have corrupted) refers to situations that have become chaotic and disordered<sup>(3)</sup>.

The concept of integrity involves fulfilling tasks and functions as expected, and when there is a defect or failure in the performance of these tasks, it is referred to as corruption. This defect or failure arises when something deviates from its expected or recognized function. Thus, the corruption of a machine happens when it breaks down, the corruption of a body occurs due to illness or weakness, the corruption of fruit happens when it loses its flavor, and the corruption of a state arises when it fails to fulfill its duties, such as maintaining security and unity.

(1) Abu al-Fadl Jamal al-Din Muhammad bin Makram bin Manzoor, Lisan al-Arab, Volume 5, Dar al-Ma'arif, Cairo, 1985.

(2) Al-Raghib Al-Asfahani, Al-Mufradat fi Gharib al-Quran, Dar al-Ma'arifa, Beirut, Lebanon, 3rd Edition, 2001.

(3) Abdullah Mohamed Al-Jayoushi, Corruption: Its Concept, Causes, and Ways to Eradicate It: A Qur'anic Perspective, Arab International Conference on Combating Corruption, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Research and Studies Center, Riyadh, 2003.



Corruption is universally rejected by sound instincts and upright nature, as humans inherently dislike corruption and are inclined toward rectitude<sup>(1)</sup>.

### **Second Branch: The Technical Definition of Corruption**

Although most literature agrees that the concept of corruption is generally associated with negative connotations, the attempt to define it by researchers is influenced by their specific academic field. There is no universally agreed-upon definition of corruption due to its complex nature. However, some definitions have gained widespread acceptance<sup>(2)</sup>.

In a statement by the Swiss philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712–1778), he said, “Give me a few honest men, and I will destroy an army of thieves, corrupt individuals, and collaborators.” Al-Qurtubi defined corruption as “the opposite of reform, and its essence is deviating from rectitude to its opposite<sup>(3)</sup>.”

Some define corruption as the abuse of power associated with a specific position, aimed at achieving personal interests at the expense of the public good, as well as issuing decisions that serve personal interests<sup>(4)</sup>.

Others define corruption as the use of public authority to gain or achieve personal profit for an individual, group, or class, regardless of the type of gain, whether material or moral, such as obtaining prestige or social status in a way that violates the law or breaches ethical conduct<sup>(5)</sup> standards. Thus, corruption involves a violation of public duty and a deviation from the ethical norms that should guide conduct, making this behavior both unlawful and unethical<sup>(6)</sup>.

Corruption is also defined as the misuse of public authority or office for private gain. It typically occurs when a public official accepts or solicits a bribe to facilitate a contract or public tender procedure. Corruption can also happen through the exploitation of a public office without resorting to bribery, such as appointing relatives based on favoritism (nepotism) or directly embezzling state funds<sup>(7)</sup>.

Thus, corruption involves the violation of public duty and a deviation from ethical

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(1) Al-Bashir Ali Hamad Al-Turabi, *The Concept of Corruption in Light of the Quranic Verses and the Sunnah*, Arab International Conference on Combating Corruption, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Research and Studies Center, Riyadh, 2003.

(2) Amin Sayed Ahmed, *The War Against Corruption*, Dar Al-Jamia, Alexandria, 2018.

(3) Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Qurtubi, *Al-Jami' li Ahkam al-Quran*, Dar Al-Kitab Al-Arabi, Beirut, Vol. 1, 2006.

(4) Bilal Khalaf Al-Sakarna, *Work Ethics*, 1st Edition, Dar Al-Masira for Publishing and Distribution, Amman, 2009.

(5) Fijnaut, C., and Huberts, L. (2002). *Corruption, Integrity and Law Enforcement: An Introduction*. Corruption, Integrity and Law Enforcement. Fijnaut C.; Huberts L., (Eds.) Den Haag: Kluwer Law International.

(6) Sayed Ali Sheta, *Administrative Corruption and the Society of the Future*, 1st Edition, Al-Ishaa'ah Art Library, Alexandria, 1999.

(7) Jaafar Abdel Salam Ali, *Introduction to Corruption and Its Forms from a Sharia Perspective*, Proceedings of the Arab International Conference on Combating Corruption, held at Naif Arab University for Security Sciences in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna, October 6–8, 2013, Research and Studies Center, Riyadh, 2013, Volume 1.



standards in dealings<sup>(1)</sup>. The definitions of corruption vary due to its multiple facets and diverse perspectives, influenced by differing cultural and societal values. It also differs depending on the perspective from which it is viewed—whether political, economic, social, or administrative—which explains the variation in defining the concept of corruption<sup>(2)</sup>.

Corruption may also stem from absolute power, as “absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Corruption is not inherent in officials but rather a characteristic they acquire when all power is concentrated in their hands, leading to its misuse.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines corruption as “the deviation from or destruction of integrity in the performance of public duties through bribery and favoritism.”

## Third Branch

### Definitions of Corruption by International Organizations

The definitions of corruption, particularly political corruption, vary significantly among international governmental and non-governmental organizations. This variation has become more pronounced as global attention to the phenomenon has intensified, accompanied by earnest efforts to establish a comprehensive definition of the term.

The World Bank<sup>(3)</sup> (WB) defines corruption as “the abuse of public office for private gain<sup>(4)</sup>.” This definition is considered limited in scope, as it confines corruption to the public sector and excludes corrupt practices within the private sector<sup>(5)</sup>. However, this limitation aligns with the operational focus of the World Bank, as previously discussed, illustrating how institutional research domains influence the formulation of corruption definitions.

The International Monetary Fund<sup>(6)</sup> (IMF) adopts a distinct conceptualization of corruption, characterizing it as “the deliberate extension of influence with the intent of deriving benefits for an individual or a group in association with others<sup>(7)</sup>.” According to this view, corruption occurs when a public official solicits or accepts a gift in exchange for performing official duties, or exploits their position to gain personal advantages for themselves, their family members, or close associates.

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(1) Hassanain Al-Mohammadi Bawadi, *Administrative Corruption: The Language of Interests*, Dar Al-Matboo'at Al-Jamia, Alexandria, 2008.

(2) Daoud Khairallah, *Corruption as a Global Phenomenon and Mechanisms for Regulating It*, Research and Discussions of the Intellectual Seminar Organized by the Center for Arab Unity Studies in cooperation with the Swedish Institute in Alexandria, 2nd Edition, Beirut, Lebanon, 2006.

(3) World Bank (WB).

(4) World Bank, *World development report*, Oxford university press, Washington DC, 1979, p102.

(5) World Bank Report, *Development in the World, The State in a Changing World*, 1997, p. 112.)

(6) International Monetary Found (IMF).

(7) IMF Corruption Around the Washington IMF Working Paper, 1998, p8.



The United Nations<sup>(1)</sup> (UN) defines corruption as “the misuse of public power for private gain, or the prioritization of the decision-maker’s personal interest over that of others.” When personal interests are advanced at the expense of the public good, it is deemed a clear indication of political corruption<sup>(2)</sup>.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime<sup>(3)</sup> (UNODC), through the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocols, equates corruption with bribery. This is explicitly addressed in Article 8 under the title Criminalization of Corruption<sup>(4)</sup>.

Subsequently, the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>(5)</sup> (UNCAC), also issued by the UNODC, does not provide a formal definition of corruption within its articles. Nonetheless, legal scholars have extrapolated its meaning from the convention’s content, broadly defining it as “acts constituting improper performance of a duty or the misuse of position or authority in anticipation of, or in return for, an advantage promised, offered, solicited—either directly or indirectly—or accepted, whether for the individual themselves or for another party<sup>(6)</sup>.”

Transparency International<sup>(7)</sup> (TI) offers a broader definition: “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain<sup>(8)</sup>.” This more inclusive understanding encompasses both the public and private sectors. It acknowledges that the abuse of power by government officials may not always be for personal benefit, but could also serve the interests of their political party, tribe, friends, or relatives, as well as encompass corruption by private sector actors.

The present researcher concurs with the approach adopted by UNCAC, which refrains from providing a fixed definition of corruption in the body of the convention. Instead, it outlines various forms of corrupt behavior, including bribery, embezzlement, profiteering, damage to public funds, tax and customs evasion, illicit enrichment, nepotism, favoritism, and negligence. Importantly, corruption need not be criminalized in law to fall within this category; abuses of power and arbitrary decision-making in administrative processes are also considered forms of corruption.

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(1)United Nations (UN).

(2) (9th United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Cairo, April 29 to May 8, 1995, paper prepared by the Secretariat on initial measures to combat corruption, Document No. 14/169Conf/A, as well as the memorandum of the Secretariat to the Economic and Social Council, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 9th session, Vienna, April 18–20, 2000.)

(3) United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime (UNODC).

(4) (See the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime, New York, 2004.)

(5)United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

(6) (Jaafar Abdul Salam Ali, Introduction to Corruption and Its Forms from a Legal Perspective, Op. cit.)

(7) (TI) Transparency International.

(8) Suzi Adly Nashed, The Role of Transparency International in Combating Corruption and Its Economic Impacts: An Applied Study, Dar Al-Matbou’at Al-Jami’iya, Alexandria, 2020.





## Requirement Two: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation

The Islamic countries agreed to establish an organization guided by noble Islamic values, emphasizing the importance of enhancing unity and solidarity among member states to secure their common interests on the international stage, while adhering to the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

The first Islamic summit was held in September 1969 in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco. The first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers was established in March 1970 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) headquartered in Jeddah. The Third Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference in March 1972 ratified the organization's Charter<sup>(1)</sup>.

In 2022, the OIC began focusing on combating corruption and fostering cooperation among anti-corruption law enforcement agencies, with the goal of reducing safe havens for corrupt individuals and contributing to the swift recovery of assets, in alignment with relevant international agreements.

This section will address aspects related to the OIC in two branches: (Branch One) The establishment of the OIC and (Branch Two) OIC bodies and committees.

### Branch One: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation

#### 1. Establishment of the Organization and Membership

a. Some Islamic figures<sup>(2)</sup> advocated for the importance of uniting Islamic countries to improve their conditions and elevate their peoples. In the second half of the 20th century, efforts began to establish an Islamic organization. In 1969, following an Israeli attempt to set fire to Al-Aqsa Mosque, King Faisal bin Abdul Aziz called for an Islamic summit. The first Islamic summit was convened in Rabat, at the invitation of King Hassan II.

b. On September 25, 1969, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation was founded by a decision from the summit held in Rabat, Morocco. At the conclusion of the 38th session, which took place in Astana, Kazakhstan, from June 28–30, 2011, the organization adopted a new name, "Organization of Islamic Cooperation<sup>(3)</sup>."

It is an international Islamic organization that represents "the collective voice of the Islamic world," striving to protect its interests, express them, and support global peace and harmony while strengthening relations between different peoples worldwide<sup>(4)</sup>.

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(1) See the Guide of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, OIC Publications, 12 Rajab 1410 AH, February 7, 1990.

(2) Abdul Razzaq Al-Sanhouri, *The Jurisprudence of the Caliphate and Its Development to Become a League of Eastern Nations*, Egyptian General Book Organization, Cairo, 1989.

(3) Akmal Al-Din Ihsanoglu, *The Islamic World and the Challenges of the New Century*, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, First Arabic Edition, Dar Al-Shorouk, Cairo, 2013.

(4) (Organization of Islamic Cooperation: It was established in response to the crime of burning Al-Aqsa Mosque. It is the second-largest intergovernmental international organization after the United Nations, with 57 member states distributed across four continents. See the official website [WWW.mofa.gov.bh](http://WWW.mofa.gov.bh).)



c. In March 1970, the first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers was held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the General Secretariat of the OIC was established. On March 4, 1972, the OIC Charter was signed in the same city<sup>(1)</sup>.

d. On June 22, the OIC Charter was registered with the United Nations in accordance with Article 102 of the United Nations Charter.

## 2. Objectives of the Organization

In 1972, the OIC Charter was adopted at the third Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference. The objectives of the organization are as follows:

a. To strengthen and support the bonds of brotherhood and solidarity among member states.

b. To safeguard and protect common interests, advocate for just causes of states, coordinate efforts, and address challenges facing the Islamic world.

c. To respect the right to self-determination and non-interference in the internal affairs of member states, as well as respect the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of each member state.

d. To restore full sovereignty and territorial integrity to any member state under occupation.

e. To ensure the active participation of member states in decision-making processes.

f. To promote relations among member states based on justice, mutual respect, and good-neighborliness, ensuring peace, security, and harmony.

g. To reaffirm support for the rights of peoples as stipulated in the United Nations Charter.

h. To support the Palestinian people and empower them to exercise their right to self-determination.

i. To enhance economic and trade cooperation among member states, leading to the creation of a common Islamic market.

j. To strive for sustainable and inclusive human development for member states.

k. To spread and preserve Islamic teachings and values based on moderation and tolerance, and to promote Islamic culture.

l. To protect and defend the image of Islam and counter its misrepresentation.

m. To advance science and technology, and encourage dialogue between civilizations and religions.

n. To promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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(1) See the Guide of the Organization of Islamic Conference, official website [WWW.oci.org](http://WWW.oci.org).



- o. To strengthen and protect the role of the family.
- p. To protect the rights of Muslim communities and minorities in non–member states.
- q. To strengthen a unified stance on issues of mutual interest and defend them.
- r. To cooperate in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, corruption, money laundering, and human trafficking.
- s. To cooperate and coordinate in emergency humanitarian situations such as natural disasters.
- t. To enhance cooperation among member states in the social, cultural, and media fields<sup>(1)</sup>.

Member states pledge to achieve these objectives by adhering to Islamic teachings, the principles of the United Nations Charter, respecting state sovereignty, non–interference in the internal affairs of others, equality in rights and duties, and resolving disputes through peaceful means.

### **3. Membership in the Organization**

- a. The organization consists of 57 Islamic member states, distributed across four continents: Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America<sup>(2)</sup>. Any UN member state with a Muslim majority may apply for membership in the organization, subject to the approval of the Council of Foreign Ministers by consensus.
- b. Observer status is granted to UN member states and international organizations by decision of the Council of Foreign Ministers based on agreed criteria<sup>(3)</sup>.

#### **Branch Two: OIC Bodies and Committees**

##### **1. OIC Bodies**

The OIC Charter, after its amendment in 2008, established several main bodies, including: the Islamic Summit, the Council of Foreign Ministers, permanent committees, the executive committee, the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Independent Human Rights Commission, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and the General Secretariat, along with other specialized bodies, developmental institutions, and committees<sup>(4)</sup>.

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(1) See Article 2, Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

(2) See the list of member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, official website: <https://www.oic-oci.org/states/?lan=ar>

(3) See Articles 3 and 4, Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

(4) See the amended Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, official website: <http://www.oic-oci.org/is11/arabic/Charter-ar.pdf>



- **The Islamic Summit:**

1. The conference for heads of states and governments, the summit forms the highest authority of the organization and convenes every two years in one of the member states to set the organization's policies and discuss issues of importance to the member states and the Islamic world.

2. Special sessions may be held whenever necessary, either at the recommendation of the Council of Foreign Ministers or by initiative from a member state or the Secretary-General, provided that the initiative receives support from a simple majority of member states.

3. The Council of Foreign Ministers, with support from the General Secretariat, prepares the summit's agenda and makes the necessary arrangements for its convening.

4. Two-thirds of the member states constitute the quorum for the organization's meetings, and the president announces whether the quorum is present<sup>(1)</sup>.

5. Decisions are made by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions are taken by a two-thirds majority vote, unless otherwise specified<sup>(2)</sup>.

- **The Council of Foreign Ministers:**

1. This body convenes annually, from April 1 to June 30, in any member state, while considering geographical rotation between the different groups. The council may also hold special sessions upon the initiative of any member state or the Secretary-General, with the consent of the member states.

2. The council is tasked with studying the implementation of the organization's general policy, developments in the implementation of summit conference and foreign ministers' decisions, as well as other duties. The council also elects the Secretary-General and other senior officials, and recommends the establishment of any new bodies or committees<sup>(3)</sup>.

### **Election of the Bureau of the Council:**

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(1) See Articles 6, 7, 8, and 9 of the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. It is worth noting that Resolution No. 44/3 AT was issued, amending the first paragraph of Article 8 to state that "the Islamic Summit shall convene once every two years in one of the member states, instead of every three years."

(2) See Article 33, Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

(3) See Article 10, Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.



(a) The Bureau consists of the President of the Council, three Vice Presidents, with Palestine serving as a permanent Vice President, in addition to the Rapporteur and the Secretary-General. The principle of geographical representation is taken into account, with the organization being divided into three regions: Arab, Asian, and African.

(b) The President of the Council is the head of the delegation of the host country. In the absence of the President, one of the Vice Presidents is appointed to assume the position of President.

(c) The same Bureau composition applies during the Council of Foreign Ministers' sessions when meetings of the Council's subordinate bodies or other meetings, which are not governed by specific rules, are held. However, if the meetings are held outside the headquarters country, the Bureau composition will differ, with the host country assuming the presidency.

#### **(4) Powers of the Bureau of the Council:**

(a) The Bureau decides on procedural matters related to the conduct of the session.

(b) The Bureau meets before the opening session to discuss the proceedings and its procedures.

(c) The Bureau should not serve as a platform for political or legal discussions. Its role is limited to an advisory capacity concerning organizational and procedural issues.

#### **(5) Preparatory Meetings and Special Committee:**

(a) Preparatory meetings are held at least one month prior to the Council's meeting for the Islamic Committee on Economic, Cultural, and Social Affairs, the Permanent Finance Committee, and the Senior Officials Meeting.

(b) The Council may form a special committee to discuss specific issues during its sessions.

#### **(6) Involving Other Bodies:**

The Council may invite other bodies or experts, whom it deems qualified, to provide it with relevant information, provided that member states receive a list of these bodies or experts at least one week before the scheduled meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

#### **(7) Voting and Working Languages of the Council:**

(a) Voting is conducted by raising hands, calling names, or by secret ballot. Any member state may abstain from voting or express reservations regarding a decision, recommendation, or part thereof. A simple majority represents half the number of votes of member states plus one. Reservations are read out after the



announcement of the decision or recommendation, are recorded in writing in the report, and are submitted to the General Secretariat of the organization.

(b) The official languages of the Council are Arabic, English, and French. Any member state may address the Council in a language other than the official languages, provided that the speaker arranges for the interpretation of their speech into one of the official languages<sup>(1)</sup>.

### **(C) The General Secretariat:**

The executive body of the organization, responsible for conference affairs, meeting organization, preparing final reports, monitoring the work of the general departments, coordinating between them, coordinating with the subsidiary bodies of the organization, overseeing the activities of non-governmental organizations, and managing protocol and communication matters, including those related to the privileges and immunities of the organization<sup>(2)</sup>.

### **OIC Committees:**

#### **1. Permanent Committees:**

2. There are four permanent committees, which are:

(a) The Jerusalem Committee, based in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco.

(b) The Permanent Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), based in Dakar, Senegal.

(c) The Permanent Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), based in Ankara, Turkey.

(d) The Permanent Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), based in Islamabad, Pakistan.

#### **2. The Executive Committee:**

3. The Executive Committee consists of the current, past, and future Presidents of the Islamic Summit, the current, past, and future Chairpersons of the Council of Foreign Ministers, the host country of the General Secretariat, and the Secretary-General.

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### **The International Court of Justice:**

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(1) See the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

(2) See Article 5 of the Internal Regulations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.



1. The Fifth Islamic Summit held in Kuwait in 1987 adopted the draft system for the International Court of Justice, and Kuwait City was selected as its headquarters. The court represents the main judicial body of the organization<sup>(1)</sup>.

2. The jurisdiction of the court includes cases that member states agree to refer to it, cases stipulated for referral to the court in any binding treaty or agreement, interpreting any treaty or agreement, addressing any topic related to international law, investigating any event that, if proven, constitutes a breach of international obligations, and determining the type of compensation due for the breach of any international obligation<sup>(2)</sup>.

### **The Permanent Independent Human Rights Commission:**

1. The commission is responsible for promoting civil, political, and economic rights outlined in the organization's charters, declarations, and universally agreed human rights conventions. Its headquarters are in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

2. The organization's charters and declarations include the Dhaka Declaration on Human Rights in Islam (1983), the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam (1990), the Declaration on the Rights of the Child in Islam (1994), and the Charter of Child Rights in Islam (2005)<sup>(3)</sup>.

### **Subsidiary Bodies:**

These bodies are established based on decisions from the summit or the Council of Foreign Ministers, and include:

1. The Statistical, Economic, and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, based in Ankara, Turkey.

2. The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art, and Culture, based in Istanbul, Turkey.

3. The Islamic University of Technology, based in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

4. The Islamic Centre for Trade Development, based in Casablanca, Morocco.

5. The Islamic Fiqh Academy, based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

6. The Islamic Solidarity Fund and its Endowment, based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

7. The Real Estate Union in Islamic Countries, based in Djibouti.

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(1) Abdullah Al-Ashaal, *The Islamic Court of Justice*, Dar Al-Ma'arif, Cairo, 1990.

(2) See the Statute of the International Islamic Court of Justice, official website:

[http://www.oic-oci.org/Arabic/conventions/1987/statute\\_of\\_the\\_international\\_islamic\\_court\\_of\\_justice\\_ar.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/Arabic/conventions/1987/statute_of_the_international_islamic_court_of_justice_ar.pdf)

(3) Mohamed Amin, *International and Regional Committees for Human Rights*, Cairo Center for Human Rights Studies Publications, Cairo, 2000.



### **Specialized Institutions:**

These institutions are created based on decisions from the summit or the Council of Foreign Ministers, with optional membership and independent budgets. These include:

1. The Islamic Development Bank (IDB), based in Jeddah.
2. The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), based in Rabat, Morocco.

### **Affiliate Institutions:**

These are entities or bodies whose goals align with the objectives of the OIC Charter, and are recognized by the Council of Foreign Ministers as affiliated institutions. These include:

1. The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, based in Karachi, Pakistan.
2. The Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries, based in Istanbul, Turkey.

### **Requirement Two: The Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention for OIC Member States on Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws**

There is no doubt that when a state signs an agreement, it must prepare the legal and procedural environment for the localization of that agreement. This includes binding its authorities and various law enforcement agencies to respect the agreements to be implemented.

Given the differences in legal systems among states regarding localization mechanisms, challenges have arisen in terms of cooperation between law enforcement agencies in exchanging information and conducting investigations. The lengthy procedures have been exploited by corrupt individuals, particularly in transnational crimes. Therefore, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) discussed the importance of combating corruption and enhancing cooperation between member states.

During meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC member states, the member states were urged to enhance cooperation in combating corruption to limit safe havens for corrupt individuals and contribute to the rapid recovery of assets. As a result, the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention for Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws among OIC member states was adopted, and by the end of 2025, 25 member states of the OIC had signed the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention.

This section addresses aspects related to the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention for OIC member states, structured into three branches: (1) international and regional agreements for preventing and combating corruption, (2) the origin and stages of



drafting the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention, and (3) the legal framework of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention for OIC member states on cooperation in the enforcement of anti-corruption laws.

### **Branch One: International and Regional Agreements for Preventing and Combating Corruption**

1. The Vienna Conventions of 1969 and 1986 defined treaties as “an international agreement concluded between states, or between a state and international organizations, or between international organizations in written form, governed by international law, whether in a single document or more, irrespective of the terminology applied<sup>(1)</sup>”. These treaties are referred to by various terms, including “Accord,” “Convention,” “Charter,” “Protocol,” “Collective Declaration,” and “Temporary Arrangement<sup>(2)</sup>” ( ).

2. The developments in the concept of state sovereignty, along with the expansion of the areas and subjects regulated by public international law, have led to a corresponding reduction in the content and scope of domestic jurisdiction. Furthermore, the increasing number of member states in the United Nations has introduced other international actors beyond states, contributing to a rise in international treaties across various fields.

3. In order for treaties to be binding on states at the international level, they must go through several stages. These stages include the negotiation and drafting phase—exchanging views among the parties to the international law agreement and reaching an agreed formulation. The next stage is the signing of the agreement, which signifies provisional acceptance<sup>(3)</sup>. Finally, the ratification phase involves the final approval by states, which is issued by the competent domestic authority in accordance with the internal constitutional procedures of each state or international organization. This process obligates the state or organization at the international level to confirm the signature<sup>(4)</sup>.

- The phenomenon of corruption has been addressed due to its risks to the stability and security of societies, as it undermines democratic institutions, their values, ethical values, and justice, and jeopardizes sustainable development and the rule of law<sup>(5)</sup>. This has been achieved through the adoption of several agreements aimed at preventing and combating corruption, including:

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(1) Ahmed Abu Al-Wafa Mohamed, *International Treaties in Islamic Jurisprudence*, No Publisher, 1990.)

(2) Mohamed Safi Youssef, *Public International Law: Introduction and International Relations*, Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya, Cairo, 2018.

(3) Ibrahim Mohamed Al-Anani, *Public International Law*, 5th Edition, Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya, Cairo, 2004/2005.

(4) Ali Ibrahim, *International Treaties*, Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya, Cairo, 1995.

(5) See the Preamble paragraph (9), United Nations General Assembly Resolution 58/4, dated October 31, 2003, United Nations Convention against Corruption, p. 2.



- (a) The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocols<sup>(1)</sup>.
- (b) The United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>(2)</sup> (UNCAC)<sup>(3)</sup>.
- (c) The European Union Convention for the Protection of the Financial Interests of the European Communities.
- (d) The Convention on Combating Corruption among Officials of EU Member States.
- (e) The Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin)<sup>(4)</sup>.
- (f) The Twenty Guiding Principles for Combating Corruption<sup>(5)</sup>.
- (g) The Agreement establishing the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO).
- (h) The Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (OECD)<sup>(6)</sup>.
- (i) The Inter-American Convention Against Corruption.

(1) The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was adopted by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 25/55/A/RES at its fifty-fifth session, on November 15, 2000, and entered into force on September 29, 2003. It contains 41 articles aimed at enhancing cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime more effectively. It is supplemented by three protocols: the first protocol aims at preventing, suppressing, and punishing trafficking in persons, especially women and children; the second protocol focuses on the smuggling of migrants by land, sea, and air; and the third protocol targets the manufacturing of firearms, their parts, components, ammunition, and the illicit trade thereof.

(2) See United Nations General Assembly Resolution 58/4, adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the fifty-eighth session, item 108, 2003, p. 3. The signing ceremony took place during the Mérida Conference, Mexico, from December 9-11, 2003, and the convention entered into force on December 14, 2005. On December 20, 2004, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt issued a decree approving the country's accession to the UN Convention.) (UNCAC: United Nations Convention Against Corruption.)

(3) See the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions or the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Matches "Macolin Convention," a multilateral agreement for sports development based on democratic principles, the rule of law, human rights, and sports ethics. It is divided into nine chapters with 41 articles, aimed at preventing and exposing manipulation of sports results, punishing such actions, and preventing conflicts of interest for officials involved in legal sports betting and sports organizations. It was signed in Évian-les-Bains, Switzerland, on September 18, 2014, by 30 European countries, as well as Australia and Morocco. It allows for the ratification by countries that participated in the negotiations or have observer status in the Council of Europe. The convention entered into force in 2019 after being ratified by seven countries: Greece, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Moldova, Switzerland, and Ukraine. See the official website: <https://rm.coe.int/16801cdd7e>

(4) (It was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Resolution No. 14 (97) in November, 1997.)

(5) It was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Resolution No. 5 (99) in May 1999.

(6) The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was established on September 30, 1961, after replacing the European Economic Cooperation Organization, which was founded in 1948 to manage the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe after World War II. The organization has since expanded to include non-European countries, and currently has 37 member states. It is an international organization aimed at promoting economic development and stimulating trade exchanges. It consists of a group of advanced countries that embrace the principles of democracy and a free-market economy. It is commonly abbreviated as OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development).





- (j) The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime<sup>(1)</sup>.
- (k) The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption<sup>(2)</sup>.
- (l) The Arab Convention on Combating Corruption<sup>(3)</sup>.
- (m) The Arab Convention on Combating Transnational Organized Crime<sup>(4)</sup>.
- (n) The Arab Convention on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing<sup>(5)</sup>.
- (o) The Arab Convention on Combating Cybercrimes<sup>(6)</sup>.
- (p) The Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention for OIC Member States on Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws.

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(1) The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime was adopted on February 23, 2001, following meetings of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), and entered into force on July 1, 2004, for the member states of the European Union Council. Many non-Council of Europe countries, including Japan, Canada, the United States, and South Africa, also signed the convention. The Council of Europe focused on combating the illicit use of computers and information networks—referred to as “cybercrimes” or “computer crimes”—due to changes brought about by digitization, convergence, and the ongoing globalization of information networks.

The convention represented a significant step toward international cooperation between the member states, establishing practical procedures that the countries that joined it must incorporate into their national laws. These procedures include those related to the collection and retention of data, jurisdiction of judicial authorities, and mutual assistance. A key feature of the convention is the creation of a 24/7 network to ensure prompt assistance between the member states and the extradition of criminals.

The convention was pioneering in establishing a list of crimes that countries that ratified it must criminalize, including internet-related crimes such as terrorism, credit card fraud, child prostitution, and crimes committed through computer systems or crimes with evidence in electronic form. The convention consists of four chapters: the first on the use of terms, the second on the measures to be taken at the national level, including substantive and procedural law, the third on international cooperation, and the fourth on final provisions.

(2) See the African Union Conference, 2nd Ordinary Session, Maputo, Mozambique, July 10-12, 2003, where 27 resolutions and 8 declarations were discussed. Resolution 22 addressed the draft convention on the prevention and combating of corruption, p. 2, 27. On July 11, 2003, the African Union member states adopted the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, and the date was declared “African Anti-Corruption Day.” All member states were invited to sign and ratify the convention. On August 5, 2006, thirty days after the fifteenth instrument of ratification was deposited, the convention entered into force. During the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa in January 2017, Egypt joined the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption with the declaration and reservation subject to ratification, after approval by the House of Representatives on July 5, 2017, and ratification by the President of the Republic on July 8, 2017. The convention came into effect on July 25, 2017. The Presidential Decree No. 204 of 2017 was issued approving Egypt’s accession to the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, published in the Official Gazette, Issue 34, on August 22, 2020.)

(3) The Arab Interior Ministers Council prepared a draft Arab Convention on Combating Corruption, which was reviewed by a joint committee from the Arab Interior and Justice Ministers Councils. On December 11, 2002, the draft convention was adopted and was approved at a joint ministerial meeting of the Interior and Justice Ministers on December 21, 2010. The convention entered into force on June 29, 2013. Presidential Decree No. 181 of 2014 was issued, approving Egypt’s accession to the Arab Convention on Combating Corruption, signed in Cairo on December 21, 2010. The decision was published in the Official Gazette, Issue 34, in 2014.

(4) On December 21, 2010, the Arab Convention on Combating Transnational Organized Crime was signed. On August 19, 2014, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt issued a decree approving Egypt’s accession to the convention with a reservation subject to ratification. The decision was published in the Official Gazette, Issue 47, on November 20, 2014.

(5) The Arab Republic of Egypt acceded to the convention through Presidential Decree No. 70 of 2014.

(6) The convention was issued on December 21, 2010, and Egypt acceded to the convention through Presidential Decree No. 276 of 2014, dated August 19, 2014, which was published in the Official Gazette, Issue 46, on November 13, 2014, with a reservation subject to ratification. The convention aims to enhance cooperation between Arab states in combating cybercrimes. It consists of 43 articles, obliging countries to introduce amendments to criminalize acts such as hacking, unauthorized interception, violation of data integrity, infringement on privacy, intellectual property violations, misuse of information technology tools, forgery, fraud, money laundering, drug-related crimes, human trafficking, trafficking in human organs, and offenses against religious values.

(f) The United Nations Convention on Cybercrime: “Enhancing international cooperation to combat specific crimes committed through information and communication technology systems and to exchange electronic evidence related to serious crimes<sup>(1)</sup>.”

(q) In addition to international and regional agreements, the Forty Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing were issued<sup>(2)</sup>.

## **The Second Branch: The Origin and Stages of the Preparation of the Makkah Agreement for Cooperation among OIC Member States in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws**

### **The Origin of the Agreement:**

On March 22–23, 2022, the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) adopted Resolution No. (9/48–C T) during its meeting in Islamabad, which includes the following:

a) A call for member states to enhance cooperation in combating corruption to limit safe havens for corrupt individuals, thereby facilitating the rapid recovery of assets, in line with relevant international agreements.

b) A welcome to the initiative by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which invited a ministerial meeting of law enforcement agencies responsible for combating corruption during the year 2022.

c) A request for the OIC General Secretariat to draft a convention on anti-corruption cooperation within the Islamic framework, and to form a governmental team to study the draft agreement, which would then be presented for adoption at the first ministerial meeting of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies in the OIC member states, as a preparatory step for its submission to the Council of Foreign Ministers.

d) A mandate for the Secretary–General to make the necessary

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(1) On August 9, 2024, the member states of the United Nations General Assembly agreed on the United Nations Convention on Cybercrime. Article 1 outlines the objectives of this convention, which include encouraging and enhancing measures aimed at preventing and combating cybercrime more efficiently and effectively, promoting, facilitating, and strengthening international cooperation in the prevention and combating of cybercrime, and encouraging, facilitating, and supporting technical assistance and capacity-building to prevent and combat cybercrime, particularly for the benefit of developing countries.

(2) For information on the Forty Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Money Laundering, see the official website: <http://www.fatf-gafi.org/40Reccsen.htm>. The Egmont Group, a network of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs), was established and is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. Its goal is to support the capabilities of FIUs, facilitate the exchange of financial information regarding suspected money laundering or terrorism financing activities, and provide a platform for the exchange of financial expertise to combat money laundering crimes.



arrangements to strengthen coordination efforts among the parties and unify their positions in relevant international forums on anti-corruption issues.

e) In accordance with Resolution No. (9/48-C T), the OIC General Secretariat prepared a concept paper for the proposed agreement, which was distributed to the member states' delegations. The paper included the legal reference, stages of the agreement's preparation, and the timeline, concluding with the submission of the draft agreement for adoption at the 49th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Nouakchott, 2023, and subsequent signing, ratification, and entry into force upon the approval of the required number of parties<sup>(1)</sup>.

### **Stages of Preparation for the Agreement:**

a) The OIC General Secretariat coordinated with the Saudi National Anti-Corruption Commission ("Nazaha") to prepare the draft agreement. In August 2022, the first draft was sent to the member states. Between September 12-14, 2022, the "First Meeting of the Open-ended Government Experts Group on the Draft Agreement" was held, where the second draft of the agreement was agreed upon. The member states were encouraged to submit their feedback to the General Secretariat for further review<sup>(2)</sup>.

b) Between November 6-9, 2022, the "Second Meeting of the Government Experts Group on the Makkah Agreement" was held. Amendments from the member states were incorporated, and the agreement's provisions were discussed. It was agreed that the agreement would focus on the exchange of information and investigations and the tracking of criminal proceeds, without extending to judicial cooperation<sup>(3)</sup>.

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(1) Refer to the concept paper regarding the implementation of Resolution No. (9/48-C.T) dated 3/9/1443H concerning the draft agreement of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on combating corruption. The paper includes the legal reference for the agreement, notably the Preamble of the OIC Charter, which emphasizes "promoting human rights, fundamental freedoms, good governance, the rule of law, democracy, and accountability in member states," and Article 1, paragraph (18), which addresses "cooperation in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, organized crime, the illicit drug trade, corruption, money laundering, and human trafficking."

Coordination between the OIC General Secretariat and the Saudi National Anti-Corruption Commission ("Nazaha") led to the preparation of the draft agreement, which was circulated to the member states in July 2022. It was discussed during the Government Experts Meeting in September 2022, presented to the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 49th session in Nouakchott, 2023, for adoption, and is now open for signature and ratification by the member states. The agreement will enter into force after the required number of parties have ratified it.

(2) Refer to the report of the first meeting of the Open-ended Government Experts Group on the study of the draft OIC Agreement on Combating Corruption, held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from September 12-14, 2022. The researcher had the honor of participating in the meetings of the national expert committee and preparing the committee's observations on the draft agreement, which were subsequently submitted through Egypt's Permanent Mission to the OIC General Secretariat.

(3) Refer to the report of the second meeting of the Open-ended Government Experts Group on the study of the draft OIC Agreement on Combating Corruption, held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from November 6-9, 2022.

c) On December 5–6, 2022, a “Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials for the First Ministerial Meeting of Anti–Corruption Law Enforcement Agencies of the OIC Member States” was held to approve the Makkah Agreement. The meeting announced the formation of the session’s bureau, with Pakistan as Chair, and Palestine, Yemen, and Cameroon as Vice–Chairs, and Niger as Rapporteur. After discussions, the senior officials approved the final version of the “Draft Makkah Agreement” and presented it to the first ministerial meeting of anti–corruption law enforcement agencies for approval before submission to the 49th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in 2023 for final adoption<sup>(1)</sup>.

d) On December 20–21, 2022, the “First Ministerial Meeting of Anti–Corruption Law Enforcement Agencies of the OIC Member States” was held to adopt the Makkah Agreement, in the context of implementing Resolution No. 48/9 (C.T.) issued by the Council of Foreign Ministers during its 48th session (Islamabad, March 22–23, 2022). The meeting was tasked with reviewing and adopting the draft agreement before its submission to the 49th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers for approval. The high–level meeting included the following:

1. Participation from 52 member states, with ministers responsible for anti–corruption law enforcement agencies, representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, and regional and international organizations. The meeting was hosted under the patronage of Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud.

2. The formation of the Saudi office, with Yemen, Cameroon, and Palestine as Vice–Chairs, and Niger as Rapporteur. Directors of international and regional organizations and heads of delegations delivered speeches, praising the Makkah Agreement, which would foster increased cooperation in combating corruption.

3. The “Draft Makkah Agreement” was unanimously approved during the closing session, based on the senior officials’ meeting held on December 5–6, 2022.

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(1) Refer to the report of the preparatory meeting of senior officials for the first ministerial meeting of anti–corruption law enforcement agencies in OIC member states, held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on December 5–6, 2022.



4. The meeting requested the Secretary-General to initiate consultations for the second meeting of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies of OIC member states in 2024<sup>(1)</sup>.

5. The meeting welcomed the organization of two discussion sessions on international and national experiences in enforcing anti-corruption laws, and the official and unofficial cooperation in the exchange of information and investigations to combat corruption and recover illicit funds<sup>(2)</sup>.

**E** – The “First Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Agencies of OIC Member States” decided the following:

1. The “Makkah Agreement for Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws among OIC Member States” is adopted and recommended for submission to the Council of Foreign Ministers for approval at its 49th session in Nouakchott, 2023, followed by signature, ratification by the parties, and entry into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of the nineteenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession.

2. It is recommended that the ministerial meeting of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies of OIC member states be held biannually.

3. The Secretary-General is requested to follow up on the implementation of this decision and report to the next session<sup>(3)</sup>.

**W** – From March 16–17, 2023, the 49th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers was held under the theme “Moderation and Balance: A Pillar of Security and Stability” in Mauritania. The decision No. 2/49–C T “Adoption of the Makkah Agreement” was issued, and it included the following key points:

1. Adoption of the Makkah Agreement.

2. Urging member states to accelerate the signing and ratification of the agreement.

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(1) Refer to the report of the first ministerial meeting of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies in OIC member states for the adoption of the Makkah Agreement, held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on December 20-21, 2022. The researcher had the honor of participating in the aforementioned meeting. For more details, you can access the report through the following website: OIC Report.

(2) On December 21, 2022, a high-level discussion session was held at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) under the title “Cooperation Among Law Enforcement Agencies in Combating Corruption.” The session highlighted the historical challenges behind achieving effective cooperation and facilitated the exchange of experiences in both formal and informal cooperation between law enforcement agencies, aiming to make such cooperation more efficient and effective. The session was chaired by Dr. Elizabeth David Barrett, Head of the Global Program for Corruption Measurement at the International Anti-Corruption Academy, with speakers including:

- Ms. Ghada Wali, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- Mr. Jürgen Stock, Executive Director of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)
- Ms. Zolisile Khanyile, Chair of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units
- General Minister Amr Adel, Head of the Administrative Control Authority of Egypt
- Minister Anisul Huq, Minister of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

The researcher participated in this discussion session as part of the Egyptian delegation.

(3) Refer to the decision of the first ministerial meeting of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies in OIC member states, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on December 20-21, 2022. The researcher had the honor of participating in the activities of the aforementioned meeting as a representative of the Administrative Control Authority. For more details, you can access the decision through the following website: OIC Report.



3. Recommending that the ministerial meeting of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies be held regularly every two years, in accordance with the procedures followed in the OIC's ministerial meetings.

4. Requesting member states to strengthen international cooperation among themselves to combat corruption crimes and recover assets generated from them to their countries of origin<sup>(1)</sup>.

### **3. Signing of the Agreement:**

**A** – From November 26–27, 2024, the “Second Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Agencies of OIC Member States” was held in Doha, Qatar, with the participation of 52 member states. The meeting was convened in line with decision No. 2/49–C T issued during the 49th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, which recommended that the ministerial meeting of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies be held biannually.

**B** – On November 26, 2024, the first day of the meeting, a session for senior officials of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies under the OIC framework was held. The conference bureau was formed with Qatar as Chair, and Palestine, Azerbaijan, and Senegal as Vice-Chairs, and Saudi Arabia as Rapporteur. Productive discussions and constructive dialogues were held regarding anti-corruption efforts and the enhancement of integrity. The outcomes of the 50th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, were referenced, calling on member states to engage in the fight against corruption by signing and ratifying the Makkah Agreement, which represents an important mechanism for enhancing cooperation and transparency<sup>(2)</sup>.

**C** – On November 27, 2024, the second day of the meeting, the signing of the Makkah Agreement was opened, with 21 member states signing the agreement, bringing the total number of signatory states to 24. This includes prior signatories such as the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Gabon, the Republic of Gambia, Palestine, and Qatar<sup>(3)</sup>.

**D** – The meeting welcomed Azerbaijan's offer to host the third ministerial meeting

(1) Refer to the decision of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC member states, Resolution No. 2/49-C.T, regarding the adoption of the Makkah Agreement, held on March 16-17, 2023.

(2) Refer to the report of the second ministerial meeting of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies in OIC member states, held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 25 Jumada al-Awwal 1446H, corresponding to November 27, 2024.

(3) During the opening session of the second ministerial meeting of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies in OIC member states, held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 25 Jumada al-Awwal 1446H, corresponding to November 27, 2024, the meeting witnessed the signing of the Makkah Agreement by the following countries: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of Iraq, the Sultanate of Oman, the Comoros Federal Islamic Republic, the State of Kuwait, the Lebanese Republic, the State of Libya, Malaysia, the Republic of Niger, the Yemeni Republic, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Guinea, and the Republic of Chad.

It is noteworthy that the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Gabon, and the Republic of Gambia had signed the agreement at previous ministerial meetings. Additionally, the State of Palestine has ratified the agreement, and the State of Qatar signed it on the sidelines of the second ministerial meeting.



of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies of OIC member states in 2026.

**E** – The second ministerial meeting adopted the following decisions:

1. Decision No. 1/2–A C F regarding the Makkah Agreement for Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws among OIC Member States.

2. Decision No. 2/2–A C F regarding the establishment of a joint Saudi–Maldivian forum to enhance integrity in the tourism sector in the Maldives in 2025.

3. Decision No. 3/2–A C F regarding the enhancement of the OIC’s role in international efforts to combat corruption and in developing methodologies to measure corruption<sup>(1)</sup>.

**4. Enforceability of the Agreement:** The Makkah Agreement for Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws among OIC member states will enter into force on the thirtieth day after November 27, 2024<sup>(2)</sup>.

**5. The Position of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the Makkah Agreement:**

**A** – The Administrative Control Authority, law enforcement agencies, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt participated in all senior officials’ meetings of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies under the OIC framework to negotiate the provisions of the Makkah Agreement for Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws among OIC member states<sup>(3)</sup>.

**B** – The Administrative Control Authority participated in both the first and second ministerial meetings of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies of OIC member states.

**C** – On October 1, 2024, a decree was issued by the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, No. 428 of 2024, approving Egypt’s accession to the Makkah Agreement for Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws among OIC member states, with a reservation subject to ratification<sup>(4)</sup>.

**D**- On December 3, 2024, the Egyptian Parliament formally approved the Presidential Decree regarding Egypt’s accession to the Makkah Agreement for Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws among OIC Member States.

(1) Refer to the decisions issued during the second ministerial meeting of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies in OIC member states, held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 24-25 Jumada al-Awwal 1446H, corresponding to November 26-27, 2024.

(2) Refer to Article (20) on the Entry into Force of the Makkah Agreement for Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws among OIC Member States. It states:  
This Agreement shall enter into force after the deposit of the nineteenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession. For the purposes of this paragraph, no instrument deposited by an international or regional organization shall be considered an additional instrument to those deposited by the states of that organization.”

(3) The researcher had the honor of participating in the meetings of senior officials for the anti-corruption law enforcement agencies under the OIC framework, where discussions took place regarding the draft, negotiations, and final drafting of the Makkah Agreement for Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws among OIC Member States.

(4) Refer to the Official Gazette, Issue No. 8, dated February 20, 2025, Presidential Decree No. 428 of 2024, dated October 1, 2024. After reviewing Article 151 of the Constitution, and with the approval of the Cabinet and the Parliament’s approval in its session held on December 3, 2024, the Arab Republic of Egypt has agreed to accede to the Makkah Agreement for Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws among OIC Member States, with a reservation subject to ratification.

### **Branch Three: The Legal Framework of Makkah Agreement for Cooperation among OIC Member States in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws**

**1. Structure of the Agreement:** The agreement consists of 23 articles, divided into five chapters: General Provisions, Areas of Cooperation, Requests for Exchange of Information and Investigations, Implementation Mechanisms, and Final Provisions<sup>(1)</sup>.

#### **2. General Provisions:**

##### **A. Objectives of the Agreement:**

(1) To enhance the exchange of information and investigations between law enforcement authorities to prevent, detect, investigate, and prosecute corruption crimes, contributing to the recovery and return of stolen assets.

(2) To strengthen the exchange of technical assistance, training, and expertise among the parties, aiming to improve the effectiveness of their cooperation in addressing crimes covered by the agreement<sup>(2)</sup>.

**B. Scope of Application:** This agreement applies to the exchange of information and investigations and the provision of technical assistance related to crimes such as bribery of national and foreign public officials and employees of international public institutions, embezzlement, misappropriation, or leakage of public property by public officials, trading in influence, abuse of office, illicit enrichment, bribery in the private sector, embezzlement in the private sector, money laundering and concealment of proceeds from crimes covered by this agreement, obstruction of justice, and participation in or attempt to commit any of the aforementioned crimes.

##### **C. Sovereignty Protection:**

(1) States shall fulfill their obligations in a manner consistent with the principles of equality of sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs.

(2) This agreement does not grant any party the jurisdiction to exercise its judicial authority within the territory of another party.

**3. Areas of Cooperation: A. Law Enforcement Cooperation:** The parties shall cooperate closely in the exchange of information and investigations

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(1) Refer to the Makkah Agreement on Combating Corruption, available at the following website:  
<https://www.oic-oci.org/docdown/?docID=9771&refID=4268>

(2) See Article (2) of the Makkah Agreement.



related to the crimes covered by this agreement, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- (1) The identity of individuals suspected of involvement in any of these crimes, their whereabouts, and their activities.
- (2) The movement of criminal proceeds or assets derived from those crimes.
- (3) The movement of property, equipment, or tools used or intended to be used in the commission of those crimes.
- (4) The latest methods and techniques employed in the commission of these crimes.
- (5) Early detection of such crimes through the exchange of information that aids in the recovery and return of stolen assets.
- (6) Identifying the true beneficiary of movable assets, property, and commercial entities linked to these crimes.
- (7) Verification of official documents.
- (8) Providing information regarding the requirements for mutual legal assistance and the conditions necessary to accept requests, including reviewing official mutual legal assistance requests by the receiving state, offering opinions on them, and making amendments as necessary before formally submitting them<sup>(1)</sup>.

## **B. Technical Assistance and Training:**

- (1) States shall consider providing technical assistance regarding their plans and programs related to the crimes covered by the agreement and share expertise.
- (2) States shall cooperate in developing training programs for their staff to combat the crimes covered by the agreement, including the latest methods and trends used to prevent, detect, investigate, and prosecute these crimes and trace the criminal proceeds, including the use of forged documents and modern techniques for laundering crime proceeds, and the mutual legal assistance requirements related to the crimes covered under the agreement<sup>(2)</sup>.
- (3) Cooperation in providing technical assistance shall not hinder any other forms of cooperation as deemed appropriate by the parties.

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(1) See Article (5) of the Makkah Agreement.

(2) See Article (6) of the Makkah Agreement.

**C. Joining the Global Information Exchange Network for Law Enforcement Authorities Fighting Corruption (“Global Operations Network” or “GLOBE Network<sup>(1)</sup>”) under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime<sup>(2)</sup>.**

**4. Requests for Exchange of Information and Investigations:**

**A. Rules and Foundations:**

(1) The requesting law enforcement authorities shall, in accordance with their legal system, support their requests with justifications and the purposes for which the information and investigations will be used, enabling the receiving state’s authorities to process them appropriately and promptly.

(2) The parties shall consider granting their law enforcement authorities the power to provide information and investigations to the authorities of another state upon their request, to enhance cooperation, prevent, detect, investigate, prosecute these crimes, trace their criminal proceeds, and facilitate their recovery.

(3) Each party shall take necessary measures to ensure that the exchange of information and investigations with another state party under this agreement is not conditioned on an additional bilateral agreement for judicial cooperation for this purpose.

(4) Requests shall be implemented in accordance with the domestic law of the receiving state, and may be carried out according to procedures mutually agreed upon by the requesting and receiving parties, whenever possible.

(5) Requests shall be submitted in the language or languages notified by the state to the General Secretariat, specifying the language(s) to be used for receiving requests<sup>(3)</sup>.

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(1) GLOBE Network.

(2) Refer to the Charter of the Global Operations Network for Law Enforcement Authorities involved in Combating Corruption, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting on Combating Corruption for Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws held by the G20 on October 22, 2020, and the Leaders’ Declaration issued by the G20 Summit in Riyadh. These documents welcomed the Riyadh Initiative to enhance international cooperation among law enforcement authorities involved in combating corruption through the establishment of a Global Operations Network. The network aims to facilitate efficient and timely cross-border cooperation, exchange communications, support bilateral or multilateral investigations, facilitate consultations between authorities to enhance effective mutual legal assistance, and establish a centralized online hub. Egypt has joined the network through three entities: the Public Prosecution, the Administrative Control Authority, and the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Unit. It is worth noting that the researcher had the honor of representing the Administrative Control Authority and participating in the meetings to prepare the network’s charter, as well as in the launch event of the network, which was inaugurated during the UN General Assembly’s special session on combating corruption on June 3, 2021.

(3) See Article (8) of the Makkah Agreement.



## **B. Mechanism for Submitting Requests:**

(1) Law enforcement authorities are encouraged to submit requests directly to one another, with the receiving law enforcement authority bearing the financial costs of executing the request unless otherwise agreed between the two states. If fulfilling the request incurs substantial expenses, both states must consult to determine the conditions for executing the request and how the costs will be shared.

(2) The Conference of the Parties to the Agreement shall decide to establish a secure electronic platform to facilitate communication and the exchange of information and investigations among law enforcement authorities.

## **C. Response to Requests:**

(1) Law enforcement authorities shall make diligent efforts to respond within a period not exceeding thirty working days from the date of receiving the request.

(2) The receiving authority may request additional information to facilitate the execution of the request.

(3) If the receiving law enforcement authority is unable to respond within thirty days, it must inform the requesting authority of the reasons for the delay and the estimated time required to fulfill the request<sup>(1)</sup>.

## **D. Rejection of Requests:**

(1) Law enforcement authorities receiving requests may refuse to respond in the following cases:

(a) If fulfilling the request would harm the sovereignty, national security, legal system, or national interests of the receiving state.

(b) If the information or investigations are deemed disproportionate or irrelevant to the purpose for which the request was made.

(c) If sharing the information or investigations would adversely affect ongoing investigations or legal proceedings.

(d) If there are valid reasons to believe that the request was made for the purpose of prosecuting or punishing someone based on their gender, race, religion, nationality, origin, or political views.

(2) The receiving law enforcement authority must provide reasons for any rejection of requests.

(3) Law enforcement authorities may not refuse to respond to a request solely because it involves financial matters<sup>(2)</sup>.

**E. Automatic Sharing of Information and Investigations:** The parties may take necessary measures to allow their law enforcement authorities to share information

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(1) See Article (10) of the Makkah Agreement.

(2) See Article (11) of the Makkah Agreement.



and investigations with authorities of other parties without prior request, in order to prevent, detect, investigate, and prosecute the crimes covered by this agreement, and to trace and recover criminal proceeds<sup>(1)</sup>.

#### **F. Conditions and Safeguards:**

(1) Each party shall take necessary measures to ensure that its law enforcement authorities and those acting on their behalf comply with the confidentiality and privacy provisions regarding the information and investigations requested or provided, as well as the process and context of their exchange.

(2) Law enforcement authorities may not use the information, investigations, or documents exchanged for purposes other than those requested, including transferring, disseminating, or publishing them, without prior written consent from the authority that provided the information or investigations.

(3) The receiving law enforcement authority may not use the information and investigations in legal proceedings for purposes other than those specified in the request<sup>(2)</sup>.

**G. Data Protection:** Without prejudice to international obligations regarding data protection: (1) Information and investigations exchanged under this agreement shall be subject to the data protection laws of the receiving state, and law enforcement authorities receiving the requests must:

(a) Not share the information or investigations with a third party without the prior written consent of the law enforcement authority providing the information.

(b) Protect the information and investigations from unauthorized access or disclosure, and notify the providing law enforcement authority immediately in the event of unauthorized disclosure or access, including data loss or breaches.

(2) Data protection provisions shall remain in effect even after the agreement ceases to be in force, or if any state withdraws from it<sup>(3)</sup>.

#### **1. Implementation Mechanisms:**

##### **A. Implementation of the Agreement:**

(1) The parties shall, in accordance with the basic principles of their legal systems, take measures to ensure the implementation of their commitments and obligations under this agreement.

(2) Each party shall designate a law enforcement authority or authorities for the purpose of providing assistance regarding activities carried out under this agreement and shall notify the General Secretariat of the designated authority or authorities, which will circulate the information to all parties.

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(1) See Article (12) of the Makkah Agreement.

(2) See Article (13) of the Makkah Agreement.

(3) See Article (14) of the Makkah Agreement.



(3) Each party shall notify the General Secretariat of the language(s) in which it will receive requests, and the Secretariat will disseminate this information to all parties.

### **B. Conference of the Parties to the Agreement:**

(1) A Conference of the Parties shall be established to enhance the ability of the parties to cooperate in achieving and implementing the goals outlined in this agreement.

(2) The Secretary–General shall convene the first conference no later than one year after the entry into force of this agreement, and subsequent regular meetings of the conference shall be held according to its adopted internal rules, encouraging the participation of law enforcement agency heads.

(3) The conference shall adopt its internal rules of procedure, including provisions for observer participation.

(4) The conference shall adopt procedures to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of information related to methods for combating the crimes covered by this agreement, the recovery of criminal proceeds, and cooperation with international and regional organizations. (5) The conference shall take any decisions necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the agreement.

(6) The conference shall monitor the measures taken by the parties to implement the agreement. (7) The conference shall establish a mechanism, body, or committee to assist in implementing the agreement.

(8) The conference shall adopt proposed amendments to the agreement.

(9) Decisions of the conference shall be taken by consensus, or, if consensus cannot be reached, by a two–thirds majority of the attending and voting parties<sup>(1)</sup>.

**C. The General Secretariat:** The General Secretariat shall provide the necessary services to the conference, including:

(1) Assisting the conference in carrying out activities related to the agreement and organizing necessary meetings.

(2) Assisting states in providing information to the conference.

(3) Preparing a report for the conference on challenges in implementing the agreement and making proposals.

(4) Cooperating with the secretariats of relevant international and regional organizations.

(5) Creating and updating a database of law enforcement authorities and their contact officers, and disseminating it to other parties<sup>(2)</sup>.

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(1) See Article (16) of the Makkah Agreement.

(2) See Article (17) of the Makkah Agreement.



#### **D. Dispute Resolution:**

(1) The parties shall seek to resolve any disputes regarding the interpretation or application of the agreement through negotiation.

(2) If a consensus cannot be reached, the dispute shall be referred to the General Secretariat to facilitate arbitration, with the consent of all disputing parties.

#### **E. Entry into Force:**

(1) The agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of the nineteenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession. No instrument deposited by an international or regional organization shall be considered an additional instrument to those deposited by the states of that organization.

(2) For each member state that ratifies, accepts, approves, or accedes to the agreement after the deposit of the nineteenth instrument, the agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of that state's relevant instrument or the date the agreement comes into force, whichever is later<sup>(1)</sup>.

#### **Conclusion**

This research paper addressed the phenomenon of corruption, which poses a significant threat to achieving the goals of sustainable development, undermines democracy and the rule of law, and violates human rights—issues faced by all nations. Numerous international and regional organizations have responded to this challenge by establishing agreements to combat corruption.

Thus, this topic was examined through several key points, including the definition of corruption, its linguistic and conceptual meaning, as well as how it is perceived by international organizations. The paper concluded that corruption involves the abuse of power for personal gain. Despite the existence of various studies and organizations dedicated to combating corruption, there is still no universally accepted comprehensive definition, as corruption is a complex phenomenon that is perpetrated by individuals, organized and unorganized groups, and some states within the public or private sectors or civil society organizations to obtain benefits in any form.

The paper also discussed the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), including its founding, establishment, bodies, and committees, as well as relevant international and regional agreements on anti-corruption efforts. It highlighted the OIC's role in drafting, formulating, and adopting the Makkah Agreement for Cooperation among OIC Member States in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws, and the legal framework of the Makkah Agreement.

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(1) See Article (20) of the Makkah Agreement.



## Findings and Recommendations

### First: Findings:

1. Corruption is no longer a local issue confined to a single country, but a global phenomenon affecting all societies, whether advanced or developing. As a result, countries worldwide have taken steps to combat this scourge, employing all available techniques to detect criminal acts related to corruption.
2. There has been a collective international effort to reduce the phenomenon of corruption, as countries have realized the severe harm it causes. Strategies and plans have been developed to eliminate corruption crimes through international and regional agreements, fostering global cooperation in preventing and combating corruption.
3. The Islamic countries agreed to establish the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), guided by noble Islamic values, emphasizing the importance of strengthening unity and solidarity among member states, and cooperating in the fight against terrorism in all its forms, organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, corruption, money laundering, and human trafficking.
4. The OIC has focused on addressing corruption and enhancing cooperation between law enforcement agencies in a manner that is efficient and swift, by exchanging information and investigations to limit safe havens, contribute to the rapid recovery and return of stolen assets, and promote the exchange of technical assistance, training, and expertise among member states. The Makkah Agreement for Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws among OIC Member States was adopted, with many countries, including the Arab Republic of Egypt, signing the agreement according to their domestic legal systems.

### Findings:

1. **Strengthening International Cooperation:** It is essential to continue enhancing international collaboration to combat corruption effectively. Governments should work together to exchange data, best practices, and resources to track and recover criminal proceeds.
2. **Capacity Building:** Countries should invest in training programs for law enforcement agencies and judicial bodies to improve their capacity to handle corruption cases effectively. This includes learning about new methods and technologies for detecting corruption and recovering stolen assets.
3. **Ratification and Implementation:** Countries that have not yet signed or ratified the Makkah Agreement should prioritize doing so, ensuring that anti-corruption measures are incorporated into national law and practice.
4. **Public Awareness:** Raising public awareness about the detrimental effects of corruption and the importance of reporting suspicious activities

can help empower citizens and enhance governmental efforts in combating corruption.

**5. Monitoring and Evaluation:** Regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of anti-corruption agreements, including the Makkah Agreement, should be conducted to ensure that progress is being made and to address any challenges that arise.

### **Recommendations**

The key recommendations derived from the research topic, both at the local level and for the law enforcement authorities responsible for representing the parties to the Makkah Agreement, are as follows:

**1. Designation of Law Enforcement Authorities:** The Arab Republic of Egypt should designate a law enforcement authority or authorities responsible for providing assistance concerning activities carried out under the Makkah Agreement on Anti-Corruption and inform the OIC General Secretariat of the name of the designated authority or authorities for this purpose.

**2. Establishment of Technological Systems:** The development of technological systems should be prioritized, linking all law enforcement bodies to facilitate the accurate and rapid exchange of information and investigations related to corruption cases, ensuring data protection and confidentiality, and enabling effective cooperation—both formal and informal—on an efficient and timely basis with other countries that are parties to relevant international and regional agreements. This includes cooperation through the Global Operations Network for law enforcement authorities combating corruption.

**3. Encouragement of Data Analysis and AI:** Law enforcement agencies should be encouraged to use data analysis techniques and artificial intelligence systems to address corruption crimes. Automatic sharing of information and investigations with national authorities and other countries party to international and regional agreements related to anti-corruption should be promoted to prevent, detect, investigate, prosecute offenders, trace stolen criminal proceeds, and contribute to their recovery and return.

**4. Training of Law Enforcement Officials:** Training should be provided to law enforcement officers on the latest anti-corruption systems, particularly in financial investigations, based on the most successful international and regional practices for reducing corruption.

**5. Encouraging Academic Research:** Academic institutions should be encouraged to conduct research and studies on corruption crimes, particularly on formal and informal cooperation between law enforcement agencies in the fields of investigations, information sharing, and technical assistance. Furthermore, studies on the localization of international and regional



agreements to facilitate effective implementation should be promoted, and conferences, scientific seminars, and discussion sessions should be held to review best practices and implementation challenges.

## **6. Recommendations for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Member States:**

**A.** The OIC General Secretariat should take necessary measures to join the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) as an observer.

**B.** The OIC General Secretariat should establish an administrative structure at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah, similar to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna, focusing on the following:

- Monitoring the implementation of commitments made by OIC member states and relevant international and regional organizations regarding the Makkah Agreement.
- Activating Article 16 of the Agreement by establishing the Conference of the Parties to enhance the capacity of member states and their cooperation in achieving the goals of the Agreement. This includes establishing an open-ended government experts group and creating an effective mechanism for reviewing the implementation of the Agreement.
- Identifying best practices and implementation challenges and proposing recommendations to facilitate the effective implementation of the Agreement.
- Monitoring the implementation of decisions made at the ministerial meetings of anti-corruption law enforcement authorities.

**C.** The OIC General Secretariat should strengthen coordination with the secretariats of international and regional organizations involved in corruption review mechanisms to develop a monitoring mechanism for implementing the Makkah Agreement. This will help the parties effectively implement the Agreement, ensuring the exchange of best practices regarding organizational aspects, review schedules, and guidelines issued by secretariats to avoid duplication of efforts and rationalize spending.

**D.** The OIC General Secretariat should establish a collaboration mechanism with officials from INTERPOL, the Egmont Group, the Global Operations Network for law enforcement authorities combating corruption (GLOBE), and the StAR Initiative (Stolen Asset Recovery), to facilitate the exchange of information, investigations, technical assistance, and training among law enforcement bodies in a manner that ensures efficiency, speed,





and integration, and coordinates efforts to prevent, detect, investigate, and prosecute corruption crimes and recover stolen assets.

**E.** All OIC member states should be encouraged to complete the necessary domestic legal procedures for signing and ratifying the Makkah Agreement and designate a law enforcement authority or authorities responsible for implementing the Agreement.

**F.** Law enforcement agencies in OIC member states should be encouraged to respond to requests for the exchange of information and investigations, share information automatically without prior requests, and ensure that data is protected in accordance with the core principles of their legal systems.

**G.** OIC member states should consider adopting methodologies and indicators to measure corruption, drawing on the principles established by the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), and be guided by the Vienna Principles towards establishing a global framework for measuring corruption.

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