



## MINUTES

### OIC Ombudsman Association Third Steering Committee Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, Khartoum - Sudan

Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of OIC Ombudsman Association (OICOA) was held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Khartoum, Sudan which was chaired by Hon'ble Judge Ahmed Abuzaid Ahmed Mohammad, President Public Grievances Chamber Sudan. Mr. Abdul Khaliq, Executive Secretary of the Association, coordinated the Meeting. The Meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran.

The Ombudsmen / delegates from the following countries participated in the Meeting:

S. N	Name	Position	Organization
1	Mr. Ahmed Abuzaid Ahmed Mohammad	President	Public Grievances Chamber, Sudan
2	Mr. Seref Malkoc	Chief Ombudsman	Ombudsman Institution, Turkey
3	Mr. Ali Sirfi Maiga	Mediator	Mediateur de la Repoblique du Niger
4	Mr. Abdul Khaliq	Senior Advisor	Federal Ombudsman, Pakistan
5	Mr. Mohammad Ladidi	Advisor	Ombudsman Institution Morocco
6	Mr. Abdul Khaliq	Executive Secretary	OIC Ombudsman Association

There was no representation from Ombudsman Institutions Guinea, Ombudsman Republic of Indonesia, General Inspection Organization Iran and Integrity & Anticorruption Commission Jordan in the Meeting.

#### **Agenda Item No.1**

**Welcome and Introductory Remarks by the Chair: Judge Ahmed Abuzaid Ahmed Mohammad, President Public Grievances Chamber Sudan.**

The Chairman while welcoming the Committee Members thanked them for their kind response to the invitation for this Event and showed his confidence that their presence will

enormously contribute to the cause of Ombudsmanship in the Muslim World. He thanked the OICOA for honoring his country to host the Steering Committee Meeting and appreciated the OICOA Secretariat for extending whole hearted cooperation for organizing this Event. With these welcoming remarks the Chairman asked the Executive Secretary to proceed with the Agenda.

**Decision:**

*No decision was required on the agenda item.*

**Agenda Item No. 2**

**Approval of the Agenda for the present (3rd) Meeting of the Steering Committee of the OICOA**

**Minutes:**

The Executive Secretary apprised the Committee about the Agenda of the current Meeting. The Chair, invited the Committee Members to offer their comments, if any, and requested them to approve the Agenda items for consideration and decisions accordingly.

**Decision:**

*The Agenda was approved unanimously for further discussion and decisions.*

**Agenda Item No. 3**

**Approval of the Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 in Istanbul - Turkey**

**Minutes:**

The Executive Secretary apprised the Committee that the Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee, held on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 in Istanbul - Turkey, were circulated among the Hon'ble Members of the OICOA vide e-mail dated 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. No observation/objection was raised by the Members. Now, the Members were requested to consider and formally approve the Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee.

**Decision:**

*The Members considered and formally approved the Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee.*

#### **Agenda Item No. 4**

#### **Consideration of Article 7-a (Voting Members) of the Statutes of OICOA, deferred in 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting held on 24-26 September, 2017 in Istanbul-Turkey**

##### **Minutes:**

The Executive Secretary apprised the Hon'ble Members on the background of the Agenda Item that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting and General Assembly Meeting of OICOA, held on 24-26 September, 2017 in Istanbul-Turkey, the Statues / Bye Laws of the Association were approved; however, on Article 7-a (Voting Members) of the Statutes, consensus could not be reached in the General Assembly Meeting (Agenda Items No.7 & 8). Therefore, the decision on Article 7- a (Voting Rights) was deferred at that time so that the Members could find more time for consultation on alternative proposals. Thus, Article 7-a (Voting Members) of the Statues was placed on the Agenda again for the consideration of the Steering Committee.

Forum of Pakistan Ombudsmen (FPO) held its meetings to find some solution to this unresolved issue: whether Voting Rights should be allocated to 12 Institutions of Pakistan who had been the Founding Members of the Association or some other criteria could be adopted. Since all the Ombudsman Institutions in Pakistan have separate laws / acts and independent jurisdictions with financial and administrative autonomy and all of them happened to be the Founding Members, the Forum could not find justification or a cogent reason to deprive any of them of the Voting Rights. If, for any reason, an Institution is deprived of the Voting Right, what interest it will have in the affairs of the Association. In view of these constraints, FPO could devise following alternate proposals and submitted for consideration of the Steering Committee.

#### **Alternate Proposals for Granting the Voting Rights**

##### **Proposal - A:**

International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) maintains and follows 'One Member Institution One Voting Right Policy' which means 'Right of Vote' is accorded to the institutions, not to a country. For example, thirteen Ombudsman Institutions from Canada, eleven from Pakistan and Spain, ten from Argentina, nine from Australia, four from South Korea and two from Bahrain are members of the IOI and each one of these institutions has the equal right of vote. On aggregate, there are 198 Institutions from 113 countries having voting

rights in IOI. This principle is universally accepted and adopted in the International Ombudsman Community under the IOI umbrella.

In the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA), each Country has One Voting Right; **however, all the ‘Founding Members (Institutions)’ have been accorded voting rights under this policy.** Pakistan has three voting rights as three Ombudsman Institutions happened to be the Founding Members of AOA.

Both, the Institutional frameworks, IOI’s Institution-based policy as well as the AOA’s Founding Members criteria, make all the Ombudsman Institutions from a country eligible for the voting rights if they have been the Founding Members of the OIC Ombudsman Association.

### **Proposal - B:**

In order to resolve the probable reservation and impression that with the higher strength of Voting Members, one country would have overwhelming influence in the Association or would seize larger share in the Board of Directors or each time would contest for the Chairmanship / Presidency in the election process, IOI’s experience/policy may help: one of the Pakistan’s 12 Institutions (designated by the Forum of Pakistan Ombudsman) may be accorded position of the “Secretary General” on permanent basis on the analogy of IOI. Since, presently Pakistan hosts the Secretariat of the Association, permanent Secretary General from here will not only provide operational efficiency and continuity to the Association affairs but it will also help improve the Secretariat support. If this arrangement is agreed, Pakistan will not contest for some other post on the Board; however, each of the Founding Members will carry the voting right.

The Hon’ble Members examined the “Alternate Proposals” in details and considered all possible aspects, especially with reference to its impact on the fair and efficient working of the Association. However, it was felt that the “Alternate Proposals” are of great significance for the future of the Association and, thus, need to be considered by all the Members of the Association. It was further felt that if decision on this article (7-a) was left to the next General Assembly scheduled to be held in 2019, it would not be possible to hold election in the same General Assembly Meeting due to pending decision on the Voting Members. After the decision on Voting Members, almost 3-4 months would be required for the preparation of Election in the next General Assembly in 2019. To resolve this issue the Steering Committee decided to forward the “Alternate Proposals” to all the Members of the Association and seek

their vote by circulation on line within a period of two months so that election of the Board of Directors could be held in the next General Assembly in 2019 which would require 3-4 months for preparation under the Bye laws of the Association.

**Decision:**

*The Steering Committee examined the “Alternate Proposals” in details and, considering all aspects with reference to their impact on the fair and efficient working of the Association, decided to forward “Alternate Proposals” to all the Members of the Association seeking their vote, online by circulation, on either of the two proposals within a period of two months so that election of the Board of Directors could be held in the next General Assembly in 2019 which would require 3-4 months for preparation under the Bye laws of the Association. This arrangement was necessitated for the reason that if decision on Article (7-a) would not be taken before 3-4 months of the next General Assembly (2019), it would not be possible to hold election in the same General Assembly Meeting for want of agreed Voting Members list and required time for election procedures under the Bye Laws.*

**Agenda Item No. 5**

**Consideration of Plan for the Election of Board of Directors to be held in 2019 in the General Assembly Meeting scheduled in Turkey.**

**Minutes:**

The Members were apprised that the Steering Committee and the General Assembly of OICOA in their meetings, held on 24-26 September, 2017 in Istanbul-Turkey, after deliberating upon the peculiar situation, rule position and the suggestions put forward by the OICOA Secretariat, decided for the continuation of the Existing Steering Committee till the next General Assembly Meeting in 2019. Therefore, the elections of the Board/Office Bearers were decided to be held in the General Assembly Meeting in 2019.

To implement the above envisaged election program, following issues were placed for the consideration of the Steering Committee:

- 1) Ratification of the decision, taken by the Current Steering Committee Meeting on Article 7-a, needs to be obtained from the Members of the OICOA (General Assembly) by circulation / on line.
- 2) Fixation of date for holding of next General Assembly Meeting in 2019 in Turkey so that Time Schedule for the Election Procedures be finalized accordingly, as required under Article 12 of the Statutes of the Association.

The Members considered these points; as for the first point, it had already been decided in Agenda Item No.4 above that the “Alternate Proposals” will be forwarded to all the Members of the Association seeking their vote, online by circulation, on either of the two proposals within a period of two months so that election of the Board of Directors could be held in the next General Assembly in 2019 which would require 3-4 months for preparation under the Bye laws of the Association. As for the second point, the Hon’ble Chief Ombudsman Turkey enquired from the Executive Secretary for suitable time for the General Assembly Meeting in 2019. The month of September was considered appropriate; however, the final decision will be taken by the Chief Ombudsman Turkey and will be communicated accordingly.

**Decision:**

*It was decided that the “Alternate Proposals” will be forwarded to all the Members of the Association seeking their vote, online by circulation, on either of the two proposals within a period of two months so that election of the Board of Directors could be held in the next General Assembly in 2019. The month of September was considered appropriate for the General Assembly Meeting in 2019; however, the final decision will be taken by the Chief Ombudsman Turkey and will be communicated accordingly.*

**Agenda Item No.6**

**Any other Point that the Chairman or a Member may like to discuss**

No additional point was discussed

**Agenda Item No. 7**

**Vote of Thanks**

Before the close of the Meeting, Hon’ble Members of the Steering Committee offered the Vote of Thanks and Gratitude to his Excellency Mr. Ahmed Abuzaid Ahmed Muhammad, President, Public Grievances Chamber (Ombudsman), Khartoum, Sudan for hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> OICOA Steering Committee Meeting. They also registered their overwhelming gratitude and profound reverence for the Government of Sudan for assisting Public Grievances Chamber in holding this Event so nicely and supporting the cause of Ombudsmanship at the OICOA forum. Last but not the least; the Committee also appreciated the Public Grievances Chamber Team for managing various segments of the Event successfully.