

The Role of The Islamic Conference Organization and Expectations of The Future Role

Abdullah Mubarak¹, Mohd Mizan Bin Mohammad Aslam², Efri Syamsul Bahri³

¹ Al Azhar University, Egypt. E-mail: abdullahmubarak21@gmail.com.

² National Defence University Malaysia (NDUM). Email: mohdmizan@upnm.edu.my.

³ Sekolah Tinggi Ekonomi Islam SEBI, Indonesia. Email: efri.sb@sebi.ac.id.

Article History:

Received: 17 January 17 2024

Revised: 16 April 2024

Accepted: 23 April 2024

Keywords: *Organization of the Islamic Conference, Role of the OIC, World Peace, Conflict Resolution.*

Abstract: *The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is the foundation of Muslims in various dimensions of life. This research aims to identify the role of OIC globally. This research uses qualitative methods with a descriptive approach and a literature study. Research reference data was obtained from journals and reference books related to the role of the OIC. The study's results found ten dimensions of the OIC's role globally: politics, tourism, Islamic diplomacy, conflict resolution, humanity, cooperation for development, human rights, Islamic finance, world peace, and the development of science and technology. The OIC, as an association of countries with an Islamic background, needs to increase its role globally as a solution to various dimensions of problems experienced by OIC members. The implication is that in the future, we need to play an optimal role in population, poverty alleviation, finance, Islamic microfinance, halal economy, humanity and human resources.*

Introduction

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) was founded by the leaders of several Islamic countries at the Conference in Rabat, Morocco, on 22 - 25 September 1969, which agreed to the Rabat Declaration, which affirmed belief in the Islamic religion, respect for the UN Charter and human rights (Kayaoğlu, 2013; Kemenlu, 2022; Nyang, 2021). The formation of the OIC was initially driven by the concerns of Islamic countries over various problems faced by Muslims, especially after the burning of part of the Al-Aqsa Holy Mosque on 21 August 1969 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2022). Azhar (2002) explained that the series of events at the International Islamic Conference meeting up to the burning of the Al Aqsa Mosque was an accumulation of the background to the founding of the OIC in Rabat (Morocco) by as many as 24 Muslim countries.

The existence of the OIC is the foundation of Muslims to overcome various challenges for Muslims globally (Azhar, 2002). The existence of the OIC is very strategic because, globally, it represents more than 1.8 billion people (Ali & Sultan, 2023). Global challenges are increasingly dynamic, and the presence of the OIC is becoming crucial for realising a safe and peaceful world order (Azhar, 2002). Muslims feel the existence of the OIC through various dimensions of its role in protecting and defending the vital interests of Muslims (Puri & Yumitro, 2022). Therefore, identifying the role of the OIC needs to attract the attention of various parties.

The OIC is the only intergovernmental organization representing the world's Muslims (Puri & Yumitro, 2022). Azhar (2002) identified three qualifications for membership of OIC countries: as members (Islamic countries), active participants (not Islamic countries but with a Muslim majority, such as Indonesia) and observer participants, such as members of Mukhtar al-'Alam Islami, Rabithah al-'Alam Islami and the like. As an illustration, at its inception, OK1 consisted of 24 member countries (1969), increasing to 45 countries (1986), totaling 51 countries (1993), and 52 countries (1994) as of December).

However, identifying the role of the OIC has yet to be described optimally. As a result, the picture of the OIC's role globally is limited. This study needs to be carried out to increase the role of the OIC in various dimensions of life. This condition is due to limited research on the role of OIC. An overview of the role of the OIC is needed as a reference for OIC member countries, Muslims and OIC partner countries. One effort that needs to be made is to identify the role of the OIC globally.

Various analyses discuss the role of the OIC globally. Puri & Yumitro (2022) discuss the role of the OIC in Islamic diplomacy. Next, Kharrazi (2022) examines the implementation of Islamic tourism in Muslim countries. Meanwhile, comprehensive discussion regarding the role of the OIC globally still needs to be improved. In line with this information, research on the role of the OIC globally needs to be carried out because it can provide comprehensive information about the role of the OIC globally. In addition, the findings obtained can be used as a basis for research on the role of the OIC globally in various dimensions of life. The OIC, OIC member countries, Muslims, and OIC working partners can also utilise the results to create a safe and peaceful world order. Therefore, this research aims to identify the role of the OIC globally.

Method

This study uses a qualitative method. Several studies e.g. Bowe (2009), Kusumastuti & Khoiron (2019), and Wiharjo & Wulandari (2023) identified that research using qualitative methods can be carried out through document review. In addition, according to Mason (2017), qualitative research is exploratory, flexible and context-sensitive (Wulan et al., 2019). The approach used in this research is descriptive and literature study. The descriptive approach uses written or spoken words and the behaviour of the observed people (Zahira et al., 2022). A descriptive approach is used to explain the role of the OIC globally. Next, a literature study was used to obtain references from various regulations, journals, and other sources. Data comes from regulations, journals and reference books. Data was obtained through a search on Google Scholar. The research results are described based on the role of the OIC globally.

Result and Discussion

The Role of the OIC

The OIC was founded by 24 Muslim countries in 1969 in Morocco, which was driven by the concerns of Islamic countries over various problems faced by Muslims, especially after the burning of part of the Al-Aqsa Holy Mosque on August 21 1969. The OIC became the only inter-governmental organization representing the world's Muslims. Therefore, optimizing the role of the OIC is an essential concern for various parties. One effort that needs to be made is to identify the role of the OIC in various dimensions of life globally. It is presented in detail in Table 1.

Table 1. Dimensions of the OIC Role

No	Dimensions	Description	Source
1	Political	OIC is the second largest organization spread across four continents in the world.	(Ali & Sultan, 2023; Asma, 2019; Kuysinova & Oripovna, 2019)
2	Tourist	OIC has encouraged the implementation and development of Islamic Tourism in Muslim countries since 2000.	(Fahim & Dooty, 2014; Kharrazi, 2022)
3	Islamic Diplomacy	The OIC plays a role in optimizing diplomacy by prioritizing cooperation, peace, and preventing and handling conflict.	(Jati, 2017; Puri & Yumitro, 2022)
4	Conflict Resolution	The Role of the International Conference of Islamic Scholars (ICIS) in Southern Thailand Conflict Resolution.	(Muhammad et al., 2018)
5	Humanity	Undertake humanitarian efforts to support the	(Jati, 2017)

		Rohingya and urge Myanmar to cooperate with UNHCR in returning refugees to their homes (OKI, 2013).	
6	Cooperation for Development	The OIC plays an important role in mediation, cooperation for development, and advancing international cooperation.	(Azhar, 2002; Castillo, 2014)
7	Human Rights	OIC also promotes human rights in the Muslim world	(Kayaoğlu, 2013)
8	Islamic Finance	Increasing Financial Inclusion in Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries.	(Mohieldin et al., 2012)
9	World peace	Efforts for peace and the realization of a safe and peaceful world order.	(Azhar, 2002; Puri & Yumitro, 2022)
10	Development of Science and Technology	Promote science and technology. and its application for the development of the Islamic ummah through the Committee for Science and Technology (COMSTECH).	(Choudhary & Yousuf, 1973)

Source: from various sources

Table 1 shows at least ten dimensions of the OIC's role: politics, tourism, Islamic diplomacy, conflict resolution, humanity, cooperation for development, human rights, Islamic finance, world peace, and the development of science and technology.

Future Role Agenda

As a large organization that is the support of Muslims globally, in the future the OIC needs to play a more significant role. At least, the roles that need to be carried out in the future are related to the four dimensions of life. In detail, this is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Recommendations for the OIC's Future Agenda

No	Dimension	Deskription	Source
1	Population	The future condition of all Muslim countries is related to population size and strategic Muslim countries.	(Nyang, 2021)
2	Poverty Alleviation	Resolving poverty that occurs in OIC countries. Efforts to eradicate poverty among Muslims through the instrument of zakat.	(Bahri et al., 2023; Fatoni et al., 2019; Mohsin, 2020; Nasim Shah Sirazi Amin Md. Fouad, 2010; Ummulkhayr, 2020)
3	Finance	Financial development for economic growth in OIC countries.	(Hassan et al., 2017)
4	Islamic Microfinance	The development of Islamic Microfinance needs to be carried out because almost all OIC countries are in a condition of taking a small portion of sharia financing instruments.	(Arumsari & Rikawati, 2020; Irfan, 2020)
5	Halal Economy	Development of halal economy in OIC countries	(Fauzi et al., 2022)
6	Humanity	Humanitarian aid efforts through Islamic Philanthropy	(Fauzia, 2017)
7	Human Resources	Efforts to develop the Muslim economy through human resource development. Efforts to increase the competency of Muslim resources	(Bahari & Doktoralina, 2019; Koleva, 2021; Yaacob & Azmi, 2012)

Source: from various sources

Tabel 2 menunjukkan bahwa ada tujuh dimensi peran yang perlu dioptimalkan oleh OKI kedepan: population, poverty alleviation, finance, Islamic microfinance, halal economy, humanity, and human resources

Conclusion

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is the foundation of Muslims in various dimensions of life. The aim of this research is to identify the role of OIC globally. This research uses qualitative methods with a descriptive approach and literature study. Research reference data was obtained from journals and reference books related to the role of the OIC. The results of the study found ten dimensions of the OIC's role globally: politics, tourism, Islamic diplomacy, conflict resolution, humanity, cooperation for development, human rights, Islamic finance, world peace, and the development of science and technology. The OIC as an association of countries with an Islamic background needs to increase its role globally as a solution to various dimensions of problems experienced by OIC members. The implication is that in the future, we need to play an optimal role in population, poverty alleviation, finance, Islamic microfinance, halal economy, humanity and human resources.

Acknowledgements

This research has limitations because it is still in the initial study stage, which is identifying the role of the OIC. In the future, a detailed study is needed regarding each OIC role that has been carried out and future roles that need to be carried out.

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