

INAUGURAL CONGRESS OF THE CONFERENCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL JURISDICTIONS OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD (CCJ-I)

ISTANBUL DECLARATION ON THE ADOPTION OF THE CCJ-I STATUTE

On 24 December 2022, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye hosts in Istanbul, Türkiye, the Inaugural Congress of the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of the Islamic World (CCJ-I).

The Heads and representatives from 32 Constitutional and Supreme Courts/Councils and Equivalent Institutions which exercise constitutional jurisdiction of the Islamic world, guest courts, and international institutions participated in the Congress.

First of all, relying on the Istanbul Declaration of 15 December 2018 (hereinafter referred to as “the Istanbul Declaration”) and the Bandung Declaration of 17 September 2021 (hereinafter referred to as “the Bandung Declaration”), the Congress recalled the establishment of a formal independent judicial platform for the respective constitutional jurisdictions of the Islamic world.

The Congress, subsequently, proclaimed the establishment of the draft Statute of this platform, which was prepared by the Working Committee, at expert-level, consisting of Indonesia, Türkiye, Algeria, Pakistan, and Gambia (“the Working Committee”), and submitted to the Congress, in conformity with its mandate, as set forth in the Istanbul and Bandung Declarations.

Within the framework of their constitutional competence, the Constitutional and Supreme Courts/Councils and Equivalent Institutions play an instrumental role to ensure respect for the implementation of national constitutions principles of rule of law, democracy, and human rights.

As guardians of the constitution and these constitutional values, we, the Heads and representatives of the Constitutional and Supreme Courts/Councils and Equivalent Institutions of the Islamic world declare our commitment to ensure rule of law and work against the widespread xenophobic and Islamophobic discourse and practice, which undermine the principles of rule of law, promotion of a dignified life for all humanity and peaceful coexistence between religions and beliefs. In view of the above, the members of the CCJ-I fully committed to the common values of the humanity and the Islamic world.

Reaffirming the commitment to build partnerships through sharing of information and best practices on constitutional cases for the promotion of the above mentioned values and principles in Muslim countries, convinced that the establishment of a permanently functioning body in the field of constitutional justice will greatly enhance cooperation and exchanges of experiences and information among them. Achieving these objectives remains closely linked to the independence and impartiality of constitutional jurisdictions who compose this autonomous, independent judicial framework to ensure its success and continuity, we, the Heads and representatives of the constitutional jurisdictions of the Islamic world, hereby agree:

1. To adopt the official name of the formal judicial platform as “*Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of the Islamic World (CCJ-I)*”;
2. To adopt the Statute of the CCJ-I;
3. To hold the next Congress of the CCJ-I in the venue to be decided by the Board of Members.

The Heads and representatives of delegations present today hereby express their highest appreciation to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye for organizing the Inaugural Congress in an outstanding manner and with excellent hospitality, and also extend their gratitude to all the members of the Working Committee for their hard work and dedication in fulfilling their mandate.

Istanbul, 24 December 2022