

Q7

Q- The Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) has not played an effective role in protecting the rights of member states. How can it become a vibrant organization to achieve its objectives.

Introduction

The OIC can only become a vibrant protector of Muslim interests if it transitions from clerical diplomacy to structured institutional capability. The bloc has 57 members and 1.9 billion population, yet remains under-effective because capacity remains rhetorical rather than operational. Therefore, vibrancy requires legal enforceability, financial independence, coercive diplomacy, and collective action linkage not soft symbolism.

∴ Reorientation from symbolism
to compliance ∴

According to Maleeha Ishaq,
Islamic Multilateralism has been
narrative-driven, not rules-driven.

The OR must embed
binding compliance structure, dispute
settlement mechanisms, and cost-of-
defection models. Presently, resolutions
are expressive content; future
architecture must be regulatory
content. Without legal stickiness,
objectives remains aspirational, not
actionable, not actionable in
powergame.

∴ Power and agenda
diversification ∴

The OR's regime priorities are
Gulf-heavy, creating narrow
thematic bandwidth.

David Balaram (2010) shows
that actor-dependence reduces
coalition autonomy. A vibrant
OIC must broaden thematic
scope toward Africa, Central
Asia, and South east Asia,
where OIC-Asia Hoc
is 44% of membership,
yet underrepresented in
agenda-setting. Decentralizing
policy arenas breaks
patronage capture and increases
collective buy-in.

Symbolic Resolutions
Non-binding statements
with moral pressures
only.

Binding Norms- Sets
Formal agreements with
legal and Political
weight

Compliance Monitoring
Independent bodies
task
Members State
implementation

Policy enforcement
Mechanisms for
incentives and
Sanctions.

∴ Financial autonomy ∴

Donor financing creates policy capture. A vibrant OIC requires assessed contributions formula aligned with GDP share and trade weight. Without fiscal sovereignty, there will never be external diplomatic sovereignty. Alchar Zaidi (2010) notes that **fiscal centricism produces political passivity**. So, budget independence is a functional precondition for strategic independence.

∴ Strategic voice

in Crisis

Vibrancy requires credible crisis-response instruments. In Palestine, Kashmir, and Rohingya cases, the OIC has delivered

narrative support but no coercive
leverage. A vibrant model
introduces legal fact-finding missions,
human rights reporting units,
and automatic diplomatic escalation
protocols. Rights - protection requires
structure, not sentiment.

∴ Coherence through bloc diplomacy ∴

OIC must graduate from ad-
hoc episodic coordination to
structured bloc diplomacy at
UNGA, UNSC, WTO, and
IMF. Presently individual Muslim
states negotiate bilaterally and
unilaterally - weakening bloc weight.
Zahid Hussain (2007) argues
Muslim bargaining weakness comes
from internal incoherence, not
western dominance. Vibrancy requires
linkage - bargaining across forums.

to increase the cost of
ignoring Muslim concerns.

∞ Digital Narrative Capacity ∞

Global perception politics is
information driven. A vibrant
OIC must operationalise coordinated
media diplomacy, especially
in Gaza 2023-2024
context where decontextualised
framing diluted Muslim public
diplomacy. Narrative sovereignty is
a strategic defence asset,
not luxury.

∴ Intra OIC trade and economic gains ∴

Intra-OIC trade is only 12% - far too weak to create interdependence incentives.

Vibrancy requires preferential trade regimes; Islamic fintech linkages, logistics corridors, and energy - to - manufacturing value chain conversions. Without economic cores, political solidarity remains Teflon - nothing sticks.

∴ legal condensation of rights ∴

Rights protection is impossible without legal architecture. The OIC must convert its declarations into treaty grade instruments with automaticity of action. A vibrant OIC

protects members not through
generic moral vocabulary, but
through contracts. Policy
must become hard-law not
soft-norm.

Pakistan's Stake

Pakistan consistently advocates "rule-
based Muslim multilateralism" at
OIC platforms. Yet Pakistan
cannot mobilise bloc activism
if the structure remains
declaratory. Therefore, Pakistan's interest
lies in OIC legalisation, not
emotionalisation. Vibrant OIC
performance is a bandwidth
multiplier for Pakistan's diplomacy.

Conclusion

An OIC that protects member
rights must evolve into a

compliance capacity organization, not
a political-sentiment network-
Institutionalisation, fiscal sovereignty, bloc
diplomacy, economic interdependence,
legal codification, and narrative
powers are the structural levers
for vibrancy. Without transition
to enforceable rules, the
OIC remains symbolically expressive,
but operationally marginal - and
Muslim rights remain globally
under-secured.

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