

REV 2

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DRAFT REPORT

OF THE

**THIRD MEETING OF THE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR ENHANCING
INTRA-OIC TRADE**

Casablanca, 3-4 February 2011

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ENHANCING INTRA-OIC TRADE



1. In the context of the implementation of the resolutions relating to Economic Cooperation of the 3rd Extraordinary Summit of the OIC, particularly, the Declaration of Makkah Al Mukarramah, the Final Communiqué and the Ten-Year Programme of Action to meet the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in the 21st century;

And in compliance with the outcomes of the First and Second Consultative Group for Enhancing intra-OIC trade, held respectively in Casablanca on 11th and 12th February 2009 and 31st May and 1st June 2010, in particular the *“Executive Programme of the Road-MAP for Achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets”*;

And In compliance with resolutions n° 3- ii/ of the 26th session of the COMCEC, which **requested** the OIC Institutions to carry out their activities according to the Executive Program and the IDB to provide necessary financial contribution for the achievement of the activities and projects included in the Executive Program and **urged** the Member States to give the required support to the OIC Institutions for the implementation of the Executive Program and to actively participate in those activities.

The ICDT and the ITFC organized the “Third Meeting of Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC trade” in Casablanca on 3rd and 4th February 2011.

2. The following Institutions attended this meeting:

- ✓ The OIC General Secretariat ;
- ✓ The COMCEC Coordination Office;
- ✓ The Islamic Development Bank GROUP :
The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC);
The Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investments and Export Credit (ICIEC);
The Cooperation Office of IDB Group.
- ✓ The Organisation of the Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA);
- ✓ The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT).

This meeting was also attended by:

- ✓ The Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco;
- ✓ The Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait;
- ✓ The Senegalese Agency for Exports Promotion (ASEPEX);
- ✓ The Export Promotion Center of Tunisia (CEPEX-Tunisia Exports);
- ✓ The Export Promotion Center of Turkey (IGEME);
- ✓ The Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE).

(The list of participants is in annex I)

A/ OPENING SESSION:

3. After the recitation of verses from the holy Koran, H.E. Mr. Allal RACHDI, and Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, delivered a welcoming address to participants. In his speech, he conveyed his deep gratitude and thanks to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and to Mr. Abdellatif MAAZOUZ, the Minister of Foreign Trade for his support to this meeting, stressing the importance given by the Kingdom of Morocco to the Islamic joint action in general and to the economic field in particular.

Mr. Allal RACHDI also conveyed his thanks to His Excellency, Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, the OIC Secretary General, for his kind interest and the importance he gives to this meeting. He also expressed his thanks to H.E. Dr. Waleed Abdulmuhsen AL-WOHAIB, Chief Executive Officer of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) who has kindly attended this meeting despite his full calendar accompanied by a high level Delegation composed of the senior executives of the ITFC and he also welcomed participants and conveyed his thanks to them for having kindly accepted to participate in this meeting, in particular, the Representatives of the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Senegal and Malaysia.

Mr. RACHDI pointed out that this meeting is held within the framework of the follow up of the implementation of the resolutions of the 3rd Extraordinary Summit Conference held in Makkah Al Mukarramah in December 2005 and particularly the follow up of the implementation of the Ten Year Programme of Action in the commercial and economic field, especially, the resolution on raising the level of intra-OIC trade to 20% of the global trade of Member States by the year 2015 and the consideration of establishing of a free trade area among Member States.

He laid stress on the importance of this meeting, which will tackle the projects and activities achieved within the framework of the implementation of the Executive Programme of the Road Map for Enhancing intra-OIC Trade while recalling that the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade has been entrusted with the secretariat of the Executive Programme in its capacity as the OIC Subsidiary Organ in charge of trade and investment development among the OIC Member States. He also underlined that the Centre has committed itself to implement a large number of activities in the field of trade promotion during the remaining period of the Ten Year Programme of Action in addition, notably the activities that it will achieve in the fields of trade facilitation and capacity building.

Then, Mr. Director General expressed the full readiness of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade to work jointly with the relevant institutions of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to implement the remaining part of the Executive Programme of the Road-Map to achieve intra-OIC trade targets.

He also underlined that the aim of increasing intra-OIC trade to 20% by 2015 is feasible and not impossible in view of the huge capacities and means of the Islamic World, and especially if the free trade area among Islamic Countries is established and the required and relevant support measures are taken to improve the trade related services, particularly transportation and logistics and the financing insurance and guarantee of foreign trade transactions. He also added that Member States should give special importance to the development of complementary industries among them and the investment in the sectors with high intra-OIC trade potential. In this respect, he underlined that the pivotal role should be played by the Member States, which are responsible for the implementation of all the recommendations at national, regional levels through the regional economic groupings.

Concluding his speech, Mr. Director General reiterated his deepest thanks to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for its support to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and particularly to the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and conveyed his thanks to His Excellency, Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, the OIC Secretary General, for his kind and valuable support to this meeting and to all the OIC Institutions.

4. The message of Mr. Abdellatif MAÂZOUZ, Minister of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco, was read out by Mr. Khalid SAYAH, Director of International Trade Relations.

At the outset, the Minister Abdellatif MAÂZOUZ extended his warm welcome to all participants, wishing them a pleasant stay in the Kingdom of Morocco. He then expressed the satisfaction of the Kingdom of Morocco at the laudable efforts exerted by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade in cooperation with the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation for the organisation of this important meeting and for the excellent arrangements made to ensure its success and to enhance at the utmost the level of the Intra-OIC Trade.

In this respect, His Excellency put emphasis on the importance of this meeting since it will contribute to establishing a framework that will boost the volume of intra-OIC trade in such a way as to benefit all the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

In the same context, Mr. Minister pointed out that the current volume of intra-OIC exports among the OIC Member States, accounting for 16% of its global trade, does not reflect the real potentialities of Member States. He added that such a deplorable situation is essentially the result of inadequate export incentives adopted by Member States, lack of competitiveness due to stiff modes of production and the increase in the production costs, lack of harmonisation of the trade promotion approaches in view of the great number of intervening operators and the weakness of human and financial resources.

In this connection, Mr. MAAZOUZ laid stress in his speech on the importance of expediting the implementation of the Road Map for Enhancing intra-OIC trade by the entire institutions of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference operating in economic and trade fields. He also called on them to provide the required assistance and support to Member States particularly, with respect to trade promotion, trade financing and the development of strategic goods and capacity building.

He also added that Member States should make every effort to set up new strategies to meet the challenges of markets opening and the requirements of higher competitiveness. He summed the main aspects of this strategy in three essential points, to expedite the market opening process in order to facilitate market access and diversify outlets, the diversification and adaptation of exportable supply to demand requirements, boosting trade promotion through an efficient mobilisation of required human and financial resources. In the same vein, the Minister presented the "*Morocco Export Plus*" strategies and put stress on the importance of an effective and active involvement of the private sector in this process.

5. His Excellency Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, the OIC Secretary General, addressed a message to participants, which was read out by Mr. Gholam Hossein DARZI. In his message, H.E conveyed his deepest thanks to the ICDT and ITFC for organizing this meeting.

H.E Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU recalled in his statement that this meeting reflects the commitment of the OIC Institutions in enhancing the Intra-OIC trade as stipulated by the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action and added that the projects and activities adopted by the first and second consultative meetings have reached an advanced stage of implementation. H.E Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU emphasizes that the preoccupation of General Secretariat is now to resume the work of the Trade Negotiation Committee (TNC) considering the imminent entry into force of the Rules of Origin, which is the only pending multilateral agreement of OIC Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC).

In this regard, the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has communicated their list of products, whose tariffs will be reduced under the provisions of PRETAS. This positive development is very encouraging in order to mobilise sub-regional and regional groups for the rapid take-off of OIC tariff reduction scheme. The WAEMU General Secretariat has reacted favourably to this demarche for accession of their 8 member states in the OIC-TPS Scheme. He underlined in his message that contacts are going on to ensure that the Member Countries in ECO and D8 take the same steps in this direction.

In this respect, His Excellency recalled that the agenda of ICDT and indeed the provisions of the Executive Programme for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade feature prominently the need to involve regional blocs in this process.

H.E announced that efforts are underway on promoting the role of Governments in trade facilitation in such areas as visa simplification, harmonization of trade policies, investment and budgetary measures, it is also crucial that the role of private sector must be given the desired attention. In this regard, he pointed out the role of ICCI, ICD and ICIEC in mobilizing the OIC Private Sectors in specific areas, such as capacity building, attracting foreign direct investment and technology transfer.

In the same vein, H.E. informed this meeting that the General Secretariat is complementing the efforts of the relevant OIC institutions dealing with private sector issues by compiling and updating a list of leading private sector establishments in OIC Countries.

H.E. saluted the ICEDT's initiatives to organize a Regional Trade Fair of Central Asian Member Countries concurrently with the 7th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 7-9 June 2011 which contributes to catalyze intra-OIC trade exchanges to the benefit of increase welfare for the OIC Community.

On the issue of development of strategic commodities, H.E. commended the recent progress realized in funding of the 27 projects under the OIC Cotton Action Plan which will definitely accelerate the process of rehabilitation of the ailing cotton industries in OIC Countries, thereby improving wealth creation and poverty alleviation among various segments of OIC population.

6. H.E. Dr. Waleed Abdulmuhsen AL-WOHAIB, Chief Executive Officer of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), took the floor extending his warmest thanks and gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting this meeting. He also conveyed his thanks to Mr. Abdellatif MAAZOUZ, the Minister of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco and to Mr. Allal RACHDI, Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and his staff for the excellent organization of this meeting and to all participants.

He added that this meeting is taking place in period of economic challenges , resulting from food, energy and financial crisis, leading thus to a decrease in the international economic growth rate and to the high increase of unemployment and the decrease in foreign direct investments flows and the reduction of official development aid.

He pointed out that the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference should necessarily further strengthen cooperation among them in order to remove the obstacles impeding the development of intra-OIC trade, such as the weak infrastructure trade related infrastructure, namely transportation, communication and lack of adequate insurance and guarantees, and the large number of tariff and non tariff barriers and the complexity of customs, administrative and bank measures. In this regard he underlined that the Road Map for enhancing intra-OIC Trade adopted by the 24th Session of the of the COMCEC is considered as a strategic cornerstone to raise the level the volume of

intra-OIC trade to 20% of the global trade of Member States by 2015.

Within this framework, he pointed out that the ITFC has submitted the Road Map to specialised regional and international organisations in 2010. On this basis, new tools were discussed and proposed to increase the efficiency of this road map in strengthening intra-OIC trade through the support of recommendations stressing the vital priorities with a view to boosting intra-OIC trade; the most important ones are as follows:

- Development of the trade information tools of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference such OIC MARKET ACCESS, OIC TRADE MAP, OIC PRODUCT MAP.
- Strengthening of cooperation and communication between Trade Promotion organs and support the establishment of the Federation of the Export Promotion Centres of the OIC Member States.
- Support the access negotiations of the OIC Countries to the WTO.
- To call on the OIC Countries to facilitate and harmonize customs procedures on borders and to derive benefit from the agreements and instruments of the World Customs Organisation in this area.
- To focus on the development of trade corridors and logistics services in the OIC Countries, particularly, the landlocked countries of Africa and Central Asia.
- To support the organisation of the Expert Groups Meetings devoted to transportation and trade facilitation.
- The establishment of instruments defining the role of governments in the support and achievement of the targets of the Executive programme of the road map for enhancing intra-OIC trade.
- To support the efforts and the mobilisation of financial resources supporting projects aiming at facilitating trade.
- To set up investment plans of the sector with high trade potential.
- To support and develop programmes aiming at promoting the role of the private sector in the OIC Member Countries.
- In this respect, His Excellency informed participants that ITFC is preparing the organisation of a meeting to introduce the Road Map for enhancing intra-OIC trade to Business Owners Union to be held on the sidelines of the 36th Annual Board of Governors of the IDB Group in the Republic of Yemen, with God willing on June 2011.

At the end of his speech, HE stressed the strong will and commitment of ITFC to implement the Road Map for enhancing intra-OIC trade and called on the OIC Institutions to pool their efforts together through the implementation of joint and complementary programmes aiming at promoting and supporting trade in strategic products with high trade potential, praying God the Almighty to crown with success all the actions of the OIC stakeholders in the field of intra-OIC trade development for the benefit of the peoples of the OIC Member States.

7. Mr. Metin EKER, Head of COMCEC Coordination Office addressed a message to participants, which was read out by Mr. Murat DELICAY. In this message he expressed his gratitude to ICDT for organizing this important meeting, which provided the opportunity to review the implementation of the Executive Programme.

He then pointed out that each activity programme and project in the executive programme have specific goals, which contribute to increasing intra-OIC trade. In this respect, He underlined that several activities and programmes were held as scheduled in the executive programme.

He then highlighted the importance of TPS/OIC as the institutional basis for raising trade to 20% by 2015 as decided by the 11th Islamic Summit Conference.

He also underscored that Member States which have signed and ratified the Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and TPS/OIC rules of origin are expected to submit their list of concessions to the Trade Negotiating Committee Secretariat in earliest convenience.

He also informed the meeting of the entry force in 2010 of an important project in the Executive programme, namely Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC). The Institute will be based in Istanbul to serve the OIC Countries.

Another important project was finalized by the Expert Group relating to the Halal Food Standards and submitted to the 26th Session of the COMCEC.

Laying stress on the importance of the exchange of information, he mentioned the establishment of a dynamic web portal. Within the framework of the implementation of this project, the Independent Industrialists and Businessmen of Turkey (MUSIAD) has prepared a budget estimate to be submitted to IDB for co-financing.

Stressing the importance of the OIC Cotton Programme, he informed participants of the holding of an evaluation meeting of the implementation of the cotton programme gathering the parties concerned in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco in 2011 as requested by the 26th Session of the COMCEC.

Finally, he informed participants of the new initiative of the COMCEC in transportation sector. On these grounds, the 26th Session of the COMCEC has chosen the "Impact of Transportation Networks on Trade and Tourism" as the theme of the Exchange of View of the 27th Session of the COMCEC.

B/ ADOPTION OF DRAFT AGENDA AND THE PROGRAMME:

8. The Participants adopted the draft agenda and the draft programme submitted by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade.

(The agenda and the programme are in annex 2)

C/ DELIBERATIONS:

9. Following the opening session, participants examined in plenary sessions the following agenda items:

- ✓ **Review of the implementation of the “Executive Programme of the Road-Map for Achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets”.**
- ✓ **Role of Governments on promoting Intra-OIC Trade**
- ✓ **Importance of Establishing Foreign Trade Training Centres**
- ✓ **Consideration of the Pilot Integrated Sector based programme.**
- ✓ **IDB Prize: “The Islamic Solidarity prize for the Promotion of Trade among OIC Member Countries”**

The sessions were chaired respectively by:

Working Session 1 : H.E. Dr. Dato’ Noharuddin NORDIN, CEO of MATRADE

Working Session 2 : H.E. ALLAL RACHDI, Director General of ICDT

Working Session 3 : H.E. Dr. Waleed Abdelmohsin ALWOHAIB, CEO of ITFC

Closing Session : H.E. Eng. Hani Salem SONBOL, Deputy CEO of ITFC

10. During the working sessions, the ICDT made a background presentation on the recent developments of the “Executive Programme of the Road-MAP for Achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets”; then the OIC Institutions presented their respective reports individually. These reports tackled on the one hand the achievements of the and their planned activities scheduled to be implemented for the remaining years of the Ten Years Plan of Action of the OIC, lasting from 2011 till 2015, on the other.

The implementation of the “Executive Programme of the Road-MAP for Achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets”, which is composed of about 199 activities, shows the following:

- ✓ About 49% of the projects were fully implemented up to December 2010;
- ✓ 30% of the projects are in the process of implementation, this is normal since many projects are pluri-annual;
- ✓ 21% of the projects are on stand by position and waiting for their implementation; this is normal also since the Executive Programme includes projects covering a period lasting from 2009 till 2015.

It was noticed that the level of implementation is quite satisfactory since 49% of projects were fully implemented at the midterm of the Plan. As concerns the distribution of the activities by domain, capacity building activities are in the first position with 33%, followed by trade facilitation activities with 28%, trade promotion activities with 23%, trade financing and development of strategic commodities activities are still lagging behind with respectively 9% and 7%.

Several implemented projects are of high importance and impact on intra-OIC trade like those relating to trade financing, trade promotion and trade facilitation; even if their number is quite limited, their impact and their budget are more important and the logistics they require is bigger than the capacity building activities, we can quote, inter alia, the following:

- The implementation of OIC Halal Food standards under the auspices of the COMCEC and SMIIC;
- The organization by ICDT of the trade fair of OIC Member States on regular basis once every two years, the specialized exhibitions notably on agro food industries (Jeddah, yearly) and the Forums and the workshop and buyers/sellers meetings and sensitizing seminar on the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States;
- The launching by ITFC in cooperation the international organizations Regional Aid for Trade Initiatives, which help MCs have their trade development needs identified and projects meeting these needs developed, “Aid for Trade (AfT) Roadmap” for United Nations Special Program for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA): Afghanistan + CIS Member Countries (26 projects) and the “Aid for Trade Road Map for the Arab States” (5 Million US\$);
- The development of Trade Training Centers by ITFC in Malaysia, Turkey and Tunisia;
- The approval of ITFC Trade Finance for LDMCs in 1431H about 1,141 million US\$;
- The progress made by ICCI in establishing a Business Owners Union, the setting up of the Islamic World Trade Directory Project (IWTD) and the steps taken in order to exempt businessmen from visa entry into some countries and training programs for private sector;
- The launching by OISA of Bakkah Shipping Company and Islamic P& I Club for ships insurance;
- The opening of a branch of ICIEC in Dubai.

In general the Executive Programme is on progress, nevertheless more coordination among OIC institutions is needed so as to enhance efficiency and avoid work duplication.

11. “Role of Governments in Promoting Intra-OIC Trade”:

Under this agenda item Dr. Dato’ Noharuddin NORDIN, CEO of MATRADE, presented the experience of the Government of Malaysia in trade promotion at three levels: Policy Initiatives, Institutional Support and Promotion. He stressed the fact that the Malaysian model is holistic, client driven and public private partnership based.

In addition to the global environment, which is business friendly, the political stability and the education system efficiency, the Key Success Factors are the following:

- Holistic approach to promote trade
- New sources of growth & supply capacity
- Trade policies that sustain export growth
- Outcome based performance indicators for export promotion

The Governments are invited to assume standing and continuous responsibilities to support the private sector, under a clear division of labour between the public

sector and the private sector in this regard. The Government should be primarily a facilitator.

12. Importance of Establishing Foreign Trade Training Centres:

Under this agenda item, Mr. M. Mohamed Saleh Al-Hebshi, General Manager Trade Cooperation and Promotion Program (TCPP/ITFC) presented the working paper submitted by Hala Gidamy, Deputy Executive Director Foreign Trade Training Centre - Egypt (FTTC).

13. "Pilot Integrated Sector based programme":

The participants decided to launch a new wave of joint activities based on integrated programmes approach focused on targeted products and Countries.

The aim of Integrated Sector Based programme is to implement holistic approach in order to expand intra-OIC trade in some groups of products with high trade potential, notably:

Goods:

- cotton, textiles, clothing & accessories
- building materials (cement, steel and related products)
- leather, footwear and related products
- food products (edible oils, cereals, fisheries)
- Pharmaceutical products
- information technologies products.

Services :

- transportation and logistics
- construction and engineering
- educational services
- health services
- communication services.

The Meeting emphasized the importance of speeding up the implementation of the OIC Cotton programme. In this regard, the Meeting decided to increase cooperation to ensure the success of this programme.

The Meeting also welcomed the initiative of the COMCEC to revitalize cooperation in transportation sector and called on the OIC Institutions to give maximum support for the achievement of the upcoming activities to be held in 2011.

14. IDB Prize: "The Islamic Solidarity prize for the Promotion of Trade among OIC Member Countries":

As concerns "The Islamic Solidarity prize for the Promotion of Trade among OIC Member Countries", ICDT submitted a draft technical note on this issue. After discussions and some slight amendments, the draft note was adopted and ICDT was entrusted with the task of preparing the ranking of OIC Member States performances in trade promotion in OIC Zone every year. This ranking will be submitted to the Adjudicating Panel of the Prize for final decision.

D/RECOMMENDATIONS:

15. After fructuous discussions the meeting adopted the following recommendations:

- To increase efforts by the concerned entities to implement the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States and establish the desired OIC Free Trade Area.
- To seek the support of forthcoming Islamic Summit, through COMCEC recommendation or resolution, to create a high level contact group, under the chairmanship of the COMCEC, to sensitize Member States on the need for early implementation of TPS/OIC.
- To call Member States, through COMCEC recommendation or resolution, to consider establishment of foreign trade training centers to meet local capacity development needs of their respective countries due to the importance of capacity building on trade development.
- To request ITFC, ICDT, and IDB Group through GTRC, to submit a proposal in order to launch a Pilot integrated programs.
- To call on ICIEC and the Cooperation Office of IDB Group to increase their participation in the scheduled activities within the executive program for enhancing intra-OIC trade and propose activities and programmes to strengthen their role in achieving the targets of the programme.
- To call and urge Member States, through OIC Organs (such as COMCEC), to intensify their efforts in promotion of foreign trade and provide the Trade Promotion Organizations/Export Development Agencies of their respective countries the necessary support and funds to promote intra-OIC trade.
- To entrust ICDT with publishing an annual report for submission to COMCEC Ministerial Meeting on the development level of intra-OIC trade share and the growth of intra-OIC trade level of each Country along with the required recommendations for the improvement of intra-OIC trade.
- To entrust ICDT with the task of preparing the ranking of OIC Member States performances in trade promotion in OIC Zone every year. This ranking will be submitted to the Adjudicating Panel of the “The Islamic Solidarity Prize for the Promotion of Trade among OIC Member Countries” for final decision.
- To call on ICDT to finalize the study of scenarios on the future forecasts on Inter-Islamic trade promotion in next year.
- To support Bakkah Shipping Company affiliated from OISA for construction of two large ships and request the Islamic Financial Institutions to grant financing for remaining 20% loan.
- To invite OIC Member Countries, by Bakkah Shipping Company, to register ships with Islamic Protection and Indemnity Club one of the project of OISA in order to reach the Club to the international level.
- To improve the capitalization of ICIEC, by MCs, in order to continue promoting intra-OIC Trade as the engine of Economic Cooperation.

- To invite OIC Institutions, by ICDT, to put more emphasis on trade facilitation, trade promotion activities and products with high trade potential which will develop complementarities among OIC Countries.

E/ADOPTION OF THE REPORT:

16. The Participants adopted the report along with the recommendations and the projects and requested the Director General of ICDT to submit it to the Competent Organs of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference notably, the Islamic Commission of Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, the COMCEC Meetings (Ministerial Session and the Follow up Committee) and to the meetings of the Task Force on intra-OIC Trade.

E/MOTION OF THANKS:

17. At the end of the meeting, participants requested the Minister of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco to convey to His Majesty Mohamed the Sixth, King of Morocco, their high esteem and profound gratitude as well as to the Moroccan Government and people for the warm hospitality and facilities that were extended to them.

The participants also conveyed their deepest thanks to His Excellency Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, the Secretary General of the OIC, for the important message that His Excellency addressed to participants and for his sustained efforts to achieve the goals set by the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference.

The participants have also extended their deep congratulations to the Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and to the Chief Executive Officer of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and their staff for the efforts they have made to provide the best conditions, which ensured the success of this Meeting.