REPORT

TWENTY NINTH MEETING
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
OF THE COMCEC

Ankara, 14-15 May 2013
ADDRESS:
COMCEC Coordination Office
Necatibey Cad. 110/A
Ankara-TURKEY
Phone : 90-312-294 57 10 – 294 57 30
       90-312-294 57 16
Fax : 90-312-294 57 77 – 294 57 79
Website: www.comcec.org
E-mail : comcec@dpt.gov.tr
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REPORT


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1. The Twenty Ninth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 14-15 May 2013 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

2. Representatives of the following Member States of the Committee attended the Meeting:

   1- Republic of Turkey : (Chairman, Permanent),
   2- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia : (Vice Chairman, Permanent Member),
   3- State of Palestine : (Vice Chairman, Permanent Member),
   4- Arab Republic of Egypt : (Vice Chairman, Current Chairman of the 12th Summit),
   5- State of Qatar : (Vice Chairman, Representing the Arab Region),
   6- Republic of Kazakhstan : (Vice Chairman, Representing the Asian Region),
   7- Republic of Mali : (Vice Chairman, Representing the African Region),
   8- Islamic Republic of Pakistan : (Rapporteur),
   9- State of Kuwait : (Member of the Previous Bureau),
  10- Islamic Republic of Iran : (Member of the Previous Bureau),
  11- Republic of Cameroon : (Member of the Previous Bureau)

3. Representatives of the Republic of Iraq attended the Meeting as observers.

4. In addition, Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), Organization of the Islamic Ship-owners
Association (OISA), the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) have attended the Meeting.

(The list of participants is attached as Annex I.)

**Opening Session (Agenda Item: 1)**

5. Following the recitation from the Holy Qur'an, H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey, inaugurated the Meeting.

6. H.E. Abdullah GÜL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, has sent a message to the Meeting. His message was read out by Mr. Sadık ARSLAN, Advisor to the President. In his message, H.E. Abdullah GÜL emphasized the urgent need for strengthening cooperation among COMCEC Member States to address challenges and issues posed by global financial crisis and to benefit from the opportunities especially Foreign Direct Investments provided by the present global economic system.

7. In this regard, H.E. Abdullah GÜL stressed the importance of the New COMCEC Strategy which defined its core principles as Enhancing Mobility, Strengthening Solidarity and Improving Governance. H.E. GÜL highlighted the new implementation instruments introduced by the new Strategy, namely Working Groups and Project Cycle Management (PCM) as the promoters of effective economic and commercial cooperation in the coming period. H.E. GÜL called upon all Member States to support activities within the framework of Working Group Meetings and PCM.

8. H.E. Abdullah GÜL also expressed his satisfaction with the progress achieved in cooperation efforts in various economic sectors through forums, seminars and workshops which enable Member States to share information and best practices in the respective fields. H.E. GÜL requested all Member States to actively participate in the upcoming COMCEC activities.


(A copy of the text of the Message of H.E. President Abdullah GÜL is attached as Annex II.)

10. Following the message of H.E President GÜL, H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ addressed the meeting. In his statement, H.E. YILMAZ touched upon recent global economic developments as well as Member Countries’ economic performance as a group in this period.
11. H.E. YILMAZ stated that developing countries’ role in global economy has been increasing in recent decades. He pointed out the GDP growth in developing countries almost doubled the developed countries’ growth rate between the years 2001 and 2011.

12. In this regard H.E. Cevdet YILMAZ stressed soaring importance of developing countries and expressed that shifting global economic axis also reveals itself in the distribution of global Foreign Direct Investments. H.E. YILMAZ expressed that despite setbacks in the global economy, OIC Member States have relatively performed well as they have achieved higher export growth rates than the world average after crisis period. On the other hand he emphasized that a significant number of COMCEC countries’ export still based on raw materials and limited agriculture products. H.E. YILMAZ stressed the importance of diversification of exports, branding and adapting competitive production structures.

13. H.E. YILMAZ also gave insights on the new instruments of the COMCEC Strategy namely, COMCEC Working Groups and the Project Cycle Management. He expressed that first project call would be made in September 2013 and he expected to see Member States’ project proposals which would strengthen cooperation among the Member States.

14. H.E. YILMAZ ended his speech by conveying his wishes that the 29th Follow-up Meeting of COMCEC would contribute to the amity and prosperity of the Islamic Ummah.

(The text of the Statement of H.E. Cevdet YILMAZ is attached as Annex III.)

15. The message of H.E. Professor Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, Secretary General of OIC, was read out by Mr. Gholamhossein DARZI, Director at the Department of Economic Affairs of the OIC General Secretariat. In his message, H.E. Prof. İHSANOĞLU requested the Members of the Committee to support various initiatives; mechanisms and modalities for increasing intra-OIC trade not only in the framework of removing tariff barriers but also in the area of non-tariff measures. H.E. the Secretary General emphasized the need for creating workable implementation modalities for all OIC programmes and also the critical issue of mobilization of funds for identified projects. The Secretary General stressed the importance of deepening national ownership and elaboration of bankable projects to generate greater confidence, participation and collaboration of international donors and regional partners.

(A copy of the text of the message of H.E. Professor Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU is attached as Annex IV.)

16. The Meeting was then addressed by the Heads of Delegation of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, State of Qatar, Republic of Cameroon, Arab Republic of Egypt,
Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Mali, State of Palestine, State of Kuwait and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They expressed their thanks and appreciation to the President of the Republic of Turkey and the Government and the People of Turkey for their continued support to economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States as well as for the warm welcome accorded and excellent arrangements made at the Meeting. The delegates expressed their views regarding the importance of enhancing economic and commercial cooperation carried out under the umbrella of the COMCEC.

Sideline Event

17. The 22nd Meeting of the Sessional Committee was held as a sideline event with the participation of the relevant OIC Institutions.

   (A copy of the report of the 22nd Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as annex V.)

Working Sessions

18. The working sessions of the Meeting were chaired by H.E. Ahmet YAMAN, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Development of the Republic of Turkey.

19. The agenda of the Meeting was unanimously adopted by the Committee.

   (A copy of the Agenda is attached as Annex VI.)

Presentation on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation (Agenda Item: 2)

20. The Committee welcomed the operationalization of the COMCEC Strategy and called upon the Member States to work towards its implementation in line with the available mechanisms.

21. The Committee also requested the OIC institutions to extend their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

22. The Committee also welcomed the convening of the Working Groups in the cooperation areas identified by the Strategy.

23. The Committee further took note of the preparations for the launch of the multi-annual program in September 2013 for financing the COMCEC projects within the Project Cycle Management Mechanism envisaged by the COMCEC Strategy and requested the Member States to submit their project proposals to the COMCEC Coordination Office.
Presentation on the Implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action (TYPOA) (Agenda Item: 3)

24. The Committee acknowledged the progress in implementation of the OIC Ten Year Program of Action and requested the Member States and the OIC Institutions to increase their efforts towards reaching the objectives of the TYPOA.

25. The Committee requested the Member States to implement the decisions of the COMCEC and sign and ratify the agreements in the economic domain.

Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade (Agenda Item: 4)

26. The Committee welcomed the preparations made for the First Meeting of the Trade Working Group envisaged by the COMCEC Strategy with the theme of “Promoting the SMEs Exports in the OIC Member States: The Role of the TPOs” to be held on June 20th 2013 in Ankara, Turkey.

27. The Committee requested the Member States which have already registered to COMCEC Trade Working Group to participate in this meeting.

28. The Committee also requested the Member States which have not done so to notify their focal points to the COMCEC Trade Working Group and actively participate in its first meeting.

i) TPS-OIC

29. The Committee welcomed the signing of the three TPS-OIC agreements by Benin and Mauritania.


31. The Committee welcomed the ratification of the Rules of Origin by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ratification of the PRETAS by the Republic of Gambia and the ratification of the Framework Agreement by Djibouti and Kuwait.

32. The Committee took note with satisfaction the organization of Awareness-Raising and Training Seminar on the TPS-OIC by the ICDT for the benefit of the Executives of the Ministry of Commerce in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq from 17th to 19th March 2013.
33. The Committee took note with satisfaction the ICDT’s technical assistance activities, in particular the organization of Awareness Raising and Training Seminars on the TPSOIC, held in Libya on 13-14 March 2012 and in Kuwait on 14th and 15th May 2012. The Committee also took note of the Awareness Raising and Training Seminar on TPSOIC to be held on 10-12 June 2013 in Palestine.

34. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 28th Session of the COMCEC, the Committee urged the Member States which have ratified PRETAS to notify the Trade Negotiating Committee Secretariat, their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of products and the MFN applied rate applicable on October 1st, 2003.

35. The Committee also urged the Member States which have ratified the Rules of Origin to complete the necessary internal legislative and administrative measures, which include printing TPS-OIC Certificate of Origin and conveying specimen impressions of stamps to the Trade Negotiating Committee Secretariat.

36. The Committee reiterated its call on the Member States which have not yet signed or ratified TPS-OIC Agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, PRETAS and Rules of Origin, to do so, at their earliest convenience.

37. The Committee requested the relevant OIC Institutions (OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT) to further their efforts with a view to raising awareness of the Member States, as well as the regional economic groupings comprising the Member States on TPSOIC.

38. The Committee took note that for the implementation of the TPS-OIC System at least ten Member States need to complete the ratification process of the three TPS-OIC Agreements and submit their list of concessions at the same time. The Committee underlined that the System could not be operationalized due to the fact that there are nine Member States which have both ratified the aforementioned agreements and submitted the list of concessions.

39. The Committee requested the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to consider convening when the required number of Member States having ratified the three TPSOIC Agreements convey their lists of concessions to the TNC Secretariat.

**ii) Islamic Trade Fairs**

40. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the State of the United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah) for hosting the 1st OIC Halal Food Expo in collaboration with ICDT and the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 10-12 December 2012 and welcomed the offer of the State of the United Arab
Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah) to host the 2nd OIC Halal Food Expo in collaboration with ICDT and the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 16-18 December 2013 and urged the Member States to actively participate in this event.

41. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and to ICDT for organizing the First OIC Commercial Handicraft Expo on 11-14 April 2013 in Casablanca.

42. The Committee welcomed the offers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 14th, 15th, 16th and the 17th editions of the Trade Fairs of the OIC Member States respectively in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019 and urged the Member States to actively participate in these fairs.

43. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Sultanate of Oman for hosting the 6th Agribusiness Industries Exhibition of the OIC Member States in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, in collaboration with ICDT and Al Sham Company on 13-16 May 2013.

44. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the 2nd OIC HEALTH EXPO in Dakar in collaboration with ICDT and CICES in 2014 and urged the Member States to actively participate in this exhibition.

45. The Committee requested the ICDT to hold more sector-specific exhibitions and to keep on utilizing professional expertise in these activities.

46. The Committee requested ICDT to examine new ways and means to improve the content of its trade fairs and exhibitions in collaboration with relevant authorities in the OIC Member States with a view to attracting visitors from all around the world.

47. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) for including “Management of Fairs for Chambers” in TOBB-IDB (ITFC)-ICCIA Chamber Academy Programme in order to share its experience with the Member States and the ICDT.

48. The Committee requested ICDT to submit regular progress reports on the trade and tourism fairs of the OIC Member States and the other specialized exhibitions to the COMCEC Sessions.

49. The Committee took note of the other fairs and exhibitions to be organized by the ICDT and requested the Member States to participate in these events.

(The list of fairs and exhibitions to be organized by the ICDT is attached as Annex VII.)
iii) Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade

50. The Committee took note of the report of the “5th Meeting of the Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC trade” in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, from 27 to 28 February 2013.

51. The Committee requested the Consultative Group to carry out its work with the active participation of the OIC Institutions in line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC and in accordance with its mandate.

52. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting, and to ICDT and IDB Group for organizing the “OIC High Level Forum on Trade Facilitation & Single Window Initiatives for Enhanced Regional Economic Cooperation” in Casablanca (Kingdom of Morocco) on 25-26 February 2013.

53. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey, ICDT, IDB Group and TPI for organizing the Seminar on the Industrial Property Policies on 8-9 November 2012 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey in collaboration with WIPO and TIKA.

54. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the Seminar on R&D valorization, technological innovation and Intellectual Property among the OIC Member States to be organized by ICDT and OMPIC in collaboration with WIPO in Casablanca on 4-5 July 2013 and urged the Member States to actively participate in this event.

55. The Committee requested the Member States to keep on providing the ICDT with data relating to trade and investment statistics and regulations.

iv) WTO Related Technical Assistance

56. The Committee thanked the Republic of Turkey, IDB Group and ICDT for organizing WTO related training courses and seminars for the benefit of the Member States.

57. The Committee called on IDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues.

58. The Committee welcomed the accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO.
v) **Trade Financing Activities**

59. The Committee took note of the trade finance activities of the IDB Group (ITFC) and the mobilization of funds from the international market for funding the trade operations in the member countries, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 20 percent.

60. The Committee requested the IDB Group (ITFC) to consider developing new credit instruments covering both medium and long term finance for semi-capital and capital goods.

vi) **Trade Related Activities of SMIIC**

61. The Committee welcomed the increasing visibility of the SMIIC and expressed its appreciation to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence to contribute to the expansion of intra-OIC trade.

62. The Committee also welcomed the organization of SMIIC Forum on 8-9 November 2012 in Antalya, Turkey as a platform bringing experts and professionals from the fields of standardization, accreditation and metrology.

63. The Committee further welcomed the establishment of seven technical committees as well as accreditation committee and Metrology Committee under SMIIC which would expedite the development of standardization, accreditation and metrology in the Member States and called upon the Member States and the OIC institutions to support the activities of the SMIIC.

64. The Committee welcomed the membership of Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Lebanon and Afghanistan to the SMIIC.

65. The Committee requested the Member States which have not done so far, to join SMIIC to benefit from the services to be provided by the SMIIC.

**Improving Transport and Communication (Agenda Item 5)**

66. The Committee welcomed the convening of the 1st Meeting of the COMCEC Transport Working Group held on March 28th, 2013 in Ankara.

67. The Committee requested the Member States, which have not done so, to notify their focal points for the Transport Working Group to the COMCEC Coordination Office and encouraged them to actively participate in the 2nd Meeting of the COMCEC Transport Working Group to be held in the last quarter of 2013.
68. The Committee welcomed the recent developments with regard to the final prefeasibility studies on the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project in the framework of cooperation between OIC and African Union. The Committee requested the participating Member States to submit the relevant documents on their national segments on the railway line for further action before eventual convening of a donors conference on this project.

Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector (Agenda Item 6)

69. The Committee welcomed the convening of the 1st Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group with the theme of "A New Trend in Sustainable Tourism Development: Community Based Tourism in the COMCEC Region" held on April 25th, 2013 in Ankara.

70. The Committee requested the Member States, which have not done so, to notify their focal points for the Tourism Working Group to the COMCEC Coordination Office and encouraged them to actively participate in the 2nd Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to be held in the last quarter of 2013.

71. The Committee took note of the report of the “First Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum” held on 7-8 of December 2012, in İzmir, Turkey and requested the Member States to encourage their private sector representatives in tourism sector to actively participate in the 2nd Meeting of the Forum to be held in December 2013.

72. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Republic of Gambia to host the 8th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) on 3-5 December, 2013 in Banjul and urged the Member States to actively participate in the event.

73. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for organizing the training program on “Hotel Management and Travel Agency Business” on 16-20 April, 2013 in Antalya, Turkey in line with the relevant resolution of the 28th Session of the COMCEC. The Committee called on the Member States to organize similar programmes.

74. With a view to facilitating the mobilization of funds needed for the financing of the project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in A Cross-Border Network and Protected Areas in West Africa”, the Committee requested the participating Member States to include the project as a priority in their development programmes submitted to bilateral and multilateral donors and to submit the projects related to national segments to the next Steering Committee meeting of the project and the Committee asked the IDB Group, ICDT and SESRIC which established relations with the UNWTO to support their efforts in this regard.
Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
(Agenda Item 7)

75. The Committee welcomed the 1st meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to be held on June 6th, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of “Increasing Agricultural Productivity in the COMCEC Region: Improving Irrigation Capacity” and requested the Member States, which have already registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group, to ensure their relevant Institutions’ participation in this meeting.

76. The Committee requested the Member States, which have not done so to notify their focal points for the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group and participate in its first meeting.

77. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the Republic of Turkey and the SESRIC in organizing training courses on different technical agricultural and food security aspects in the Member States within the framework of the OIC Agriculture Capacity Building Programme.

78. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to organize the meeting of inter-governmental group of experts to finalize the constituent instrument of OIC Food Security Institution in Kazakhstan on 11-13 June 2013 in Astana and requested the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

79. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the 7th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development on 14-16 November 2013 in Dakar.

80. Keeping in mind the dates of the 29th Session of the COMCEC to be held on 18-21 November, 2013 the Committee requested the government of the Republic of Senegal to consider rescheduling the dates of the Conference for active participation of the Member States.

Eradicating Poverty (Agenda Item 8)

81. The Committee welcomed the 1st meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to be held on June 27, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of “Enhancing Productive Capacity of the Poor in the COMCEC Member Countries through Improving the Human Capital” and requested the Member States, which have already registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group, to ensure their relevant Institutions’ participation in this meeting.

82. The Committee also requested the Member States, which have not done so, to notify their focal points for the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group and participate in its first meeting.
i) Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA)

83. The Committee **reiterated** its request to the Member Countries which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments so as to enable it to finance more projects in Member States and Muslim Communities and Minorities.

84. The Committee **welcomed** the initiatives of ISFD aiming at achieving and intensifying the efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy.

85. The Committee also **welcomed** the efforts of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for mobilization of resources from different financing institutions for the implementation of the Special Programme for the Development of Africa (SPDA).

86. The Committee **took note** of the initiative of IDB Group for formulating an action plan to facilitate the effective implementation of the projects and to assess the effectiveness of the program.

ii) OIC Cotton Program

87. The Committee **expressed** its thanks to the Republic of Turkey for organizing the sixth Steering Committee Meeting of the OIC Cotton Action Plan on April 3rd, 2013, in Ankara.

88. The Committee **thanked** the IDB for financing some of the projects and **requested** the IDB Group to finalize its consideration of the remaining projects which have already been submitted through proper channels for financial support.

89. The Committee **re iterated** its request from the IDB Group to submit regular progress reports to COMCEC Meetings on the status of the projects under consideration for funding.

90. The Committee **welcomed** the organization of the two-weeks Capacity Building programme in the field of cotton by the Republic of Turkey for the experts from Afghanistan starting on June 3rd, 2013 at the Nazilli Cotton Research Institute.

91. The Committee **took note** with appreciation of the efforts of SESRIC in organizing training courses on various cotton-related aspects in the Member States within the framework of OIC Cotton Training Programme (OIC-CTP), and **urged** the Cotton Research Centres of Excellence to enhance their cooperation with SESRIC in implementing these training courses.
iii) OIC-VET Program

92. The Committee took note with appreciation the continuous efforts of SESRIC towards initiating and implementing various capacity building programmes and training courses in different fields and areas of interest to the Member States within the framework of OIC-VET Programme with a view to enhancing the capacities and quality of human resources in these countries.

93. The Committee requested the SESRIC and IDB to continue developing and implementing new projects and initiatives under the OIC-VET sub-programmes, and called upon the Member States to participate and support the various capacity building programmes of SESRIC under the OIC-VET Programme through activating the role of their National Focal Points (NFPs) in this important Programme.

94. The Committee took note with appreciation of the efforts of SESRIC and IDB Group towards finalizing the comprehensive study entitled “Managing Natural Disasters and Conflicts in OIC Countries: An Integrated Approach”, which will be submitted to the 29th Session of COMCEC.

95. The Committee also took note of the efforts of SESRIC and IDB Group towards organizing a workshop on “Innovative Solutions to Poverty Reduction” on 26-28 June 2013 in Ankara.

(The list of capacity building programmes and trainings to be organized by the SESRIC under the OIC-VET programme is attached as Annex VIII.)

Deepening Financial Cooperation (Agenda Item 9)

96. The Committee welcomed the organization of the 1st meeting of the COMCEC Finance Working Group to be held in the second half of 2013 in Ankara and requested the Member States, which have not done so, to notify their focal points to the COMCEC Coordination Office at the earliest convenience for participating in this meeting.

i) Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges

97. The Committee stressed the achievements of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum in deepening cooperation among the Stock Exchanges of the Member States and called upon the Member States to actively participate in the Forum’s meetings.

98. Recalling the relevant decision of the 28th Session of the COMCEC, the Committee requested the Member States and IDB to lend their support for the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index in the Member States.
99. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Borsa Istanbul to host the 7th Meeting of the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum in September 19th, 2013 in Istanbul and requested the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

**ii) Cooperation among Capital Markets’ Regulatory Bodies**

100. The Committee took note of the progress achieved within the context of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum and called on the Member States to extend their support to the activities of the Forum and its Task Forces.

101. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey to host the 2nd Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum in September 19th, 2013 in Istanbul, and invited the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

**iii) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities**

102. The Committee acknowledged the on-going concerns on global financial situation, and welcomed the close cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States.

103. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 13th Meeting of OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities in Jeddah on 27-28 November 2013 under the theme “Impact of Recent International Financial Regulatory Reforms on OIC Countries” and requested the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.

Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation (Agenda Item 10)

**i) Private Sector Meetings**

104. The Committee took note of the activities organized by the ICCIA for the benefit of the private sector of the OIC Member States including the 6th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries held in Kingdom of Bahrain from 12th – 14th December 2012 and the Training Programme on Entrepreneurship Development for OIC Countries held in Sharjah, UAE, from 18th to 20th March 2013.

105. The Committee took note of the activities of the ICCIA to be organized in 2013 and called upon private sector of the Member Countries to participate in these activities.

(The list of activities of the ICCIA to be organized in 2013 is attached as Annex IX.)
106. The Committee welcomed the announcement made by the Ministry of Customs and Trade of Turkey to host the Workshop on “Cooperation and Experience Sharing Among the Company Registration Agencies of the OIC Member States” on 11-12 September 2013, in Ankara, Turkey and requested the Member States to actively participate in the Workshop.

Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “Increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Flows to the OIC Member Countries” (Agenda Item 11)

107. The Committee took note of the preparations regarding the exchange of views session on “FDI Flows to the OIC Member Countries” and requested the Member Countries to actively participate in the Preparatory Workshop to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office and SESRIC in cooperation with the IDB Group (ICIEC) on 24-25 September 2013 in Ankara, Turkey.

108. The Committee requested the Member States to communicate their country reports on FDI to the COMCEC Coordination Office by October 15, 2013 to be distributed during the 29th Session of the COMCEC.

i) Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 30th COMCEC Session

109. The Committee took note of the following possible themes of the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 30th Session of the COMCEC:

   Theme 1: The Role of Public-Private Sector Partnership for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States
   Theme 2: Enhancement of the outreach to Islamic Financial Services in OIC Member States
   Theme 3: Facilitating Access to Trade Finance in the OIC Member States
   Theme 4: Managing the Informal Economy in the OIC Member States
   Theme 5: Enhancing Aid Efficiency and Developing Effective Aid Strategies and Policies

110. The Committee requested the SESRIC to circulate a questionnaire to the Member States to explore their views on the above themes and report to the 29th Session of the COMCEC. The theme getting the highest score will be recommended as the theme for Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 30th Session of the COMCEC.
Presentation on the New COMCEC Project Funding (Agenda Item 12)

111. The Committee **appreciated** the presentation made by the COMCEC Coordination Office on the new COMCEC project funding introduced by the COMCEC Strategy.

112. The committee **welcomed** the preparations for the first Project Call which will be made in September 2013 within the framework of the new COMCEC PCM introduced by the COMCEC Strategy.

113. The Committee **invited** the Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions to present their projects to the COMCEC Coordination Office within the given time frame.

Draft Agenda of the 29th Session of the COMCEC (İstanbul, 18-21 November 2013) (Agenda Item 13)

114. The Committee **decided** to submit the Draft Agenda to the 29th Session of COMCEC.

   (A copy of the Draft Agenda of the 29th Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex X.)

Renewal of the Bureau Members

115. The Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office, to notify the Member States presently representing the three geographical regions on the Bureau, as Vice Chairmen, namely Republic of Mali, the Republic of Kazakhstan and State of Qatar, to conduct consultations with the Member States in their regions for nominations of the new Bureau members to be decided during the 29th Session of the COMCEC.

Thanks and appreciation

116. The Committee **thanked and appreciated** the efforts of the Republic of Turkey as the host country, Member States, OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, IDB Group, SESRIC, ICDT, ICCIA, SMIIC and all other cooperating partners that have carried out the activities stated in the "Working Sessions" section of this Report.
Closing Session

117. At its Closing Session chaired by H.E. Ahmet YAMAN, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Development of the Republic of Turkey, the Committee adopted its Report together with its Annexes. The Committee requested the COMCEC Coordination Office to circulate the Report among the Member States, and to submit it to the Twenty Ninth Session of the COMCEC.

118. Gholamhossein DARZI, Director at the Department of Economic Affairs of the OIC General Secretariat, read out the message of H.E. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, Secretary General of the OIC. In his message, H.E. Prof. İHSANOĞLU expressed his appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the traditional warm and brotherly hospitality accorded to all delegations.

119. Upon the proposal of the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Mali, the Participants of the 29th Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the COMCEC decided to convey a special vote of thanks to H.E. Abdullah GÜL, President of the Republic of Turkey, for his wise leadership as Chairman of the COMCEC, as well as to the People and Government of the Republic of Turkey for the warm welcome and excellent hospitality and arrangements made for the meeting.

120. In his closing statement, H.E. Ahmet YAMAN expressed his heartfelt thanks to the participants for their active participation and valuable contributions. He emphasized the significant progress achieved in enhancing economic cooperation among the Member States and stressed the importance of the recommendations adopted by the 29th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC. Highlighting the significance of financial cooperation, improving investment climate, promotion of FDI flows for the economies of the member countries and the miniscule share of COMCEC countries in global FDI flows, Mr. YAMAN emphasized the pertinence of the selection of “Increasing FDI flows to the OIC Member Countries” as the theme for the exchange of views session of the 29th COMCEC.

121. H.E. YAMAN concluded his statement by expressing his thanks and appreciations to the delegations from member countries, representatives of OIC Institutions, COMCEC Coordination Office, interpreters, translators and other staff taking part in the organization of the meeting.
ANNEXES
ANNEX

I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
OF THE TWENTY NINTH MEETING
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(Ankara, 14 – 15 May 2013)

A. MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

- H.E. IYA TIDJANI
  Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon in Riyadh

- Mr. EVANE EVARISTE
  Attache of Prime Minister’s Services

- Mr. BOUBA AOUSSINE
  Inspector, Ministry of Commerce

- Ms. MBUR TASHA ANNA BANINLA
  Sub-Director in charge of the Relations with OIC,
  Ministry of External Relations of Cameroon

- Mr. AHMAD MALLAM
  Research Officer, Ministry of Economy and Planning

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- Ms. AMANY MAHMOUD FAHMY
  Deputy Assistant Minister for International Economic Relations,
  Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. EHAB MOHAMED FATHY
  Head of COMCEC Department, Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

- Mr. MOHammad SABBAGH ZIARANI
  Division Chief, Office for Loans,
  International Organizations and Institutions, Organization for Investment,
  Ministry of Finance

- Dr. MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN SHOJA’EE
  Advisor to the Centre for Islamic Research and Studies, Chamber of Commerce of Iran

- Mr. HASSA MOLLA JAFARI
  Counsellor, Embassy of Iran in Ankara
REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

- Mr. ABDUL Samed Jaber Hassan
  Expert, International Organizations Department

- Mr. Farej Mohammad Abdullah
  Manager, Responsible for Regional Organizations Division

- Mr. Nadhim Hassan A. Al-Obaidi
  Commercial Attache, Embassy of Iraq in Ankara

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

- Mr. Arman Baisuanov
  Counselor of the Permanent Mission

- Ms. SabdinoVA Dinara
  The Director of Strategical Planning and Programme Document Analysis Department of
  the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan

- Mr. Tugelbai Bekbergenov
  Head of Division of Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of
  Kazakhstan Tourism Industry Committee

- Mr. Baitaliyera Indira
  Expert of Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning of Republic of Kazakhstan

STATE OF KUWAIT

- Mr. Sami Al-Saqabi
  Assistant Undersecretary for Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance

- Mr. Mohammad Faisal Al-Mutairy
  Counselor in the Department of International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. Saad Al-Rashedi
  Head of OIC Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance

- Mr. Salem Al-Bather
  Economic Researcher, Ministry of Finance

REPUBLIC OF MALI

- H.E. Mohamed Mahmoud Ben Labat
  Ambassador of Mali to Saudi Arabia and OIC

- Mr. Moussa Aliou Kone
  Counselor at the Embassy of Mali in Riyadh
- Mr. OUSMANE DIAKITE
Consul General of Mali in Riyadh

- Mr. HABIBOU SISSOKO
Financial Attache Consulate General of Mali in Jeddah

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

- H.E. MUHAMMAD HAROON SHAUKAT
Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey

- Dr. YOUSAF JUNAID
Consul General, Consulate General of Pakistan in İstanbul

- Mr. MOIN UL HAQUE
Minister/Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara

- Ms. RABIA SHAFIQ
First Secretary, Embassy of Pakistan, Ankara

STATE OF PALESTINE

- Mr. RAFAT RAYYAN
Director, Ministry of National Economy

STATE OF QATAR

- Mr. AHMED SALEH AL-MUHANNADI
Economic Consultant of International Relations and Trade Agreements

- Mr. HASAN ABDULLAH AL-MUHANNADI
Expert of International Relations and Trade Agreements

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

- Mr. ABDULLAH BIN ABDULWAHAB AL-NAFISAH
Director General Foreign Trade

- Mr. KHALED BIN MOBARK AL MOBARK
Undersecretary of International Economic Relations Department

- Mr. HOSAIN BIN AID AL-RASHEED
Expert of Economy, Undersecretariat Foreign Trade
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

- H.E. Dr. CEVDET YILMAZ
  Minister of Development

- Mr. MEHMET CEYLAN
  Deputy Minister, Ministry of Development

- Mr. AHMET YAMAN
  Deputy Undersecretary, Ministry of Development

- Ms. NACİYE GÖKÇEN KAYA
  Deputy General Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. ÜMİT GÜNER
  Deputy General Director, Ministry of Family and Social Policies

- Mr. BEKİR GEZER
  Acting General Director, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications

- Mr. CEVDET ÖZMEN
  Head of Department of External Relations, Turkish Standards Institutions (TSE)

- Mr. ELÇİN EDİS
  Head of Department, Ministry of Economy

- Mr. ÖMER PAK
  Head of Department of Foreign Relations, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Organization (KOSGEB)

- Mr. İSMAIL SEFA YÜCEER
  Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Ms. DENİZ BERBER
  Head of Department, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock

- Mr. TEMUÇİN SAYAR
  Acting Head of Department, Ministry of Culture and Tourism

- Ms. N. PINAR IŞİN
  Manager of International Relations, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Organization (KOSGEB)

- Ms. F. ZEHRA SAYAR
  Coordinator of Country Credits, Export Credit Bank of Turkey

- Mr. KÜRŞAT YILMAZ
  Manager of International Relations, Turkish Standards Institutions (TSE)

- Ms. FÜSUN KARACASOY
  Head of Department, Turkish Union Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB)
- Mr. HAYRETTİN YÜCEL  
  Head of Department, The Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry, Investment Support and Promotion Agency

- Mr. MUSTAFA SEPETÇİ  
  Head of Department, Ministry of Customs and Trade

- Mr. ALPER BATUR  
  Head of Department, Undersecretariat of Treasury

- Mr. LEVENT ÖZYÜREK  
  Deputy Manager, Turkey Central Bank

- Mr. ERKAN AYAN  
  Advisor of Süleyman Demirel University President

- Mr. İSMAIL ÇAĞRI ÖZCAN  
  Expert, Ministry of Development

- Ms. VİLDAN BURHAN  
  Expert, Ministry of Development

- Mr. HAKAN GÜNLU  
  Expert, Ministry of Development

- Mr. FIRAT YILMAZ  
  Expert, Undersecretariat of Treasury

- Ms. SEÇİL SAYIN  
  Chief Expert, Capital Markets Board of Turkey (SPK)

- Mr. FATİH BOZKURT  
  Expert, Turkish Standards Institutions (TSE)

- Mr. HAKAN ARSLAN  
  Expert, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications

- Ms. ZÖRE AKŞAHİN ŞİMŞEK  
  Expert, Ministry of Economy

- Ms. FATMA AKYÜZ  
  Expert, Ministry of Economy

- Mr. ERSİN KAYA  
  Expert, Ministry of Family and Social Policies

- Mr. BAHADIR KARA  
  Expert, Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Ms. BANU ŞENER  
  Engineer, Ministry of Customs and Trade

- Mr. HAKAN ÇALIŞ  
  Chief Inspector, Ministry of Customs and Trade

- Mr. ADNAN HORAN  
  Engineer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock

- Mr. ERTUĞRUL NAZLI  
  Expert, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Organization (KOSGEB)

- Mr. EMRAH ÖZEN  
  Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

- Mr. AHMET İHSAN ERDEM  
  Project Director,  
  The Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency

- Mr. MAHMUT MUHİDDİN KESKİN  
  Project Director,  
  The Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency

- Mr. DENİZ YALÇIN  
  Expert, Turkish Union Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB)

- Ms. SEMA İNAL  
  Head of Section, Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology

- Mr. YASİN EKMEN  
  Expert, Turkish Union Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB)

- Mr. FATİH DENİZ  
  Deputy Manager, Borsa İstanbul

- Mr. NAZLI GAMZE AKSU  
  Officer, Borsa İstanbul

- Ms. ŞEHLA ALİ HASAN  
  Assistant Expert, Turkish Union Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB)

- Mr. UFUK KADİR ERGİN  
  Assistant Expert, Turkish Union Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB)

- Ms. DİLAN CAN  
  Assistant Expert, Ministry of Economy

- Mr. OZAN ÖZDEMİR  
  Assistant Expert, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
- Mr. ŞENOL SANCAK  
  Assistant Expert, Ministry of Customs and Trade

C. THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT
- Mr. GHOLAMHOSSEIN DARZI  
  Director in the Department of Economic Affairs

D. OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)
- Mr. SAVAŞ ALPAY  
  Director General
- Mr. NABIL DABOUR  
  Director of Research Department

ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)
- Mr. HOUCINE RAHMOUNI  
  Counselor of DG
- Mr. TARIK MERRI  
  Webmaster

E. SPECIALIZED ORGANS OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB) GROUP
- Mr. AZAD MOHAMMAD IQBAL  
  Advisor to the CEO, ITFC
- Mr. AYHAN KARACA  
  Manager Asia & CIS States Office ITFC
- Mr. ABDUL BASIT RASHEED JAM  
  Cooperation Specialist

F. AFFILIATED ORGANS OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE (ICCIA)
- Ms. ATTIYA NAWAZISH ALI AYAZ  
  Assistant Secretary General
ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION (OISA)

- Mr. MOHAMMAD ZAFAR BHATTI
  Director Finance

THE STANDARDS AND METROLOGY INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SMIIC)

- Mr. HALUK DAĞ
  Secretary General of SMIIC

- Ms. EMEL GÖNÇ
  Administrative Expert of SMIIC

G. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

- Mr. MEHMET METİN EKER
  Director General,
  Head of COMCEC Coordination Office

- Mr. EBUBEKİR MEMİŞ
  Head of Department

- Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ
  Expert

- Mr. SELÇUK KOÇ
  Head of Department

- Mr. MUSTAFA TEKİN
  Head of Department

- Mr. MURAT DELİÇAY
  Expert, Drafting

- Mr. ORHAN ÖZTAŞKİN
  Protocol Relations and Press Relations

- Dr. NAZIM GÜMÜŞ
  Protocol Relations

- Ms. AYLİN ŞENOL GÜN
  Assistant Expert, Drafting

- Mr. MEHMET FİDAN
  Assistant Expert, Drafting

- Ms. MÜKERREM ÖZKILIÇ
  Coordinator of Registration Office
- Ms. DUYGU ÖZDEN
  Assistant Coordinator of Registration Office

- Mr. KEMAL ARSLAN
  Coordinator of Meeting Rooms

- Ms. SEHER KURUGÜL
  Coordinator of Documentation Center

- Ms. GÜL SAYIN
  Assistant Coordinator of Documentation Center

- Ms. EMİNE DEMİREL
  Assistant Coordinator of Documentation Center

- Mr. ERCAN İBİK
  Assistant Coordinator of Transport Relations

- Ms. Z. LEYLA AŞK
  Social Program

- Mrs. NAZİFE GÜLGEN
  Social Program

- Ms. BİLGE GÜLLÜ
  Executive Secretary

- Mr. OKAN POLAT
  Assistant Expert, Drafting

- Mr. MUSTAFA ADİL SAYAR
  Assistant Expert, Drafting

- Mr. AHMET OKUR
  Assistant Expert, Drafting

- Mr. MEHMET AKİF ALANBAY
  Assistant Expert, Drafting

- Mr. SEYFİ UYANIK
  Press Relations

**H. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT**

- Mr. NURETTİN AYDIN
  Coordinator of Accomodation
- Mr. MEVLÜT YAŞAR
  Coordinator of Transport Relations

- Mr. CAFER ERDOĞAN
  Stock Coordinator

- Mr. TAYFUR YÜKSEL
  Security Relations

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ANNEX

II
MESSAGE OF H.E ABDULLAH GÜL,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND
CHAIRMAN OF COMCEC

Twenty Ninth Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC
(Ankara, 14 May 2013)

Esteemed Chairman,
Distinguished Members of the Follow-up Committee,

It gives us a great pleasure to host all participants of the Twenty Ninth Session of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) in Turkey.

Distinguished Delegates,

We have witnessed major developments in our region and across the world since our last Session. The adverse effects of the global economic crisis which broke out in 2008 still continue to exist while many developed economies continue to struggle against heavy public debt and high unemployment while the developing countries embark on a quest for economic stability and development under such fragile circumstances. We, as the international community, need to seek solutions for the structural problems leading to crises on the one hand, and promote multilateral economic cooperation and solidarity more on the other hand with a view to mitigating adverse effects of global economic crises and fluctuations whose frequency and span of effect have increased recently. The solution should not be sought in formulas of protectionism and isolation but again in effective and sustainable cooperation.

We live in such a period where economic and political relations unprecedentedly integrated with each other at a level unseen throughout the history of humanity. An effective economic cooperation has become the key to regional and global political stability as well. I firmly believe that with concept of solidarity and brotherhood which constitute the core of our Religion and the most important element of our common culture, we have indeed the potential to add a remarkable depth to the global cooperation culture and therefore the political stability. Within this framework, the unmatched brotherhood and solidarity of Ansar for the Muhajirun having migrated to Medina, and the exemplary loyalty of Muhajirun to Ansar afterwards are the qualities to guide us in today’s world as well.
Distinguished Delegates,

With this perspective, COMCEC Economic Summit held in 2009 decided upon the preparation of a new strategy for our cooperation in line with the global trends. For broadening new horizons for our cooperation and for rendering the COMCEC more effective in the forthcoming period, COMCEC Strategy was drawn up in a short span of time as a result of elaborate efforts and entered into force after its adoption by the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation held on August 14 to 15, 2012 in Makkah-al Mukarramah.

The COMCEC Strategy envisages two major practical instruments namely the Working Groups and the Project Financing Mechanism. The Working Groups shall regularly gather experts of the member countries in areas of cooperation and serve to developing a common understanding and language. The Project Financing mechanism shall finance multilateral projects of the member countries which are consistent with the objectives of the Strategy. In this context, it is my pleasure to see that the Working Groups which will lay the intellectual foundations of our sector-based cooperation in the forthcoming period, have already started their activities. The initial meetings of the Transport and Tourism Working Groups were successfully held recently. A major characteristic of the Strategy is the adoption of a member driven approach. Within this framework, I would like request you to actively participate in the Working Groups of all sectors. In addition, I hope we will receive various useful and feasible projects this year from the member countries and relevant institutions with a view to benefit from the financing mechanism.

As the most important platform for economic and commercial cooperation of the Islamic World, the COMCEC has initiated a number of programs and a series of substantial activities during the course of 29 years since its inception in an effort to strengthen the solidarity among our brotherly countries and mobilize the huge economic potential of the member countries. As a result of these efforts and the impact of the international conjuncture, intra-trade volume of the OIC and the total production of the OIC member countries have considerably expanded in recent years. The total trade volume of the member countries surpassed 4 trillion US Dollars and the intra-OIC trade increased to the 18 % approximately. It is estimated that the total gross domestic product (GDP) of the member countries increased to 6.11 trillion US Dollar in 2012 from 5.73 trillion US Dollar in 2011. The COMCEC, through its new Strategy, will continue to contribute to the Islamic World in its way to be an efficient power in this new economic order where the global balance of power shifts and the developing countries increase their share in the global economy.
Esteemed Guests,

I would like to briefly call your attention to some crucial developments taking place within the scope of the COMCEC. OIC Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC) which will make a major contribution to the trade among the member countries completed its legal infrastructure I would like to call upon all relevant countries to take necessary steps for the operationalization of the system as soon as possible. The Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC) which will facilitate the trade among the member countries rapidly continues its institutionalization. I would like to call on all member countries to actively participate in the activities of SMIIC.

The progress achieved in recent years in financial cooperation is promising against the adverse effects of the global economic crisis. I would like to express my pleasure for the launch of S&P OIC/COMCEC Index as of June, 2012 as a result of intensive efforts exerted by the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum. I hope that the Index will offer an opportunity for fruitful investments in the forthcoming period and contribute to the development of other Islamic Finance instruments whose absence is deeply felt. We are very pleased that the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulatory Authorities Forum kick started its activities with its first meeting in September, 2012 for sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices among the Capital Markets Regulatory Authorities which play pivotal roles in finance.

Distinguished Delegates,

Any proposal, opinion and even criticism of the member countries for the COMCEC which produces, shares and disseminates information, will assist us to shape more successful activities in the years to come. Therefore, I would like to call upon all member countries to actively participate in all activities of the COMCEC particularly in the Working Groups, Sector Forums, Meetings and Workshop in an attempt to share their ideas and opinions and contribute to the establishment of a common stance.

Distinguished Delegates,

Notwithstanding the setbacks, the current global economic conditions, if properly utilized, also offer momentous opportunities for our member countries in terms of economic development. Along with the incentives and the support to channelize the private sector to feasible investments and fields, the flow of investments to the member countries from both OIC countries and other global economies are of vital importance for exploiting these opportunities. The share of the member countries from the total global Foreign Direct Capital Inflows will support the production capacity, well-qualified workforce, global economic integration and overall economic
development in the member countries. From this perspective, I consider it quite pertinent that during the Exchange of Views Session of the 29th COMCEC “Increasing Foreign Direct Investment Flows to OIC Member Countries” will be discussed.

Distinguished Chairman,
Esteemed Delegates,

With this understanding, I wish the 29th Session of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC to lead to fruitful conclusions for all member countries, and once again sincerely greet all the guests and delegates and wish you all success in your endeavors.
ANNEX

III
OPENING STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. CEVDET YILMAZ,
MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Twenty Ninth Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC
(Ankara, 14 May 2013)

Distinguished Members of the Follow-up Committee,
Esteemed Guests,

I would like to express the pleasure of meeting with you once again, on the occasion of the 29th Follow-up Committee Meeting of Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) and welcome you all to Ankara.

Distinguished Guests,

Having made its presence felt across the world, the global crisis was followed by a tendency of relative recovery in the global economy. However, the poor growth performance of developed countries, financial risks ongoing in the European Region and the disasters taking place in various parts of the world have led to the continuation of uncertainty atmosphere at the global level. Meanwhile, the developing countries and particularly emerging economies have continued to increase their share in the global economy in recent years.

In this context, the developed economies approximately doubled their Gross Domestic Product between 2001 and 2011 whereas the developing countries quadrupled their total GDP in the same period. This shift of axis in the global economy has also affected the distribution of foreign direct investments. According to the UNCTAD data, the developing economies increased their share to approximately 45% in the total global foreign direct investment flows in 2011 from 29% in 2007. The developing countries have been rapidly moving forward en route to be the driving forces of the global economy. Nevertheless, the economic structures of the developing countries are considerably heterogeneous in the sense of internal dynamics. A substantial number of developing countries particularly the Least Developed Countries have fragile economies with their export structures mainly based on raw materials or a limited number of agricultural products, and have yet to gain momentum required in major realms such as economic efficiency, poverty alleviation and food security.
Distinguished Members of the Follow-up Committee,

COMCEC member countries make up one 6th of the total global area and one 5th of the population whereas our trade volume is still far from reflecting the potential. However, the average growth in trade volumes of COMCEC member countries had been higher than the global average between 1999 and 2008.

The total exports of COMCEC member countries have expanded 4 times between 2002 and 2011 while the total imports increased 3.8 times in the same period. The exports of COMCEC countries increased at a higher rate than the total global figures following the crisis. In addition, the growth rates of the all COMCEC countries with a few exceptions hovered at a higher rate than 2.7% global average in 2011.

While such indicators paint a positive picture leading to optimism, some structural challenges in our trade and production systems continue to exist. The export of a significant number of COMCEC countries is dependent upon a limited number of agricultural products and raw materials. Although this paves the way for significant capital accumulation in some member countries, it also increases the vulnerability to negative external spillovers and economic crises. Exports based on a limited number of raw materials constitute a major structural problem for our economies in the long run. Just like all blessings of Allah, we need to give our due appreciations to these important raw materials endowed to our region and we should not consider them as unlimited resources. It is, therefore, of utmost importance for the relevant member countries to review their export structures and adopt reforms enabling product diversification and branding with the aim of establishing an innovative and a competition-oriented production structure.

Distinguished Guests,

The foreign direct investments in the COMCEC region have followed an unsatisfactory course in recent years. The share of the COMCEC member countries in the foreign direct investment flows to the developing countries has been decreasing since 2009. This rate decreased from 11.1% in 2009 to 8.8% in 2011 according to UNCTAD data. The member countries have been unable to establish an economic ambience to attract more foreign direct investments. We have a long way to go in this regard. It is therefore essential to effectuate inducive fundamental reforms in order to increase foreign direct investments to the region. Within this framework, I would like to express that it was extremely pertinent to designate the theme of the Exchange of Views Session of the 29th Session of the COMCEC as “Increasing Foreign Direct Investment Flows to the OIC Member Countries”.
Distinguished Members of the Follow-up Committee,
Esteemed Guests,

As you may all know, the COMCEC Strategy was adopted in the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on August 14 to 15, 2012 and officially launched in the 28th Session of the COMCEC. In the light of the Strategy, the new vision of the COMCEC is to build a prosperous Islamic Ummah based on good governance with increased solidarity and interdependence, enhanced mobility including movements of humans, capital and goods. In this context, the mission of the COMCEC is to function as a platform to produce and disseminate knowledge, share experiences, develop a common language and understanding, and approximating policies in an effort to offer solutions for development challenges of the Islamic Ummah.

Distinguished Guests,

Two major mechanisms have been envisaged to render the Strategy functional. The first one is the working groups that will gather together the experts of the member countries twice a year in each area of cooperation. As you may all know, the 1st Meeting of the COMCEC Transport Working Group was held on March 28, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of “Transport Infrastructure Financing Modalities: Public Private Partnerships in the OIC Member Countries”. The 1st Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group was successfully held on April 25, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of “A New Trend in Sustainable Tourism Development: Community Based Tourism in the COMCEC Region”. The Meetings of the Working Group for Trade, Agriculture and Poverty Alleviation will be held in June, 2013. We are very pleased to see these working groups were rendered operational in a way to make major contributions to sharing experiences and exchange of views on common problems of the member countries and potential areas of cooperation.

The second mechanism specified in the COMCEC Strategy is the Project Cycle Management. Within the Project Cycle Management, projects that are in line with the objectives of the Strategy and that would enhance the administrative capacity and boost multilateral cooperation will be financed.

The COMCEC Coordination Office will issue a call for projects in September. In the context of this call, we expect the member countries to convey to the COMCEC Coordination Office their project proposals that will strengthen cooperation in the Islamic geography.
Distinguished Guests,

Although the volume of intra-OIC trade has made considerable progress in recent years, it is still not at par with our expectations. In this context, we attach tremendous importance to the operationalization of the OIC Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC) that is one of the most significant tools to enhance intra-OIC trade. A total of 10 states having signed all 3 Agreements should submit their list of concessions in order to operationalize the TPS-OIC. Nine member states that have signed and ratified all three TPS-OIC Agreements already submitted their lists of concessions. I am confident that you will not hesitate to contribute to our efforts to put this project into force at the earliest as it would, to our opinion, substantially increase intra trade volume of the participating states.

Distinguished Members of the Follow-up Committee,

As you may all know, the number of member countries has now reached 23 for the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC) established in 2010 as a result of long-standing efforts. We are all convinced that SMIIC will play a critical role in harmonizing standards in the COMCEC region and developing common standards. I hope this vitally important institute will increase number of its members in the forthcoming periods in terms of appealing to a larger geography.

Distinguished Guests,

I am very pleased to see the remarkable developments in financial cooperation in recent years. The official launch of “Standard&Poors OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index” was held in the 28th Session of the COMCEC as a result of intensive efforts of OIC Stock Exchanges Forum. Designed to evaluate the performance of 50 leading companies from 19 OIC member countries, the Index will contribute to meeting the increasing demand for Islamic financial instruments all around the world. Insaallah, the Index will also increase the demand for Islamic products and contribute to the member countries to develop global brands in world markets. On the other hand, the Forum that was established in 2011 with a view to enhancing cooperation among the Capital Markets Regulatory Authorities, held its first meeting in September, 2012. I believe that this Forum will pave the way for substantial cooperation among Islamic countries for capital markets in the long run.

Another important development pertains to the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum. Established with a view to providing a platform for the private sector representatives to discuss potential cooperation areas, common problems and their solutions in tourism field in the member countries, the Forum held its 1st Meeting in December, 2012.
Distinguished Members of the Follow-up Committee,

I attach substantial importance to the ongoing programs for fight against poverty in the COMCEC region. In this context, the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development and the Special Program for Development of Africa as well as the OIC Cotton Program and Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET) that were all established within the Islamic Development Bank will make major contributions to the poverty alleviation in member countries provided that they are utilized in an effective fashion.

Esteemed Guests,

As you are all aware, the 12th Islamic Summit was successfully held in Egypt last February. As chairman of the Summit and the OIC, the Arab Republic of Egypt has now joined us as the new member of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee. I would like to congratulate our Egyptian brothers for the Chairmanship of the Summit and their membership of the Follow-up Committee, and wish them every success in their important mission.

Distinguished Guests,

For the success of various cooperation programs and projects conducted under the COMCEC, it is essential for the member countries to actively participate in all these initiatives. In this respect, the Republic of Turkey will continue to sustain its support to the COMCEC activities at an increasing pace. I am confident that COMCEC will continue its efforts within the framework of the Strategy at an increasing momentum for enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the member countries. I would like to conclude my words by wishing success in your deliberations during the 29th Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC in a way to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Islamic Ummah.

I wish you have a wonderful time in Ankara and would like to thank you all.
MESSAGE OF
H.E. PROF. EKMELEDDİN İHSANOĞLU,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC COOPERATION
(Ankara, 14 May 2013)

Bismillahi Arrahmani Arrahim

Distinguished Representative of his Excellency President Abdullah Gül,
Your Excellency Honorable Minister,
Distinguished Delegates,
Honorable Colleagues from the various OIC Institutions

Assalamu Alaikum wa-Rahmatu Allah wa Barakatuhu

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to address this 29th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC, and to express my most sincere appreciation to the Government and esteemed people of the Republic of Turkey for their constant support to the activities of the OIC in general and the COMCE in particular.

This Meeting offers us a unique opportunity not only because it would enable Committee Members to review the statute of the implementation of COMCEC decisions, but also to propose in a constructive manner the way forward with regard to our flagship project on TPS-OIC, poverty alleviation, infrastructure and private sector development.

There is no doubt that with the level of intra-OIC trade exchanges reaching 17.80 percent in 2011, the implementation of TPS-OIC will be of greater significance for attaining our target of attaining 20% intra-OIC trade by 2015. I must commend those Member States which have responded to our repeated calls for the completion of the participation process of the three OIC Agreements on TPS-OIC and submitted their list of concessions.

In the same vein I wish to urge the Member States of the Committee to support our various activities an increasing intra-OIC trade not only in the framework of removing tariff barriers but also in the area of non tariff measures, such as Aid for Trade and Single Windows initiatives, so that our people can benefit from the advantages of a large market which has 1.4 billion consumers.
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is well known that the global economic crisis still has its negative consequences on the economies of our Member States. This situation has informed our common resolve to accelerate intra-OIC economic cooperation in such critical sectors as agriculture, rural development, food security and the provision of social safety net.

In this regard I commend the preoccupation of this Meeting with issues relating to the development of Small and Medium Enterprises in OIC Countries, along with the very important issues of entrepreneurship and capacity building.

There is no gainsaying the fact that investment promotion and employment generation are very crucial to the implementation of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action in the area of poverty alleviation.

I am glad to note that in addition to overall intervention of IDB Group in the area of micro finance, human capacity building and agriculture and rural development, other credible initiatives such as Sustainable Villages being put in place under the OIC programme on agriculture development as well as implementation of both Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA) and the OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia.

Honorable Minister,
Distinguish Delegates,

As we proceed with discussion of various concept there in one important issues that should engage our kind attention. This is the issues of creating workable implementation modalities for all our programmes. There is also the critical issue of mobilization of funds for our projects. All these issues are deserving of our primary attention.

I am sure that the importance of mainstreaming OIC projects in national priorities of Member States has informed the decision to repackage the 27 approved projects under the OIC Cotton Action Plan. The same applies to the OIC Regional Projects on Cross-Border Network of Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa.
In this regard the deepening of national ownership and the elaboration of bankable projects are very crucial to generating greater confidence, participation and collaboration of our international donors and regional partners.

While I wish this important meeting a fruitful deliberation, I thank the Follow-up Committee for their due diligence dedication and for forthrightness in considering these and other issues.

*I thank for your kind attention,*

_Wassalamu Alaikum wa Rahm atullahi wa Barakatuhu_

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REPORT OF THE 22nd MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(Ankara, 13 May 2013)

1. The 22nd Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on May 13th, 2013 in Ankara, on the sideline of the 29th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. M. Metin EKER, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office, the following OIC Institutions attended the Meeting:
   - Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
   - Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
   - Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group
   - Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
   - Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
   - Organization of the Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA)

3. The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items:
   i. Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy
      ▪ Utilizing the COMCEC Project Financing
      ▪ The Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy
   ii. Experiences of the OIC Institutions in Realizing Their Activities
   iii. Enhancing Coordination Among the OIC Institutions
   iv. Any Other Business

Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy

4. Regarding the first agenda item, the representatives from the COMCEC Coordination Office made presentations on the COMCEC Strategy and the new COMCEC project funding mechanism, namely Project Cycle Management (PCM) introduced by the COMCEC Strategy. In the presentations, the participants were informed about the substance as well as the implementation mechanism of the
Strategy. The detailed information regarding the processes and procedures for submitting projects under the PCM was given. Following the presentations, the participants raised various questions and discussed the possible contributions of the OIC Institutions to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. In this respect, the representatives of the OIC Institutions conveyed their appreciations to the COMCEC Coordination Office and stated that all the cooperation areas as well as the output areas defined by the Strategy were within the mandate of the OIC Institutions. In this framework, they expressed their readiness to contribute effectively to the implementation of the Strategy.

5. Regarding the possible ways and means of the contribution of the OIC Institutions, the representatives shared their views and comments. Following the deliberations, the Meeting highlighted two possible methods to that end. The first method is related to the Project Cycle Management under which the OIC Institutions can submit their multilateral cooperation projects in line with the principles of the Strategy to COMCEC Coordination office for funding. It was acknowledged that soft projects such as capacity building and technical cooperation projects could be a feasible approach for realizing the objectives of the Strategy. These projects could also be utilized for preparing the ground and conducting the preparatory work for bigger projects. The second method would be to design the activities of the OIC Institutions in accordance with the objectives and principles of the COMCEC Strategy. Within this framework, it was agreed that the OIC Institutions would submit their list of activities aligned with the objectives and expected outputs of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Coordination Office by September 1st, 2013.

Experiences of the OIC Institutions in Realizing Their Activities

6. Concerning the second agenda item, the representatives of the OIC Institutions shared their experiences including obstacles and good practices in realizing their activities. Inadequate financial resources, low level of participation by the member countries in the activities, participation of experts not related with subject matter, low level of response from the Member Countries and inadequacy in submitting projects in proper channels were underlined as the main challenges. To address these difficulties, several proposals were made, among others, to ensure Member States’ ownership in activities through communicating with them in designing the activities, aligning the activities in line with the priorities of the respective member countries, building an efficient focal point database in each OIC Institutions. Moreover, the participants discussed the ways and means of raising awareness of the OIC Institutions in the
Member States. Highlighting the OIC Institutions and their activities in relevant OIC fora through special sessions or side events / activities was considered quite important.

**Enhancing Coordination Among the OIC Institutions**

7. Under the third agenda item, the representatives of the OIC Institutions elaborated on ways and means of facilitating communication and coordination among themselves. The participants emphasized that occasional duplication of activities had demonstrated the need for effective coordination and cooperation. It was stressed that Institutions of the OIC should invite and participate each other’s relevant activities more frequently. Participation in each other’s activities and sharing the studies among the OIC Institutions would provide opportunity to benefit more efficiently from their works and experience. The Meeting highlighted the importance of designing activities in a complementary manner and also developing joint activities. Besides, modular programs shall be promoted. These programs would focus on the same issue but relevant OIC institutions would cover different aspects of the theme in a complementary manner in line with their mandate and scope of work. It was also agreed that the familiarization programs would be organized for enhancing coordination and communication among the OIC Institutions.

8. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks.

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AGENDA OF THE TWENTY NINTH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC

(Ankara, 14-15 May 2013)

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Brief on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation
3. Brief on the Implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action
4. Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade
5. Improving Transport and Communication
6. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
7. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
8. Eradicating Poverty
9. Deepening Financial Cooperation
10. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
11. Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “Increasing FDI Flows to the OIC Member Countries”
12. Presentation on the New COMCEC Project Funding
13. Draft Agenda of the 29th Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Report
LIST OF FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS TO BE ORGANIZED
BY THE ICDT IN 2013

1. 4th OIC-World BIZ 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 5-8 September 2013 in cooperation with the OIC International Business Centre Sdn Bhd Malaysia and in collaboration with the League of Arab States;

2. 1st OIC China Expo and Economic & Trade Forum in cooperation with the People’s Republic of China on 12 to 16 September 2013 in Yinchuan-Autonomous Province of Ningxia Hui, People’s Republic of China;

3. 1st Forum of Muslim Business and Expo in Dakar in cooperation with the Republic of Senegal on 14-16 November 2013

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LIST OF CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES
AND TRAININGS TO BE ORGANIZED BY THE SESRIC

The following training courses will be organized by SESRIC during the
upcoming one-year period of May 2013 to May 2014:

1. A training course on Competition Law and Policy on 15-17 May 2013 in Albania
2. A training course on Financial Stability on 19-21 May 2013 in Azerbaijan
3. Training Programme for Agricultural Extension Experts in OIC Member States on
   21-23 May 2013 in Turkey
4. A training course on Competition Law and Policy on 27-31 May 2013 in Pakistan
5. A training course on Breeding and Improving Wheat Plants to Increase the
   Productivity on 4-6 June 2013 in Qatar
6. A training course on Risk Management in Islamic Finance on 17-19 June 2013 in
   Turkey
7. A Study Visit on Railway System Technologies 17-21 June 2013 in Turkey
8. A training course on Competition Law and Policy on 17-19 June 2013 in Pakistan
9. A training course on Forensic Analysis of Data and Data Recovery on 19-21 June
   2013 in Qatar
10. A training course on Plant Protection: Diseases on 24-26 June 2013 in Pakistan
11. A training course on Livestock Management: Breeding Cattle Raising and
    Improvement on 26-27 June 2013 in Brunei
12. A workshop on Innovative Solutions to Poverty Reduction on 26-28 June 2013 in
    Ankara
13. A training course on Agronomy: Crop Management in June 2013 in Bangladesh
14. A training course on Investigation Techniques for the Crime of Theft and
    Homicide in June 2013 in Azerbaijan
15. A Study Visit on Development of Cotton Production and Technology in June
    2013 in Turkey
16. A training course on Recognition and Prevention of Diabetes in June 2013 Nigeria
17. A training course on Competition Law and Policy on 1-3 July 2013 in Cameroon
18. A training course on Inflation Targeting on 1-3 July 2013 in Sierra Leone
19. A training course on Water Resources Management on 2-3 July 2013 in Iraq
20. A training course on Competition Law and Policy on 5-7 July 2013 in Bangladesh
22. A training course on Agronomy: Irrigation in July 2013 in Yemen
23. A training course on First Step Pregnancy Care Ultrasonography in July 2013 in Egypt
24. A training course on Recognition and Prevention of Diabetes in July 2013 in Egypt
25. A training course on Agricultural Combat: Bee Diseases and Pest in July 2013 in Kuwait
26. A training course on Risk Management on 19-20 August 2013 in Tajikistan
27. A training course on Basic Training for Police Defence Tactics in August 2013 in Sudan
28. A training course on Tactical Shooting Techniques and Basic Riot Police Training in August 2013 in Brunei
29. A training course on Risk Management in August 2013 in Kyrgyzstan
30. A training course on Market Operations on 2-4 September 2013 in Cote d’Ivoire
31. A training course on Balance of Payments on 23-24 September 2013 in Malaysia
32. A training course on Financial Stability in September 2013 in Turkey
33. A training course on Digital Archiving in September 2013 in Azerbaijan
34. A training course on Company Awareness in September 2013 in Azerbaijan
35. A training course on Recognition and Prevention of Diabetes in September 2013 in Cote d’Ivoire
36. A training course on Fiber Technology and Contamination in September 2013 in Egypt
37. A training course on Balance of Payments on 24-25 October 2013 in Kyrgyzstan
38. A training course on Livestock Management: Animal Diseases and Combat with Animal Diseases in October 2013 in Saudi Arabia
39. A training course on Quality Improvement: Seed quality and preparation in October 2013 in Azerbaijan
40. A training course on First Step Pregnancy Care Ultrasonography in October 2013 in Cote d’Ivoire
41. A training course on Rural Development in October 2013 in Togo
42. A training course on Recognition and Prevention of Diabetes in November 2013 in Niger
43. A training course on Fiber Technology: Contamination in November 2013 in Togo
44. A training course on First Step Pregnancy Care Ultrasonography in December 2013 in Niger

45. A training course on Competition Law and Policy on 13-17 January 2014 in Sudan

46. A training course on Competition Law and Policy on 27-29 January 2014 in Pakistan

47. A training course on Competition Law and Policy on 26-28 January 2014 in Qatar

48. A training course on Digital Archiving in January 2014 in Brunei

49. A training course on Seed Development: Molecular Genetics in January 2014 in Qatar

50. A training course on Fingerprint Laboratory Applications in February 2014 in Sudan

51. A training course on Management of Human Resources in February 2014 in Jordan

52. A training course on First Step Pregnancy Care Ultrasonography in February 2014 in United Arab Emirates

53. A training course on Recognition and Prevention of Diabetes in February 2014 in United Arab Emirates

54. A training course on Recognition and Prevention of Diabetes in April 2014 in Burkina Faso

55. A training course on Employee (Human Resources) Awareness in April 2014 in Egypt

56. A training course on First Step Pregnancy Care Ultrasonography in Djibouti

57. A training course on Inflation Targeting in Tunisia

58. A training course on Forecasting Methods in Turkey
ANNEX

IX
LIST OF ACTIVITIES TO BE ORGANIZED BY THE ICCIA IN 2013

1. **15**\textsuperscript{th} Private Sector Meeting to be held in the Islamic Republic of Iran on 27-28 Oct. 2013.

2. **7**\textsuperscript{th} Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries to be held in the Islamic Republic of Iran on 29\textsuperscript{th} October 2013.

3. Second Regional Workshop for Zakat Organizations to be held in Africa in 2013.

4. Seminar on Creating awareness of the utilities and privileges of various OIC Agreements (TPS-OIC) to be held in Sudan in 2013.

5. Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agribusiness to be held in Sudan in December 2013.

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ANNEX

X

X
DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE 29th SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(İstanbul, 18-21 November 2013)

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation
3. The Implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action
4. World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries
5. Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade
6. Improving Transport and Communications
7. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
8. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
10. Deepening Financial Cooperation
11. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
12. Exchange of Views on “Increasing FDI Flows to the OIC Member Countries”
13. Date of the 30th Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Report

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ANNEX

XI
CLOSING SPEECH BY H.E. AHMET YAMAN,
DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
(Ankara, 15 May 2013)

Distinguished members of the Follow-up Committee,
Esteemed Delegates,

After intensive deliberations, we have successfully completed the 29th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-Up Committee. During this meeting, we have drawn up the agenda of the 29th Session of the COMCEC and reviewed important issues on the agenda. I am really hopeful that our endeavors will contribute to the realization of our economic and social potentials as well as building a prosperous Islamic Ummah based on solidarity and interdependence, enhanced mobility and good governance. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you all for your active participation and valuable contributions.

Distinguished Delegates,

Negative effects of the global financial crisis are still felt in various parts of the world especially in developed economies. Developed countries are struggling with a number of macro-economic problems including high debt rates while the developing countries are adversely affected by the constriction in the global economic markets. For minimizing the negative spillovers, we have to act together and work in cooperation and solidarity not only as COMCEC members but also as the entire international community. We are all in the same ship.

Now, I would like to dwell on a number of items that were underlined during our meeting.

COMCEC Strategy has become functional and in this context, first meetings of the Transport Working Group and Tourism Working Group were successfully held in Ankara and Working Groups for other four cooperation areas will be held soon. In September 2013, COMCEC Coordination Office will launch first call for Project Proposals under the PCM through COMCEC web-site. In this regard, I invite all the member states to actively participate in the intensive schedule of working groups and to submit a good number of project proposals to CCO for benefiting from grants under the COMCEC Project Cycle Management (PCM facility).
Distinguished Guests,

Enhancement of trade is a crucial objective of our economic cooperation. As envisaged by our guiding documents, we have to reach the target of 20 percent intra-OIC trade by 2015 from its approximate level of 18 percent in 2012, in other words we have only three years for increasing our trade 2 percent further. In this respect, TPS-OIC System needs to be operational as soon as possible. The legal basis for the system has been completed. I invite all the concerned countries to complete all necessary procedures for its implementation at the earliest possible. In this respect, I would also like to appreciate the substantial increase in the trade financing provided by IDB Group through ITFC in the recent period.

Harmonization of standards among the member states is indispensable for facilitating intra-OIC trade and ensuring quality of our products. In this respect, we have to give utmost importance to SMIIC which has made significant progress recently in terms of institutionalization in a short span of time.

Distinguished Delegates,

Unfortunately, twenty one of the OIC member countries are among the least developed countries. Therefore, alleviation of poverty would always be a priority item in our agenda until we totally solve that menace in our countries. As we have discussed yesterday, we are making headway towards substantial progress in the agriculture sector. I believe that with our new initiatives and with effective utilization of existing mechanisms like Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA) within the IDB Group and OIC-VET under SESRIC, we will be able to help more to our peer colleagues, brothers and sisters across the region especially in the LDCs.

The private sector has a vital role in the development endeavors of COMCEC countries. We have to benefit from the dynamism and practical, result oriented approach of the private sector in enhancing economic and commercial relations among ourselves.

Esteemed Delegates,

I would like to put on record my appreciations for the progress achieved in financial cooperation. After the finalization of the preparation by the Stock Exchanges Forum, S&P OIC/COMCEC Index has been officially launched during 28th COMCEC in 2012, in İstanbul. Seizing the opportunity, I would like to invite all member countries and the IDB to lend their support for the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index in the Member Countries.
An efficient financial system contributes to the economic growth by effective allocation of resources. In that respect, proper channeling of the savings, improving investment climate in our countries and promoting FDI flows are of paramount importance for our economies. According to UNCTAD data, the total FDI flows to the COMCEC Member States in 2011 was USD 134 billion. With its 57 member states, COMCEC has been able to attract only 8.8 percent of the World Total FDI flows. In this context, it is really timely that we will discuss “Increasing FDI flows to the OIC Member Countries” in the exchange of views session to be organized during the 29th COMCEC.

Distinguished Guests,

I believe that efficient follow-up is the essence of success. Even if we take dozens of excellent decisions, without proper follow-up, these decisions would either remain on paper or at best, they will be implemented in a diffused and inefficient manner. I am confident that as the distinguished members of the Follow-up Committee, you will not restrict your follow-up task to solely to our meetings and you will continuously help us in monitoring all COMCEC decisions, projects, programmes and activities.

As I conclude my speech, I would like to reiterate my thanks and appreciations to all the delegations from member countries for their active participation and precious inputs to our work. I would also like to express my thanks to the representatives of OIC General Secretariat, Islamic Development Bank, SESRIC, ICDT, ICCIA, ITFC, OISA and SMIIC for their valuable contributions to the meeting. I would also like to thank our colleagues in the COMCEC Coordination Office who were on duty throughout the whole meeting, our interpreters, revisers and translators and all other colleagues taking part in the organization of the meeting for their untiring efforts which really helped us in rendering the meeting successful.

I wish you all a safe trip home.

Thank you.
ANNEX

XII
# LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC

(Ankara, 14-15 May 2013)

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<td>1.</td>
<td>CCO Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Ongoing Activities under the Economic and Commercial Cooperation</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>CCO Brief on Trade Cooperation</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Reports on Trade Fairs and Exhibitions of OIC Member Countries</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Annual Report on Trade between the OIC Member States 2013 - Executive Summary</td>
<td>OIC/COMCEC-FC/29-13/D(7)-ICDT</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Study on the Relevance of Establishing a Mechanism to Settle Intra-OIC Trade and Investment Disputes</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>CCO Brief on Transport Cooperation</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>CCO Brief on Tourism Cooperation</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>CCO Brief on Agricultural Cooperation</td>
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<td>20.</td>
<td>CCO Brief on Poverty Alleviation</td>
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<td>The 2012 Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries ........................................</td>
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<td>Concept Note: Workshop on “Increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Flows to OIC Member Countries”.................................</td>
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