REPORT
THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF
THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
OF THE COMCEC
Ankara, 7 - 8 May 2014

COMCEC Coordination Office
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Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

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REPORT

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1. The Thirtieth 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 7-8 May 2014 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 Kuwait : (Vice Chairman, Representing the Arab Region),
   6- Republic of Indonesia : (Vice Chairman, Representing the Asian Region),
   7- Republic of Niger : (Vice Chairman, Representing the African Region),
   8- Islamic Republic of Pakistan : (Rapporteur),
   9- State of Qatar : (Member of the Previous Bureau),
   10- Republic of Kazakhstan : (Member of the Previous Bureau),
   11- Republic of Mali : (Member of the Previous Bureau).

3. Representative of the Republic of Iraq also attended the meeting as an observer.

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) and the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC) attended the Meeting.

(The list of participants is attached as Annex I.)
Agenda Item 1: Opening Session

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, had sent a message to the Meeting. His message was read out by Mr. Erşat HÜRMÜZLÜ, Senior Advisor to the President. In his message, H.E. Abdullah GÜL mentioned the necessity of deepening cooperation among the Member States to address the common challenges.

7. H.E. Abdullah GÜL highlighted the new implementation instruments introduced by the COMCEC Strategy, namely Working Groups and Project Cycle Management (PCM). H.E. GÜL called upon on all Member States to actively participate in the activities within the framework of implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

8. H.E. Abdullah GÜL also touched upon the satisfactory progress achieved in the cooperation efforts in various areas. With regards to trade, H.E. GÜL pointed out the crucial role of liberalization of trade and improving the efficiency of the customs procedures for increasing intra-OIC Trade. In this context, he called upon all Member Countries to accelerate the ratification process of the TPS-OIC agreements and make the necessary arrangements for its implementation.


   (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. Abdullah GÜL, H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ addressed the meeting. In his statement, H.E. YILMAZ highlighted the recent world economic developments, evaluated the performance of the global economy as well as the OIC economies as a group during the past crisis period.

11. With regard to the recent world economic developments, H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ underlined that thanks to the impact of the packages for simultaneous monetary expansion and economic recovery introduced particularly in the U.S and the Eurozone over the past five years, the adverse effects of the financial crisis have been mitigated. H.E. YILMAZ also indicated that two key elements to affect global economy in the forthcoming period are the approach of the United States towards monetary policies, and whether developing countries continue to introduce their structural reforms. In doing so, H.E. YILMAZ emphasized the importance of the realization of structural reforms in the Member Countries to improve their economic conditions.
12. H.E. YILMAZ expressed his satisfaction for the successful operationalization of the COMCEC strategy through the convening of the Working Groups in each cooperation area and implementation of the cooperation projects under the COMCEC PCM.

13. H.E. YILMAZ also pointed out the importance of the theme of this year’s Ministerial Exchange of Views Session, namely “The Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States”.

14. H.E. YILMAZ ended his speech by delivering his wishes that the 30th Follow-up Meeting of COMCEC would contribute to the prosperity of Islamic Ummah.

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

15. The message of H.E. Iyad Ameen MADANI, Secretary General of the OIC, was read out by H.E. Ambassador Mouhamadou Doudou LO, Director General of the Economic Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat. In his message, H.E. MADANI stated that the COMCEC has, since its inception in 1984, contributed to the formulation of several economic policies and programmes, which has earned the OIC the status of a veritable actor in promoting socio-economic development and South-South cooperation. With regards to the trade facilitation, H.E. MADANI pointed out that trade facilitation agenda can be more robust if the Member Countries pool their national resources in the direction of the elimination of trade and non-trade barriers, simplification and harmonization of trade regulations and addressing the existing structural constraints to trade. H.E. MADANI also underscored the need to increase the involvement of private sector in the economic cooperation efforts of the Member States.

(A copy of the text of the message of H.E. Iyad Ameen MADANI is attached as Annex IV.)

16. The Meeting was then addressed by the Heads of Delegation of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Niger, State of Kuwait and Arab Republic of Egypt. 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 the 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 COMCEC.
Sideline Event

17. The 24th Meeting of the Sessional Committee was held on May 6th, 2014.
   *(Report of the 24th Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex V.)*

Working Sessions

18. The working sessions of the Meeting were chaired by H.E. Ambassador Emre YUNT, Director General of the Multilateral Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.

19. The agenda of the Meeting was adopted by the Committee after the amendments.
   *(A copy of the Agenda is attached as Annex VI.)*

Agenda Item 2: The COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation

20. The Committee took note of the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the developments with regard to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

21. The Committee welcomed the convening of the COMCEC Working Groups successfully in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 29th Session of the COMCEC.

22. The Committee also welcomed the progress towards the implementation of cooperation projects to be realized in 2014 under the COMCEC PCM.

23. The Committee encouraged the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Working Groups to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the relevant Working Groups and benefit from the COMCEC PCM for realizing their cooperation projects.

24. The Committee welcomed the offer of the COMCEC Coordination Office to organize the Second Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points on 4-5 June 2014 in Ankara, Turkey and called upon the concerned focal points to actively participate in the meeting.

25. The Committee requested the Member States which have not done so, to register to the COMCEC Working Groups and actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the Working Groups.
26. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIIC for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

**Agenda Item 3: Implementation of the OIC Ten Year Program of Action (TYPOA)**

27. The Committee **called for** the realization of the objectives of the TYPOA and **called upon** the Member States and the OIC Institutions to extend required efforts towards reaching the objectives of the TYPOA.

28. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, the Committee **requested** the Member States to sign and ratify the agreements in the economic domain for furthering economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.

**Agenda Item 4: Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade**

29. The Committee **welcomed** the convening of the Third Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on February 27th, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Facilitating Intra-OIC Trade: Improving the Efficiency of the Customs Procedures in the OIC Member States”.

30. The Committee also **welcomed** the activities organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in the area of trade aligned with the Strategy since the 29th Session of the COMCEC.

31. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the COMCEC Coordination Office to organize the Fourth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on October 23rd, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Trade Liberalization Efforts and Preferential Trade Agreements in the OIC Member States with Special Emphasis on the TPS-OIC” and **invited** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to actively attend the meeting.

32. The Committee **requested** the concerned Member States to actively participate in the trade activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in the second half of 2014.

i) **TPS-OIC**

33. The Committee **requested** 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 and complete the following procedures at their earliest convenience:
• Notify their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of products and the MFN applied rate applicable on October 1st, 2003,

• 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.

34. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the ICDT and the ICCIA for organizing sensitizing events towards increasing awareness on the benefits of TPS-OIC among the government officials and the private sector in the Member States.

35. The Committee **requested** the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to consider convening its session after the required number of Member States, having ratified the three TPS-OIC Agreements, convey their list of concessions to the TNC Secretariat.

**ii) Islamic Trade Fairs**

36. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts of the ICDT towards improving the number and quality of Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions.

37. The Committee **expressed** its thanks and appreciation to the following Member States for hosting Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in coordination with ICDT in line with the resolutions of the 29th Session of the COMCEC:

- United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah)
  2nd OIC Halal Expo on 16-18 December 2013
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
  7th OIC Agribusiness Expo (13-16 April 2014 in Jeddah)

38. The Committee **welcomed** the offers of the following Member States to host the following Islamic Trade Fairs in collaboration with the ICDT:

- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
  1st Exhibition on Furniture, Decoration, Household and Electrical Appliances (11-14 May 2014 in Jeddah)
- Republic of Senegal
  2nd OIC Health Expo (26-29 June 2014 in Dakar)
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
  1st OIC Hajj and Omrah Expo (16-20 November 2014 in Madinah Al-Munawwarah)
- United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah)
  3rd OIC Halal Expo (December 2014)

- Republic of Tunisia
  1st Fair on Biological and Local Products (October 2015)

39. The Committee also welcomed the offers of Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 15th, 16th and 17th editions of the Islamic Trade Fairs in 2015, 2017 and 2019 respectively.

40. The Committee requested the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

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

**iii) Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade**

42. The Committee took note with appreciation of the ICDT’s 2014 Annual Report on “Trade among the OIC Member States” and noted that, despite the world economic and financial instability, the net volume of intra-OIC trade reached USD 375.8 billion and its share in the overall foreign trade of Member States reached 18.45% in 2012.

43. The Committee took note of the report of the “6th Meeting of the Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade” held on 3-4 February 2014 in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco.

44. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the State of the United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah) and ICDT for organizing the “Forum of the Trade Promotion Organs of the OIC Member States: Developing more synergies with the Private Sector” on 17-18 March 2014 in cooperation with Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry Sharjah – State of the United Arab Emirates.

45. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Republic of Tunisia in cooperation with the ICDT to host a Seminar on competition policies in the OIC Member Countries on 23-25 June 2014 in Tunis and the International Conference on offshoring among the OIC Member States in November 2014 in Tunis and urged the Member States to actively participate in these events.

46. 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

47. The Committee expressed its thanks and appreciation to the IDB Group and ICDT for organizing WTO related training courses and seminars for the benefit of the Member States.

48. The Committee called on IDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and to carry on their efforts in raising the awareness of Member States on the importance of the WTO trade negotiations and their impact on economies.

49. The Committee requested the IDB and the ICDT to pool together and coordinate their efforts to reinforce the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on an equitable and fair basis.

50. The Committee welcomed the decision of the WTO 9th Ministerial Conference held on 3-6 December 2013 in Bali, Indonesia on the accession of the Republic of Yemen to the WTO.

v) Trade Financing Activities

51. The Committee took note of the trade finance activities of 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.

52. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the ITFC towards developing new credit instruments covering both medium and long term finance for semi-capital and capital goods in line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC.

vi) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

53. The Committee acknowledged the increasing visibility of the SMIIC and expressed its appreciation to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence.

54. The Committee requested the Member States to actively participate in the meetings of the technical committees of the SMIIC as well as Accreditation Committee and Metrology Committee under SMIIC with their national competent authorities.
55. The Committee **requested** the Member States which have not done so far, to join SMIIC to benefit from its services.

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**Agenda Item 5: Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation**

56. While underlining the crucial role of the private sector in the economic development of the Member States, the Committee **recommended** giving more emphasis on the cooperation efforts towards the development of the private sector in the Member States under the auspices of the COMCEC.

57. The Committee **took note** of the recommendations of the 16th Private Sector Meeting for OIC Member Countries held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates on 19-20 March 2014.

58. The Committee **welcomed** the holding of the Seminar on Introduction of Islamic Banking and Finance, in collaboration with Islamic Research & Training Institute (IRTI) of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group and Uganda National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UNCCI), and **noted** the need of Islamic Banking, which addresses the needs of the SMEs and enables the private sector to expand their trading activities and business opportunities among themselves.

59. The Committee also **welcomed** the efforts of the ICCIA, in bridging the information gap, between the private sectors of the member states by creating Business Development Centers (Al-Masfaq) holding Business Forums, Training programmes and Seminars, and **called upon** the ICCIA to continue with these activities.

60. The Committee **took note** of the following activities to be organized by the ICCIA and **called upon** private sector of the member States to actively participate in them:
   - 8th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries to be held in 2014.
   - Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agribusiness to be held in Pakistan in 2014.
   - Training Programs for the Member Chambers on Capacity Building, Poverty Alleviation, Sustainable Development and Utilization of Microfinance (in 2014).
   - Organizing General and Specialized Exhibitions and Trade Fairs on country and regional basis in 2014.
   - 17th Private Sector Meeting to be held in 2015.

61. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize the Second Workshop on “Enhancing Cooperation Among the Trade Registry Agencies of the OIC Member States” in 2015 in Turkey.
62. The Committee also welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to share the experiences of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization of Turkey (KOSGEB) with the requesting Member States.

**Agenda Item 6: Improving Transport and Communications**

63. The Committee welcomed the convening of the Third Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on March 13th, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Developing Multimodal Freight Transport (MFT) Among the OIC Member Countries: Current Implementations and Policy Recommendations”.

64. The Committee welcomed the offer of the COMCEC Coordination Office to organize the Fourth Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on September 11th, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Developing Air Linkages to Sustain Tourism among the Member States” and invited the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to attend actively to the Meeting.

65. 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 and 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.

66. The Committee requested the Member States to encourage their shipping companies to register their ships to the Islamic Indemnity and Protection Club (Islamic P&I Club) developed by the OISA to promote shipping in the Member Countries in order to increase the trade between the member countries.

**Agenda Item 7: Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector**

67. The Committee welcomed the convening of the Third Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group on March 4th, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Enabling Tourism Investment Climate in the Member Countries”.

68. The Committee also welcomed the offer of the COMCEC Coordination Office to organize the Fourth Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to be held on September 4th, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Enhancing the Capacity of Tourism Workforce in the Member Countries for Improved Tourism Service Quality” and invited the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to attend actively to the meeting.
69. The Committee took note of the report of the “Second Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum” held on 16-17 of December 2013, in İstanbul, Turkey and requested the Member States to encourage their private sector representatives in tourism sector to actively participate in the 3rd Meeting of the Forum to be held in İstanbul, Turkey.

70. The Committee welcomed the resolutions of the 8th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) held on 3-5 December 2013 in Banjul, Republic of Gambia.

71. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Republic of Niger to host the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in 2015 and called upon the Member Countries to actively participate in this event.

72. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Republic of Indonesia to organize the 1st International Forum on Islamic Tourism with the theme of “Islamic Tourism: the Prospects and Challenges” on 2-3 June 2014 and called upon the Member Countries to actively participate in this event.

73. The Committee called on the Member States, funding institutions, bilateral and multilateral development assistance bodies, enterprises and institutions of the private sector and concerned OIC institutions to actively participate in the Second Donors’ Conference in a bid to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Regional Project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”.

74. The Committee welcomed the offer of the State of the United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah) to host the “2nd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States” in February 2015 and urged the Member States to participate actively in this event.

75. The Committee also welcomed the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the “3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States” to be jointly organized by the Ministry of Tourism of the Arab Republic of Egypt and ICDT.

**Agenda Item 8: Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security**

76. The Committee welcomed the convening of the Second Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group on December 19th, 2013 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Encouraging Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in the Member States for Increasing Agricultural Productivity.”
77. The Committee also welcomed the convening of the Third Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group on April 3rd, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving the Statistical Capacity of the Agriculture Sector in the Member States.”

78. The Committee further welcomed the offer of the COMCEC Coordination Office to organize the Fourth Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group on September 25th, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Facilitating Smallholder Farmers' Market Access in the Member States” and invited the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to attend actively the meeting.

79. The Committee noted with appreciation 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.

80. The Committee invited the Member States, which have signed the Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security to facilitate the ratification process and the Member States, which have not signed it to do so at the earliest convenience.

Agenda Item 9: Eradicating Poverty

81. The Committee welcomed the convening of the Second Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group on December 26th, 2013 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Targeting Mechanisms of the Social Safety Net Systems in the Member States”.

82. The Committee also welcomed the convening of the Third Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group on April 10th, 2014 with the theme of "Monitoring Mechanisms of the Social Safety Net Programmes in the Member States".

83. The Committee further welcomed the offer of the COMCEC Coordination Office to organize the Fourth Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group on September 18th, 2014 with the theme of “Analyzing the Institutional Structure of the Social Protection Systems in the Member States” and invited the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to attend actively to the meeting.
i) Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA)

84. The Committee requested 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.

85. The Committee also requested the ISFD to increase its efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including the private sector in the Member States.

86. 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).

87. The Committee took note of the initiative of IDB Group for formulating an action plan to facilitate the effective implementation of the projects under the SPDA and to assess its effectiveness.

ii) OIC Cotton Program

88. Referring to the relevant resolution of the 29th Session of the COMCEC, the Committee reiterated its request to the IDB to organize the 5th Project Committee Meeting as soon as possible with a view to exploring the possibility, in collaboration with the project owners, of redesigning the cotton projects that are yet to be financed, in such a format that may render them eligible for applying for different schemes of financing as soft projects.

89. 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 the 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

90. 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.
91. 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.

92. The Committee took note of the observations of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the study entitled “Managing Natural Disasters and Conflicts in OIC Countries”, which has been prepared by SESRIC and IDB, and invited the other Member States to present their views on the content of the study within a period of 2 months to the COMCEC Coordination Office. The Committee requested IDB and SESRIC to take into consideration these observations in the preparation of a new version of the study to be submitted to the 30th Session of COMCEC for consideration.

93. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for sharing its experience on Skills 10 project with the other Member States under the OIC-VET Program.

**Agenda Item 10: Deepening Financial Cooperation**

94. The Committee welcomed the convening of the First Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on December 12th, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of “Enhancing Capital Flows among the Member Countries.”

95. The Committee also welcomed the convening of the Second Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on March 27th, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Enhancing Financial Inclusion in the Member Countries.”

96. The Committee welcomed the offer of the COMCEC Coordination Office to organize the Third Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on October 16th, 2014 with the theme of “Conducting A Risk Management Analysis on Islamic Financial Instruments in the Member States” and invited the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively attend the meeting.

**i) OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum**

97. Recalling the relevant decision of the 28th and 29th Sessions 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.
98. The Committee also welcomed the pilot study initiative of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum for collecting aggregate statistical information regarding OIC Markets and reporting the study back to the members as well as to investors and fund managers.

99. The Committee took note of the efforts of the SESRIC towards facilitating the transfer of knowledge, experience and best practices in the area of stock exchanges through organizing training courses on different technical aspects in the Stock Exchanges of the Member States in collaboration with the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum.

100. The Committee further welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 8th Meeting of the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchange Forum in November 2014 in Istanbul and requested the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

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

101. The Committee welcomed the efforts carried out by the Task Forces of COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum on Islamic capital market solutions, database, financial literacy as well as capacity building.

102. The Committee invited the Member States to support the efforts of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum through participating in its meetings, contributing to the accomplishment of the assignments of the Task Forces, appointing contact persons to follow up its works and using its website effectively.

103. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the Third Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum in 2014 in Istanbul and requested all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

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

104. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the 13th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States on 27-28 November 2013 in Jeddah.

105. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Republic of Indonesia to host the 14th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States on 5-6 November 2014 in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia with the theme “Financial Stability through Macro-prudential Policy and Financial Market Deepening among OIC Countries” and requested the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.
106. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for organizing capacity building programs for the benefit of the other Member States.

107. The Committee **took note** with appreciation of the continuous efforts of SESRIC towards organizing the Annual Meetings of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States, and **requested** the Centre to continue organizing training and capacity building programmes for the Central Banks of the Member States within the framework of the annual meetings of these important national institutions.

**Agenda Item 11: Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “The Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States”**

108. The Committee **took note** of the preparations by the COMCEC Coordination Office and the SESRIC for the organization of the workshop to be held in Ankara prior to the 30th Session of the COMCEC with the theme of “The Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States” and **requested** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

**i) Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 31st COMCEC Session**

109. The Committee **took note** of the following possible themes of the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 31st Session of the COMCEC:

- **Theme 1:** Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of Islamic Ummah.
- **Theme 2:** Enhancing Aid Efficiency and Developing Effective Aid Strategies and Policies.
- **Theme 3:** Promoting Islamic Financial Services in the OIC Member States.
- **Theme 4:** Utilization of the Islamic Waqfs to mobilize the resources for alleviating poverty in the OIC Member States.

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 30th Session of the COMCEC.
Agenda Item 12: Draft Agenda of the 30th Session of the COMCEC  
(İstanbul, 25-28 November 2014)

111. The Committee decided to submit the Draft Agenda to the 30th Session of COMCEC.

(A copy of the Draft Agenda of the 30th Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex VII.)

Closing Session

112. At its Closing Session chaired by H.E. Ambassador H. Emre YUNT, Director General of the Multilateral Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 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 Thirtieth Session of the COMCEC.

113. The Committee noted with appreciation that a set of side events will be held on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the COMCEC Session and the Member Countries will be informed of the said events in due course.

114. On behalf of all delegations, Head of Delegation of Mali expressed thanks to H.E. Abdullah GÜL President of Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC for his high guidance to the cooperation efforts under the COMCEC and the government as well as the people of the Republic of Turkey for their warm hospitality extended to the delegations. Upon his proposal the Committee decided to convey a special vote of thanks to H.E. Abdullah GÜL for his wise leadership as the Chairman of the COMCEC.

115. H.E. Ambassador Mouhamadou Doudou LO, Director General of the Department of Economic Affairs of the OIC General Secretariat, delivered his closing remarks. H.E. LO stressed the importance of the recommendations adopted by the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC. H.E. LO also expressed his appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the traditional warm hospitality accorded to all delegations.

116. In his closing statement, H.E. H. Emre YUNT underlined that the Committee successfully reviewed implementation status of the resolutions of the 29th Session of the COMCEC and adopted important recommendations towards enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States. In this regard he expressed his sincere thanks to the participants for their active participation and valuable contributions. He also emphasized that the year 2013 has been a milestone for the COMCEC due to the operationalization of the COMCEC Strategy. H.E. YUNT invited
all the Member Countries to maintain their interest in and support to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

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

(A copy of the text of the Closing Statement by H.E. H. Emre YUNT is attached as Annex VIII.)
ANNEX

I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(Ankara, 7 – 8 May 2014)

A. MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

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

- Mr. MOSTAFA MIKKAWI
  Commercial Consul, General Consulate of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Istanbul

- Mr. AMR RIFAI
  Counsellor, Embassy of Egypt in Ankara

- Mr. IHAB MOHAMED FATHY
  Deputy Director of Multilateral Agreements, Ministry of Trade

- Mr. MOUTAZ ALI
  3rd Commercial Secretary European Department, Ministry of Trade Industry and Investment

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

- Mr. RIZAL EDWIN MANANSAG
  Assistant Deputy for Multilateral Economic Cooperation

- Mr. CAHYADI YUDODAHONO
  Head of Sub Division of Multilateral Financing

- Mr. ANGGA HANDIAN PUTRA
  Head of Section

- Mr. PUDJI YANTO
  Deputy Director

- Ms. DYAH L. ASMARANI
  First Secretary, Embassy of Indonesia in Ankara

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

- Mr. FAREJ MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH
  Manager, Responsible for Regional Organizations Division, Ministry of Commerce
Annex I to OIC/COMCEC-FC/30-14/REP

- Mr. RAAD KASHI ALANI
  Deputy Commercial Attache, Embassy of Iraq in Ankara

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

- Mr. DAMIR KHAIM
  Expert

- Ms. ALMIRA KHAMZINA
  Expert

STATE OF KUWAIT

- Mr. ISHAQ ABDULKAREEM
  Director of International Economic Co-operation Department, Ministry of Finance

- Mr. SAAD AL-RASHIDI
  Head of OIC Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance

- Ms. FATIMAH AL-KANDARY
  Economic Researcher, Ministry of Finance

REPUBLIC OF MALI

- H.E. MOHAMED MAHMOUD BEN LABAT
  Ambassador and Permanent Representative to OIC

- Mr. MOUSSA ALIOU KONE
  Counselor at the Embassy of Mali in Riyadh

REPUBLIC OF NIGER

- Ms. MARIAMA ZADA
  Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Trade

- Mr. MAMANE SAIDOU
  Chief of Division

- Mr. ABDOULLAHI BONZOUGOU
  Advisor Technique, Ministry of Trade

- Mr. ASSANE KOSSOMI CHEKOU KORE
  Counsellor Technique

- Ms. AICHATOU MAMADOU
  General Director of Commerce, Ministry of Trade

- Mr. MATO SALEY
  Reform, Public Enterprises and Public-Private Sector General Manager
- Mr. KARIDIO ZATAOU KATO  
  Tourism General Manager

- Mr. IRO SOULEY  
  Manager of Foreign Investments, Ministry of Planning

- Mr. ALFIDJA HADJI  
  Head of Exchange Promotion Department, Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Handicraft

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

- Mr. WAQAR AHMAD SHAH  
  Joint Secretary (Leader), Ministry of Commerce

- Mr. MOAZZAM ALI HAIDER  
  Section Officer, Ministry of Commerce

- Dr. YOUSAF JUNAID  
  Consul General, Consulate General of Pakistan, Istanbul

STATE OF PALESTINE

- Mr. FADI FAHAD GHALEB AINABOSEE  
  Islamic World Head of Section, Ministry of National Economy

- Mr. AZMI ABU GHAZALEH  
  Economic Counsellor, Embassy of Palestine in Ankara

STATE OF QATAR

- Mr. AHMED SALEH AL-MOHANNADI  
  Economic Adviser, Ministry of Economy and Trade

- Ms. MOZA SAEED AL-NOAIMI  
  International Cooperation Researcher, Ministry of Economy and Trade

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

- Mr. ABDULLAH BIN ABDULWAHAB AL-NAFISAH  
  Director General Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- Mr. HUSSIN EED AL-RASHEED  
  Economist, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- Mr. ANWAR BIN HASUSAH  
  Commercial Attaché, Consulate General of Saudi Arabia in İstanbul
Annex I to OIC/COMCEC-FC/30-14/REP

- Mr. FAHHAD JAZZA AL RASHIDI
  Economist, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

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

- Mr. MEHMET CEYLAN
  Deputy Minister of Development

- H.E. Amb. H. EMRE YUNT
  Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. İZZET İŞIK
  Deputy General Director, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications

- Mr. MUSA CEYLAN
  Advisor, Ministry of Development

- Mr. RIZA KAĞAN YILMAZ
  Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. ERCÜMENT İŞIK
  Head of Department, Ministry of Family and Social Policies

- Mr. NEVZAT FIRAT KUNDURACI
  Head of Department, Ministry of Family and Social Policies

- Mr. FATİH DENİZ
  Deputy Manager, Stock Exchange Forum

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

- Ms. F. ZEHRA TÜRKÖZ SAYAR
  Coordinator, Ankara Regional Directorate, the Export Credit Bank of Turkey

- Mr. TALAT KAYA
  Head of Section, Ministry of Economy

- Mr. ÖZGÜ EVİRGEN
  Expert, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey

- Mr. MUSTAFA ÖZSOY
  Expert, Ministry of Culture and Tourism

- Ms. EDA BURCU BULUT
  EU Expert, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications
- Mr. ERTUĞRUL NAZLI  
  Expert, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Organization (KOSGEB)

- Mr. ALİ RIZA KARAGÖZ  
  Engineer, Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology

- Mr. İZZET YILMAZ  
  Engineer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock

- Ms. BANU ŞENER  
  Engineer, Ministry of Customs and Trade

- Mr. MURAT YILDIRIM  
  Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

- Ms. DİLAN CAN  
  Assistant Expert, Ministry of Economy

- Ms. ŞEYMA SERDENGEÇTİ  
  Assistant Expert, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey

- Ms. BURCU ÖZERGÜL  
  Assistant Expert, Ministry of Customs and Trade

C. THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

- H.E. Amb. MOUHAMADOU DOUDOU LO  
  Director General for Economic Affairs

- Mr. GHOOLAMHOSSEIN DARZI  
  Director, Department of Economic Affairs

D. OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)

- Prof. SAVAŞ ALPAY  
  Director General

- Mr. NABIL DABOUR  
  Director of Research Department

- Dr. KENAN BAĞCI  
  Senior Researcher
ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)

- Mr. HOUCINE RAHMOUNI
  Counsellor of DG

- Mr. TARIK MERRI
  Webmaster

E. SPECIALIZED ORGS OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB) GROUP

- Mr. MUHAMMAD IQBAL AZAD
  Adviser

- Mr. ABDUL BASIT RACHEED JAM
  Cooperation Specialist

- Mr. HUSSEIN KHALIF JAMA
  Advisor to the CEO, ICIEC

- Mr. HOSAM WAFIQ SADEDDIN
  Assistant General Manager

F. AFFILIATED ORGS OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE (ICCIA)

- Ms. ATTIYA NAWAZISH ALI KHAN, AYAZ
  Assistant Secretary General

ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION (OISA)

- Mr. MOHAMMAD ZAFAR BHATTI
  Director Finance

G. OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

THE STANDARDS AND METROLOGY INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SMIIC)

- Mr. HALUK DAĞ
  Secretary General

- Ms. EMEL GÖNÇ
  Assistant to Secretary General
H. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

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

- Mr. MUSTAFA TEKİN
  Head of Department

- Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ
  Expert

- Mr. SELÇUK KOÇ
  Head of Department

- Mr. MURAT DELİÇAY
  Expert, Drafting

- Mr. ORHAN ÖZTAŞKIN
  Protocol and Press Relations

- Dr. NAZIM GÜMÜŞ
  Protocol Relations

- Mr. ALİ İŞLER
  Expert, Drafting

- Mr. DENİZ GÖLE
  Expert, Drafting

- Ms. AYLİN ŞENOL GÜN
  Expert, Drafting

- Mr. HAKAN GÜNLÜ
  Expert, Drafting

- Mr. İSMAIL ÇAĞRI ÖZCAN
  Expert, Drafting

- Ms. VİLDAN BARAN
  Expert, Drafting

- Ms. ASLI TAŞMAZ DABAKOĞLU
  Expert, Drafting

- Ms. MÜKERREM ÖZKILIÇ
  Coordinator of Registration Office

- Ms. EBRU ÇETİNKURŞUN KANYILMAZ
  Assistant Coordinator of Registration Office
- Ms. HANDE ÖZDEMİR
  Assistant Coordinator of Registration Office

- Mr. KEMAL ARSLAN
  Coordinator of Meeting Rooms

- Mr. ERCAN İBIK
  Assistant Coordinator of Meeting Rooms

- Ms. SEHER KURUGÜL
  Coordinator of Documentation Center

- Ms. H. GÜL SAYIN
  Assistant Coordinator of Documentation Center

- Ms. EMİNE DEMİREL
  Assistant Coordinator of Documentation Center

- Ms. Z. LEYLA AŞK
  Social Program

- Ms. NAZİFE GÜLGEN
  Social Program

- Ms. BİLGE GÜLLÜ
  Executive Secretary

- Mr. MEHMET FİDAN
  Assistant Expert, Drafting

- 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. NİHAT AKBALIK
  Assistant Expert, Drafting

- Mr. SEYFİ UYANIK
  Press Relations
- Mr. MEVLÜT YAŞAR
  Coordinator of Transport Relations

- Mr. CAFER ERDOĞAN
  Stock Coordinator

- Mr. TAYFUR YÜKSEL
  Security Relations

- Mr. KAMİL ŞAN
  Photographer

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ANNEX

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

Thirtieth Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC
(Ankara, 7 May 2014)

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

We take a great pleasure in hosting you all in Turkey on the occasion of the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

I wish the deliberations to be made today at the 30th anniversary of the COMCEC to consolidate peace, prosperity and welfare of the Islamic world.

Making great contributions to the promotion of cooperation among member countries for the past 30 years, COMCEC has introduced numerous important projects within this period of time. Thanks to the COMCEC Strategy adopted in 2012, our efforts for cooperation have been built on a more systematic ground.

The New COMCEC Strategy was successfully launched last year. As you all know, 2 major mechanisms have been introduced in an effort to promote cooperation among member countries in a tangible manner as a part of the COMCEC Strategy. They are the Working Groups and the Project Cycle Management.

17 Working Group Meetings have been held in Trade, Transport and Communication, Tourism, Agriculture, Poverty Alleviation and Financial Cooperation within a 15-month period since the Strategy was launched. Over 40 countries in total have been involved in the implementation process over a one-year span of time, and have taken an active part in various working groups.

I attach paramount importance to the Working Groups in terms of identifying common issues of the Member Countries, filling the gap in information, developing a common understanding and approximating our policies in relevant areas.

The Project Cycle Management, which is another implementation instrument of the Strategy, aims at mobilizing human and institutional capacities of the Member Countries for common goals of cooperation. Member Countries and relevant OIC institutions have shown a huge interest in the first project call made in September 2013. The implementation period for the projects developed by ten Member Countries...
and two institutions kicked off last April. I support the implementation of these projects decisively.

Distinguished Delegates,

Trade is the key to development, welfare, enhancing competitiveness, international cooperation and sustainable peace.

In this sense, we have attached a particular importance to the enhancement of trade since the very first meetings held within the framework of the COMCEC. The intra-OIC trade thereby increased from roughly 10% in early 2000s to almost 18% as of 2013.

On the other hand, I am of the opinion that Islamic countries have yet to capitalize on the trade potential. We need to liberalize trade among member countries and mitigate barriers for customs as soon as possible. OIC Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC) is a crucial step towards this objective. Even though the preparations for the implementation have been finalized to a considerable extent, I regret to say that this important Agreement has not been operationalized.

There are currently 377 Regional Trade Regulations across the world. The number of Preferential Trade Agreements in operation increased from 70 in 1990 to 258 in 2013. In a conjuncture where the global trade has advanced to such an extent, it is a massive failure not to be able to operationalize a trade agreement that would include all Islamic countries. It is easier to understand how late we are given the fact that the TPS-OIC process was launched in the late 1980s prior to the foundation of WTO.

In this context, I would like to call upon all Member Countries to accelerate the ratification process of the TPS-OIC agreements and make necessary arrangements when it comes to the implementation stage.

I would like to underscore a matter at this point. We need to lift the trade barriers on one hand and attach a particular importance to structural reforms, social peace, innovation, development of a well-qualified culture of production, and ensuring fair income distribution on the other. Sustainable development and welfare cannot be possible if it were not for the aforementioned factors.

Distinguished Guests,

Tourism is one of the sectors with greatest contributions to economic growth and development as well. As you all know, developed countries take the highest share of international tourism. It is, however, projected that emerging economies will take more shares than developed countries in the near future. In parallel with this trend, OIC Countries need to speed up necessary endeavors towards increasing tourism revenue.
We, as the OIC Member Countries, need to enhance cooperation in tourism in an attempt to take more shares of the global tourism market. Within this framework, we need to regularly gather the experts of Member Countries in the COMCEC Tourism Working Group. I consider it a major benefit to make use of this momentous instrument for identifying common issues, exchanging good practices and engaging in multilateral cooperation.

In addition, the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum is another important platform. It is beyond any doubt that carrying out productive endeavors via these two mechanisms requires the active support of the member countries.

Furthermore, I find it quite pertinent that the main theme for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 30th COMCEC is designated as “The Role of Public-Private Partnership to Promote Tourism in the COMCEC Region”. I firmly believe that significant decisions will be taken during this session.

Distinguished Guests,

Islamic countries have major cooperation opportunities in finance to offer one another. Islamic countries have considerable know-how to be benefited from in order to build a global economic and financial system. I believe that benefiting from this potential as we should will open up new horizons in finance as well.

Islamic financial instruments, which leave no room for speculative activities and are based on tangible values, are highly promising. In fact, there are some quite positive developments in this respect. Global interest-free banking assets are expected to surpass USD 2 trillion in 2014.

Within this scope, I attach paramount importance to the endeavors carried out in financial cooperation under the COMCEC.

The current efforts for cooperation among Stock Exchanges, Capital Markets and Central Banks gain further strength with the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group. I would like to call on all Member Countries to provide active support for such efforts.

Distinguished Guests,

Poverty leads the problems we need to fight against across Islamic countries. The funds and programmes introduced to prevent poverty within the COMCEC Region are of major importance.

Within this framework, I would like to remind that the Poverty Alleviation Working Group makes crucial contributions towards consolidating solidarity among the Member Countries.
As I conclude my remarks, I wish the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC leads to fruitful conclusions and would like to sincerely greet all guests and delegates and wish you success in your endeavors.

May the Peace, Mercy and Blessing of Allah be Upon You.

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ANNEX

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

Thirtieth Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC
(Ankara, 7 May, 2014)

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

I take great pleasure to meet with you once again on the occasion of the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC. I would like to welcome you all in Ankara with my sincerest regards.

As you all know, during the Meetings of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC, we review the implementation status of resolutions taken during past meetings and take stock of necessary preparations for the next meeting along with the contributions of the distinguished Members of the Committee. In this context, the endeavors of the Follow-up Committee fulfill a significant duty in terms of overcoming challenges regarding the implementation of the COMCEC resolutions, taking necessary steps and setting the agenda of the COMCEC. I wish you all a fruitful meeting in advance.

Distinguished Guests,

An analysis on global economic and social developments is of importance to shed light upon our endeavors. Thanks to the impact of the packages for simultaneous monetary expansion and economic recovery introduced particularly in the U.S and the Eurozone over the past five years, the crisis has been stopped from deepening. In the wake of the recession in the Eurozone in 2012, discussions over fiscal cliff in the U.S, and downside risks, the global economic outlook in 2013 has grown stronger in general thanks to the developed countries.

According to the IMF data, the global growth, which was 3.2 percent in 2012, decreased to 3 percent in 2013. In spite of being higher than the economies of the developed countries, the growth rate of developing countries was 5 percent in 2012, decreased to 4.7 percent in 2013. According to the OECD, the recovery trend in global economy has persisted in spite of a slowdown, and yet the growth performance of the countries differs from each other. Two key elements to affect global economy in the forthcoming period are the approach of the United States towards monetary
policies, and whether developing countries will increase saving rates that improve their external balance, and continue to introduce structural reforms. With the anticipation that the economic recovery will be limited, IMF expects the growth rate for 2014 to be 3.6 percent. It is predicted that the growth rate of developing countries will be 4.9 percent in 2014.

In this context, the 4.3 percent growth rate of 2013 in the OIC Member Countries is predicted to be 4.6 in 2014. It is of vital importance that developing countries including the OIC countries materialize the structural reforms in order to improve their external balances in the forthcoming period.

On the other hand, the fluctuation in global trade volume is still in progress. The rate of increase in global trade volume, which was 6.2 percent in 2011, decreased to 2.8 percent in 2012. Having increased to 3 percent in 2013, the rate of increase is expected to mark 4.3 percent in 2014. The commodity export of Islamic countries, which was 2.1 trillion USD in 2011, reached 2.2 trillion USD in 2012. Over the same period of time, the commodity import increased from 1.7 trillion USD to 1.9 trillion USD. The share of the OIC member countries in the global export in 2012 increased by 3.4 percent compared to the previous year and reached 12.5 percent whereas its share in the global import increased by 6.3 percent and marked 10.2 percent. The intra-OIC trade mildly increased from approximately 16 percent to 18.2 percent between 2007 and 2012 except for the year 2011.

Fluctuations in commodity prices, a drought-related rise in food prices, and the failure to create employment as desired remain to constitute main problems for global economy. In addition to robust public balance and foreign exchange reserves, it is required to enhance international cooperation based on robust and balanced growth for developing countries to resist shocks.

Esteemed Members of the Follow-up Committee,

As it is well known, the COMCEC Strategy, which was launched last year, is a vision document that guides our cooperation efforts. As a part of the operationalization of the Strategy, the COMCEC Working Groups formed in Trade, Transport and Communications, Tourism, Agriculture, Poverty Alleviation and Financial Cooperation have established a momentous environment for cooperation. Analytical endeavors in related fields and exchange of experience and good practices enable to build our cooperation on a more realistic ground. In addition, I firmly believe that the Working Groups will enable to develop a common understanding among member countries for relevant fields of cooperation, and approximate our policies. I am of the opinion that member countries need to further participate in the Meetings of the Working Groups, and benefit from them as best as they can.
Another innovation introduced by the COMCEC Strategy is the Project Cycle Management (PCM). PCM enables us to put multilateral projects into force in technical cooperation and capacity building for member countries. I would like to express my pleasure to see that member countries and relevant OIC institutions showed a huge interest in the first project call made last September. The list of the successful projects was released last March, and a signing ceremony was held with the participation of the project owners in Ankara on 2nd of April. I would like to take this occasion to congratulate the successful project owners. The successful implementation of the projects will serve as a model for projects to be proposed in the forthcoming period. In addition, I would like to note that the Project Cycle Management will mobilize human and institutional capacities of the member countries. This consolidates the member-driven vision of the COMCEC.

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

I would like to dwell on major cooperation efforts carried out within the framework of the COMCEC. It is beyond doubt that the operationalization of the TPS-OIC, which is the most important project of the COMCEC to strengthen cooperation in trade, remains to be a major task. However, we have fallen short of expectations to operationalize TPS-OIC. At this stage, 10 states signing each of the 3 agreements to operationalize TPS-OIC need to submit their lists of concession. Having finalized the process for the approval and ratification of the TPS-OIC Agreements, 9 states submitted the lists of concession. I would like to call upon signatory countries to fulfill their obligations in an effort to operationalize this momentous project as soon as possible.

As a part of cooperation efforts in tourism, I attach importance to the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum. I believe that the forum, which gathers private sector representatives of the member countries in tourism, plays an important role in terms of reflecting the perspective of the private sector for policy-makers. Furthermore, I find it quite pertinent that the following Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the COMCEC will deliberate on the role of public-private partnership for the development of tourism sector in member countries. Within this framework, I would like to call on member countries to take an active part in the preparatory workshop to be held.

Distinguished Guests,

As you all know, the economic crises have put an emphasis on the importance of consolidating and auditing financial markets. In this sense, it is of importance to deepen financial cooperation in terms of consolidating financial markets of the member countries. I would like to express that I attach utmost importance to the
endeavors carried out by the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum that promotes cooperation among stock exchanges of member countries, and by the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum that gathers capital market regulators. In addition, addressing current issues on the agenda of the international finance as a part of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities Meetings, that annually gather the Central Bank representatives of the member countries, has strengthened our cooperation efforts in this field. I would like to take this occasion once again to call upon member countries to benefit more from cooperation opportunities within the body of the forums.

Distinguished Guests,

As you may all know, poverty is one of the major issues on the agenda of the COMCEC as it is on the agenda of the world. While making efforts to combat poverty, I believe that it is important for member countries to effectively benefit from resources such as the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development and Special Programme for Development of Africa established within the body of the Islamic Development Bank, and from OIC Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET) carried out by SESRIC. I believe that we will make a remarkable progress in terms of alleviating poverty across the region once the aforementioned funds and programmes are effectively put into force.

I would like to share a critical matter of poverty on the international agenda. According to the Human Development Index, OIC member countries, as you may know, have some important shortcomings particularly in institutional development and social inclusion whereas their average is not far from the world average in meeting basic needs of individuals. In this context, some prominent issues raised as a part of the post-2015 UN process on global development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals are of importance for OIC member countries as well. The aforesaid agenda includes prominent issues such as poverty eradication, addressing economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainability, good governance and participation, increasing employment creation, and strengthening global cooperation and solidarity. Within this framework, it is important to evaluate this process within ourselves both on a global scale and as Islamic countries, and put our problems on the post-2015 development agenda.

Distinguished Guests,

It goes without saying that the efficiency of the COMCEC programmes and projects, and the success of our initiatives for economic and commercial cooperation are closely associated with whether member countries embrace them or not. We, as the Republic of Turkey, will continue to put support behind COMCEC activities at an increasing pace. In this context, I am pleased to say that the share of Turkey's exports
to OIC member countries in total share of exports increased from 15 percent to 33 percent over the past decade, and reached USD 50 billion as its share in total imports was almost doubled over the same period of time and marked USD 32 billion. In this sense, I would like to express that we are determined to maintain Turkey's rapid increase in trade volume with OIC Member Countries by strengthening it on a sustainable ground.

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to congratulate Kuwait, Indonesia and Niger elected in the 29th Meeting of the COMCEC as a member of the Follow-up Committee, and Pakistan re-elected as a rapporteur. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to wish your deliberations during the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC to contribute to peace, prosperity and welfare of the Islamic Ummah.

I hope you enjoy your time in Ankara and wish you success.

May the Peace, Mercy and Blessing of Allah be Upon You.

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MESSAGE OF H.E. IYAD AMEEN MADANI,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Thirtieth Session of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC
(Ankara, 7 May 2014)

Your Excellency Honorable Minister,
Distinguished Delegates,
Distinguished Colleagues from OIC Institutions

Assalamu Alaikum wa-Rahmatu Allah wa Barakatuhu

I am delighted to address this 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC, which incidentally is the first meeting of this august Committee, since my assumption of duty as the new Secretary-General of our Organization. Let me first and foremost express my most sincere appreciation to President Abdullah GÜL, Chairman of COMCEC, as well as the Government and esteemed people of the Republic of Turkey for their constant support to the activities of this OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation.

Allow me also to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate all our Member States, which have just been elected into the Follow-Up Committee and are joining us today for the first time. As we welcome these new Members, I am full of hope that your deliberations at this meeting would go a long way in advancing the good image, which COMCEC has gained as a credible and pro-active mechanism for promoting dynamic socio-economic cooperation among our Member States. It is heartwarming that COMCEC has, since its inception in 1984, contributed to the formulation of several economic policies and programmes, which have stood the test of time and has earned the OIC the status of a veritable actor in promoting intra-OIC socio-economic development and indeed South-South Cooperation.

Substantially, the need to anchor intra-OIC socio-economic cooperation on addressing the problems of low productivity and investment, weak infrastructure, chronic unemployment and slow growth has become more apparent than ever. It is paradoxical that the OIC GDP represents only about 9% of the global output, while its population is 23% of the world figure. In the same vein, the share of OIC Member States in world trade has only risen slightly to 11.34% in 2012 from 10.61% in 2008. To this end, our priority has been the meaningful utilization of our inherent strength in
the form of abundant agricultural and mineral resources, as well as our common cultural heritage and affinities in confronting these developmental challenges.

Consequently, the implementation of TPS-OIC continues to remain pivotal in our collective efforts to attaining our target of 20% intra-OIC trade by 2015. In this regard, I must commend those Member States which have responded to our repeated calls for the completion of the required legal processes for the execution of the three OIC Agreements on TPS-OIC and have also submitted their respective lists of concessions. In addition, our trade facilitation agenda can be more robust if we pool our national actions in the direction of the elimination of trade and non-trade barriers, the simplification and harmonization of trade rules and regulations as well as addressing the existing structural constraints to trade, among other issues. The recent launch of an OIC Network of Trade Promotion Organizations is a step in right direction. This will fill the ownership gap that has become a major constraint to our trade cooperation efforts. There is no denying the fact that the national responses and actions of respective OIC Member States are essential for the multi-stakeholders’ partnership, which we seek to build in our Organization.

Similarly, the development of Small and Medium Enterprises is also crucial to the success of our programmes on investment promotion, productivity and wealth creation, which are necessary for increased welfare and socio-economic growth among our Member States. The recent consultations with the IDB Group on the need for the mainstreaming of Islamic Social Finance are aimed at supporting resource flows to the vulnerable groups, while at the same time increasing human capital development necessary for addressing chronic youth unemployment in our Member States. In the same vein, it is expected that the OIC Award of Excellence for handicrafts and the OIC City Tourism Awards, which were recently approved by our Tourism Ministers, would go a long way in mainstreaming cultural activities in the OIC economic agenda.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

I should not end this address without reiterating the lingering issue of the development of the Private Sector. While commending the current efforts of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture to reposition this OIC affiliated institution working for the promotion of Private Sector, I wish to underscore the need to increase the involvement of the Private Sector in our economic cooperation framework. In this regard, I wish to commend the outcome of the 16th Private Sector Meeting held in Sharjah, UAE on 19-20 March 2014 under the theme: “Benefits of Trade Preferential System - TPS-OIC for the promotion of Intra-OIC Trade”.
The outcome of this meeting is far-reaching and is capable of rejuvenating the role of the private sector in our current development efforts. The meeting upheld the need for the Private Sector to take advantage of the numerous trade-enhancing instruments of the OIC, including the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation, the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investment among Member States of OIC; and the Framework Agreement of TPS-OIC, including PRETAS and Rule of Origin. Similarly, the Forum saw the need for an early implementation of the Strategic Plan for Promotion and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises Sector in OIC Member States, including the creation of mechanisms for networking and exchange of expertise among the economic actors in such sectors as agro-food industry, business and technology incubation and social finance.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

As I wish this meeting a fruitful deliberation, let me underscore the commitment of the OIC General Secretariat to continue to interface with all our Member States, executive organs and institutions, as well as other relevant stakeholders in our efforts towards the effective implementation of all OIC decisions.

I thank you all for your kind attention,

Wassalamu Alyakum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu

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REPORT OF THE 24th MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(Ankara, 6 May 2014)

1. The 24th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on May 6th, 2014 in Ankara, on the sidelines of the 30th Meeting of 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 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 Ship-owners Association (OISA)

3. The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items:
   i. Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy
   ii. Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions
      ▪ Challenges/Problems Faced by the OIC Institutions in Coordinating their Activities
      ▪ Conducting Joint Activities
      ▪ Raising Awareness of the OIC Institutions’ Activities
   iii. Any Other Business

Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy

4. Under the first agenda item, the representatives of the COMCEC Coordination Office briefly informed the Committee of the progress regarding the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy through the Working Groups and the Project Cycle Management (PCM).

5. Highlighting the significance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the realization of the COMCEC Strategy, the Committee reviewed the implementation status of the list of activities of the relevant OIC Institutions aligned with the
COMCEC Strategy based on the cooperation areas namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation. The Committee was informed by the relevant OIC Institutions of their activities organized from October 2013 to May 2014. It was noted that the activities have mainly been concentrated on capacity building and training activities, seminars and workshops. Hence, the Committee stressed the need for diversifying the cooperation areas as well as the types of activities. In this respect, the Committee highlighted the importance of including of research-type activities in the list of activities.

6. The Committee requested the relevant OIC Institutions to convey their list of planned activities for 2015, to the COMCEC Coordination Office by early October 2014.

7. The Committee also requested the concerned OIC Institutions to update their list of activities which has already been submitted for 2014.

(The list of activities organized by the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy between October 2013 and April 2014 as well as the List of Activities to be Organized by the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy (May 2014- December 2014) are attached as Annex I.)

Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the OIC Institutions

8. Regarding the first sub-item, the Committee discussed the challenges that the OIC Institutions faced in coordinating their activities and explored the possible ways for overcoming these challenges. The Committee underlined the importance of enhancing cooperation and coordination among the OIC Institutions as well as the regional and international organizations. It was expressed that low level of participation by the Member Countries in the Meeting, limited financial resources, restrictive visa regimes, attendance of the meetings by participants other than those of the relevant fields are some of the common challenges experienced by the Institutions.

9. The Committee noted some of the restrictions of the OIC Institutions in coordinating their activities arising from the assignments given to them by the high level OIC Forums and their annual programs as well as from their limited budgets.

10. Regarding the second sub-item, Conducting Joint Activities, the Committee elaborated on the added value of the joint activities organized by the OIC Institutions and stressed the importance of conducting joint activities which provide a synergy and serve to efficient resource mobilization. The Committee took note of the proposal to develop a model project including all the relevant OIC Institutions working in the field of economic and commercial cooperation and requested the IDB Group to study the idea and develop a set of criteria until the subsequent Sessional Committee Meeting.
11. The Committee discussed the importance of utilizing the ICT tools such as videoconference and teleconference with a view to improving the existing communication and coordination among the OIC Institutions. It was also highlighted that online registration systems may be utilized in the big events where a large number of participants attend.

12. The Committee deliberated on raising awareness of the Member Countries on the OIC Institutions’ activities through workshops, seminars, panels, field visits and roadshows. In this respect, the OIC General Secretariat, the Member Countries and the Institutions were recognized as the key players in raising awareness. The Committee reiterated its request to the OIC General Secretariat to study the feasibility of organizing “roadshows” in the Member Countries and on the sideline of high level OIC Meetings.

*Any Other Business*

13. The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.
## Annex I

### LIST OF ACTIVITIES

**ORGANIZED BY THE OIC INSTITUTIONS ALIGNED WITH THE COMCEC STRATEGY**

*(October 2013-April 2014)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Host Institution</th>
<th>Theme of the Activity</th>
<th>Type of the Activity</th>
<th>Relevant Cooperation Area</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>International Integrated Water Management Symposium</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of Turkey, Turkish Water Institute (SUEN)</td>
<td>February 2014</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>4th Session of the OIC-StatCom</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>All Cooperation Areas</td>
<td>IDB</td>
<td>21-23 April 2014</td>
<td>Ankara, Turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Training Programme on “Data Dissemination, Data Warehousing”</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>All Cooperation Areas</td>
<td>TurkStat, Turkey</td>
<td>30 March-1 April 2014</td>
<td>Oman</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Training Programme on “Statistical Database Design and Visualization Tools Development”</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>All Cooperation Areas</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11-12 December 2013</td>
<td>Ankara-Turkey</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Training Programme on “Construction Statistics”</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>All Cooperation Areas</td>
<td>TurkStat, Turkey</td>
<td>24-26 March 2014</td>
<td>Yemen</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Training Programme on “International Trade Statistics”</td>
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<td>Trade</td>
<td>TurkStat, Turkey</td>
<td>18-20 March 2014</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Training Programme on “Price Statistics”</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Finance</td>
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<td>10-12 March 2014</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Training Programme on “Classifications”</td>
<td>Training</td>
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<td>CAPMAS, Egypt</td>
<td>10-11 March 2014</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>6th Meeting of the Delegates of the National Statistical Offices of the OIC Member Countries</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>All Cooperation Areas</td>
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<td>6 March 2014</td>
<td>New York, USA</td>
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<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Training Programme on “Science, Technology and Innovation Statistics”</td>
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<td>TurkStat, Turkey</td>
<td>25-27 February 2014</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Training Programme on “Transport and Communication Statistics”</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Transportation and Communication</td>
<td>HCP, Morocco</td>
<td>24-26 December 2013</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Meeting of OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Financial Cooperation</td>
<td>Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA)</td>
<td>27-28 November 2013</td>
<td>Jeddah, Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Training on Balance of Payments Statistics</td>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
<td>Financial Cooperation</td>
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<td>24-25 March 2014</td>
<td>Sana’a, Yemen</td>
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<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Training Course on 'Competition Law and Policy' in Gambia</td>
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<td>27-28 March 2014</td>
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<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Training on Risk Management in Islamic Financial Institutions</td>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
<td>Financial Cooperation</td>
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<td>03-05 March 2014</td>
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<td>SESRIC</td>
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<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Railway Safety Management Training</td>
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<td>Transport</td>
<td>Turkish State Railways</td>
<td>5-8 November 2013</td>
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<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>CountrySTAT Regional Basic Administrator Training for ECO Member Countries</td>
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<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>FAO, ECO General Secretariat</td>
<td>21-25 October 2013</td>
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<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>Metrology Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Technical Meeting</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>SMIIC and SMIIC Metrology Committee</td>
<td>23-24 September 2013</td>
<td>Dubai, UAE</td>
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<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF)</td>
<td>Forum</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>SMIIC, SMIIC Accreditation Committee and TÜRKA</td>
<td>25-26 October 2013</td>
<td>İstanbul, Turkey.</td>
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<td>SMIIC/TC1 Halal Food Issues Meeting</td>
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<td>SMIIC Technical Committee</td>
<td>16-17 November 2013</td>
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<td>Technical Meeting</td>
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<td>SMIIC and SMIIC Accreditation Committee</td>
<td>15-17 November 2013</td>
<td>Dubai, UAE</td>
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<td>2. International Halal and Healthy Food Congress</td>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya Municipality, Halal and Healthy Food Platform and SMIIC</td>
<td>07-10 November 2013</td>
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<td>SMIIC/TC-2 Halal Cosmetic Issues Meeting</td>
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<td>SMIIC Technical Committee</td>
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<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>SMIIC/TC-5 Tourism</td>
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<td>SMIIC Technical Committee</td>
<td>09 November 2013</td>
<td>Konya, Turkey</td>
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<td>OISA</td>
<td>Increase Financial Cooperation in Maritime Sector</td>
<td>Financing</td>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>Islamic Development Bank (IDB)</td>
<td>16 March 2014</td>
<td>Jeddah</td>
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<td>ICCIA</td>
<td>15th Private Sector Meeting for Promotion of trade and joint venture investment among the OIC</td>
<td>Private Sector Meeting</td>
<td>Private Sector Cooperation</td>
<td>MC’s, IDB</td>
<td>28-30 October 2013</td>
<td>Tehran, Iran</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>ICCIA</td>
<td>Seminar on Creating awareness of the utilities and privileges of various OIC Agreements (TPS-OIC)</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>MC’s, ICDT</td>
<td>20 March 2014</td>
<td>Sharjah, U.A.E.</td>
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<td>ICCIA</td>
<td>Workshop on Business Planning and Marketing</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>ICCIA</td>
<td>8 April 2014</td>
<td>ICCIA’s HQ, Karachi, Pakistan</td>
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<td>ICCIA</td>
<td>7th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries</td>
<td>Forum</td>
<td>Poverty Alleviation</td>
<td>MC’s, IDB</td>
<td>28-30 October 2013</td>
<td>Tehran, Iran</td>
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<td>ICCIA</td>
<td>16th Private Sector Meeting for Promotion of trade and joint venture investment among the OIC</td>
<td>Private Sector Meeting</td>
<td>Private Sector Cooperation</td>
<td>MC’s, IDB</td>
<td>19-20 March 2014</td>
<td>Sharjah-U.A.E</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>ICCIA</td>
<td>Seminar on Introduction of Islamic Banking and Finance</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Financial Cooperation</td>
<td>MC’s, UNCCI, IDB</td>
<td>28-29 April 2014</td>
<td>Kampala, Uganda</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Development of R &amp; D, technological innovation and Intellectual property for the Member States</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and The Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (OMPIC)</td>
<td>24-25 October 2013</td>
<td>Casablanca, Morocco</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>14th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States (TFOIC 2013)</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Ministry of Trade of the Islamic Republic of Iran, IIEC-Iran</td>
<td>28 October- 1 November 2013</td>
<td>Tehran, Iran</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>1st International Exhibition on Muslim Business</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Ministry of Economy and Finance of Senegal</td>
<td>14-16 November 2013</td>
<td>Dakar, Senegal</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>2nd OIC Halal Food Exhibition</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sharjah, Expo Centre of Sharjah</td>
<td>16-18 December 2013</td>
<td>Sharjah, UAE</td>
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<td>Type of the Activity</td>
<td>Relevant Cooperation Area</td>
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<td>41.</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Training for Primo exporters</td>
<td>Training Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce, Industry and New Technologies of Morocco, ASMEX</td>
<td>22-23 December 2013</td>
<td>Casablanca, Morocco</td>
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<td>42.</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>12th Meeting of the Economic Counsellors to the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce, Industry and New Technologies of Morocco</td>
<td>9 January 2014</td>
<td>Rabat, Morocco</td>
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<td>43.</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminar on the outcomes of the WTO Ministerial Conference</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>IDB Group</td>
<td>25-27 March 2014</td>
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# LIST OF ACTIVITIES

TO BE ORGANIZED BY THE OIC INSTITUTIONS ALIGNED WITH THE COMCEC STRATEGY

**May 2014 - December 2014**

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<td>EGM</td>
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Annex V to OIC/COMCEC-FC/30-14/REP
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<td>October 2014</td>
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<td>August 2014</td>
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<td>May 2014</td>
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<td>Occupational Health and Safety</td>
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<td>May 2014</td>
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<td>29 April – 1 May</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
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<td>The General Directorate of Post and Telegraph Organization (PTT) - Turkey</td>
<td>26 – 28 May 2014</td>
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<td>Trade</td>
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<td>8th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<td>Seminar on the impact of TPSOIC Agreement on WAEMU Countries’ economies</td>
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<td>Trade</td>
<td>WAEMU Secretariat</td>
<td>Last Quarter 2014</td>
<td>Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso</td>
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<td>Last Quarter 2014</td>
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<td>1st Exhibition on Furniture, Decoration, Household and Electrical Appliances in the OIC Member States</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Al Harithy Company</td>
<td>11-14 May 2014</td>
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<td>Awareness-raising and training seminars on the TPS/OIC</td>
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<td>1-3 June 2014</td>
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<td>Workshop on Export Auditing and Capacity Building for SMEs Competitiveness</td>
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<td>8-10 June 2014</td>
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<td>Seminar on Developing National &amp;Regional Approaches to Enhancing Innovation Support and Commercialization of R&amp;D Results and Patents among the OIC Member States</td>
<td>Training Seminar</td>
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<td>COMCEC, WIPO, OMPIC</td>
<td>11-13 June 2014</td>
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<td>Fair</td>
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<td>Ministry of Commerce and informal sector of Senegal</td>
<td>26-29 June 2014</td>
<td>Dakar, Senegal</td>
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<td>Seminar on competition policies in the OIC Member Countries: current status and prospects</td>
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<td>23-25 June 2014</td>
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<td>November 2014</td>
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<td>3rd OIC Halal Food Exhibition</td>
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<td>Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sharjah, Expo Centre of Sharjah</td>
<td>8-10 December 2014</td>
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<td>Regional Workshop on “Trade Remedy Measure and Mechanism for Members of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)”</td>
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<td>5-7 May 2014</td>
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<td>Joint IDB/WTO Intensive Trade Negotiations Skills Course for Arab Countries</td>
<td>Negotiation Skills Course</td>
<td>Trade</td>
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<td>1-5 June 2014</td>
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<td>Seminar on &quot;the Bali Package and its impact on MCs, particularly in Trade Facilitation&quot;</td>
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<td>Trade</td>
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<td>23-25 June 2014</td>
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<td>September 2014</td>
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<td>22 June 2014</td>
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<td>Seminar on IDB Group Strategy to Accelerate Economic Growth and Employment in Countries in transition</td>
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<td>ITFC, UN</td>
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<td>3rd IDB Group Annual Youth Development Forum: Youth Entrepreneurship: From Job Seekers to Job Creators</td>
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<td>MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives</td>
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<td>-</td>
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VI
AGENDA OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(Ankara, 7-8 May 2014)

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. Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade
5. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
6. Improving Transport and Communications
7. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
8. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
9. Eradicating Poverty
10. Deepening Financial Cooperation
12. Draft Agenda of the 30th Session of the COMCEC
13. Any Other Business
14. Adoption of the Report
ANNEX VII
DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE 30TH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(İstanbul, 25-28 November 2014)

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. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
7. Improving Transport and Communications
8. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
9. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
10. Eradicating Poverty
11. Deepening Financial Cooperation
13. Date of the 31st Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Resolutions

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ANNEX

VIII
CLOSING SPEECH BY H.E. H. EMRE YUNT,
AMBASSADOR, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Thirtieth Session of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC
(Ankara, 8 May 2014)

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

We have successfully concluded the 30th Follow-Up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC after intensive deliberations. During this meeting we have drawn up the agenda of the 30th Session of the COMCEC, and reviewed the issues on the agenda for realizing economic and social potential of our Region as well as enhancing cooperation among the Member Countries. I would like to express my thanks to you all for your participation in and contributions to the deliberations.

I would like to elaborate on a number of issues that were highlighted in our deliberations during the Meeting.

The year 2013 has been a milestone for the COMCEC. The COMCEC Strategy has become operational through the convening of the Working Groups and the first project call made in September 2013 under the COMCEC Project Cycle Management Mechanism. The COMCEC Working Groups have successfully held 17 meetings between March 2013 and May 2014. Furthermore, the COMCEC PCM is an essential instrument for mobilizing the institutional and human resources of the Member Countries in accordance with the new Mission of the COMCEC that is to make it a member driven organization. The Member Countries’ intense interest in the COMCEC PCM is quite promising. In fact, 14 projects by 10 Member Countries and 2 OIC Institutions have been final listed and the implementation process has already started. The PCM will be very instrumental for producing and implementing concrete projects under the COMCEC which has been always a serious concern in our cooperation endeavors.

Here, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Member States and OIC Institutions for their great interest in and support to the implementation instruments of the Strategy and I would also like to invite all the Member States to maintain their interest in and support to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.
Distinguished Guests,

Trade has been one of the major cooperation areas on the agenda of the COMCEC. The TPS-OIC is the most important project to enhance trade under the COMCEC. In this respect, we must intensify our efforts for the immediate implementation of the TPS-OIC System. I would like to invite all concerned countries to complete the necessary procedures to make this important project operational. I would also like to remind that the theme of the 4th Meeting of the Trade Working Group to be held on October 23rd, 2014 in Ankara will be “Preferential Trade Agreements and Trade Liberalisation Efforts in the OIC Member States with a special emphasis on TPS-OIC”. This is a very pertinent topic indeed for exploring and depicting the benefits of TPS-OIC for our Member Countries.

Esteemed Delegates,

We continue to enhance our cooperation in all three priority sectors, namely agriculture, tourism and transport. The cooperation efforts under these sectors have been further deepened with the establishment of the working groups. In this respect, an important recent attempt has been the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum which is an important platform to reflect the private sector perspective into the policy formulation process of Member Countries. Furthermore, I am of the view that selection of the theme of the Exchange of Views Session as “the Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in the OIC Member States” has been quite pertinent. In this respect, the preparatory workshop to be organized for the ministerial session of COMCEC would provide significant inputs to the deliberations to be made during the 30th Session of the COMCEC.

Distinguished Delegates,

Poverty alleviation efforts have been occupying an important place on the COMCEC agenda. In fact, twenty one of the OIC member countries are among the least developed countries (LDCs). Within this scope, I would like to underline that the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development and Special Programme for Development of Africa established within the Islamic Development Bank Group, OIC Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET) carried out by SESRIC and the Poverty Alleviation Working Group introduced by the COMCEC Strategy are promising efforts to alleviate the poverty in the Member Countries. I am of the view that we need to pay greater attention to Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and business actors to contribute to the financial requirements of the poverty Funds.

The cooperation efforts in the field of financial cooperation have also been intensified. I would like to underline the importance of the Member States’ continued
support to all cooperation initiatives launched in this important field including the promotion of OIC/COMCEC Shariah index.

Esteemed Delegates,
Distinguished Guests,

Before concluding, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Member States of the Follow-Up Committee and congratulate the new members in particular. I would also like to thank the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, IDB Group, ICDT, ICCIA, SMIIC and OISA, for their participation and valuable contributions to the Meeting. I would also express my sincere thanks to the Rapporteur of the Meeting, H.E. Yousaf JUNAID for his invaluable contributions to the Meeting. I would also like to thank our colleagues in the COMCEC Coordination Office, the staff on duty in this Organization, interpreters, revisers and translators for their untiring efforts which helped to render this meeting successful. I hope you all enjoyed your stay in Ankara. I wish you all a safe trip to your home and hope to see you all in the 30th Session of the COMCEC.

Thank you.
LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF
THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(Ankara, 7-8 May 2014)

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