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

REPORT
THIRTY FIRST MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
Ankara, 13-14 May 2015

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Ankara, May 2015
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REPORT

THIRTY FIRST MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC COOPERATION

(Ankara, 13-14 May 2015)
REPORT
THIRTY FIRST MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC COOPERATION
(Ankara, 13-14 May 2015)

1. The Thirty First 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 13-14 May 2015 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 Mali : (Member of the Previous Bureau).

3. 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

4. Following the recitation from the Holy Qur'an, H.E. Mehmet CEYLAN, Deputy Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey, inaugurated the Meeting.

5. H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, had sent a message to the Meeting. His message was read out by Metin KIRATLI, Deputy Secretary General of the President of the Republic of Turkey. In his message, H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN stressed that the world and particularly the Islamic World has been going through a difficult period with financial and political crisis for the last few years and mentioned the necessity of cooperation among the Member States to address the common challenges through deepening solidarity, finding proper solution models and minimizing our disparities.

6. H.E. ERDOĞAN also expressed his satisfaction for the successful implementation of COMCEC Strategy through the convening of the Working Groups in each cooperation area and implementation of cooperation project under the COMCEC Project Funding and called upon all Member States to actively participate in the activities within the framework of implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

7. Emphasizing the importance of trade cooperation among the Member Countries, H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN stated that however, current trade figures are not up to the desired level and the share of OIC Member Countries, which is approximately 11 percent of total global trade, must go far further. In doing so, H.E ERDOĞAN stressed that in order to play a more active role in global trade, significant improvements need to be made on the export structure of Member Countries through environmentally friendly, high value added industries and services based on innovation.

8. H.E. ERDOĞAN also underlined the importance and potential of Islamic finance following the global economic crisis and invited all Member Countries to contribute actively to the works carried out under the financial cooperation of COMCEC.

9. H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN concluded his message with best wishes for the success of the Meeting.

   (A copy of the text of the Message of H.E. President Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN is attached as Annex II.)

10. Following the message of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, H.E. Mehmet CEYLAN addressed the meeting. In his statement, H.E. CEYLAN highlighted the
recent world economic developments in terms of fluctuation of oil prices which has major macroeconomic, financial and policy implications on OIC economies both for oil-importing and exporting member countries.

11. Recalling the recent structure of world economy, H.E. Mehmet CEYLAN underlined that enhancing our production base and diversifying our economies and export products would be a crucial measure for alleviating possible problems to be caused by economic crises and shocks. H.E. CEYLAN also indicated that for a more sustainable and foreseeable world economy, there needs to be a reasonable correlation between demand and supply of commodities and their prices. In doing so, H.E. CEYLAN emphasized that rather than market distortions and speculative actions, economic dynamics should play the major role in the determination of price; otherwise, our economic endeavors might always be beset and disturbed by sharp and unrealistic and unpredictable price fluctuations.

12. H.E. CEYLAN underlined that the share of Intra-OIC trade in total trade of Member States corresponded to 18,7% in 2013, and as of 2015 Member Countries should concentrate on achieving 20% intra trade target through putting TPS-OIC and other concrete projects into practice.

13. Underlining the main challenges such as unemployment, resistance to macro and micro reforms, lack of focus on inclusive growth, weak linkages between the finance sector and the real sector, weak corporate governance in the financial institutions, H.E. CEYLAN also stated that Member Countries should intensify the cooperation in the finance sector within both the available projects on our agenda and the initiation of new projects. In doing so, H.E. CEYLAN stressed the importance of the establishment of OIC Gold Exchange and OIC Real Estate Exchange to further cooperation in this critical sector.

14. H.E. CEYLAN also pointed out the importance of the theme of this year’s Ministerial Exchange of Views Session, namely “Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery” for achieving sustainable development for all and also embracing the next development agenda through 2030.

15. H.E. CEYLAN concluded his speech by delivering his wishes that the 31st Follow-up Meeting of COMCEC would contribute to peace, prosperity and welfare of the Islamic Ummah.

(The text of the Statement of H.E. Mehmet CEYLAN is attached as Annex III.)
16. The message of H.E. Iyad Ameen MADANI, Secretary General of the OIC, was read out by Mr. Gholamhossein Darzi, Director of the Economic Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat. In his message, H.E. MADANI highlighted the major achievements recorded so far which contributed to collective efforts at scaling up intra-OIC trade, investment promotion, capacity building and infrastructure development. H.E. MADANI also pointed out the importance of the trade facilitation measures and the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers. H.E. MADANI also underscored the need to identify the major constraints and challenges facing Small and Medium Enterprises in the Member Countries.

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

17. The Meeting was addressed by the Heads of Delegation of the State of Kuwait, Republic of Indonesia and Republic of Niger. They expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Government and the President of the Republic of Turkey for the warm welcome accorded and the excellent arrangements made at the Meeting. They also commended the COMCEC Coordination Office for the intensive efforts contributing to the economic and commercial cooperation through working groups and project funding mechanism. The delegates also expressed their support and commitment to the COMCEC and emphasized the need for further cooperation under the auspices of the COMCEC.

Sideline Event

18. The 26th Meeting of the Sessional Committee was held on May 12th, 2015.

(Report of the 26th Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex V.)

Working Sessions

19. The working sessions of the Meeting were chaired by H.E. Ambassador Emre YUN'T, Director General of the Multilateral Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.

20. The agenda of the Meeting was adopted by the Committee.

(A copy of the Agenda is attached as Annex VI.)
Agenda Item 2: The COMCEC Strategy and its Implementation

21. The Committee took note of the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy, and commended the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. The Committee also requested the Member States and OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

22. The Committee welcomed the successful convening of five rounds of COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 30th Session of the COMCEC.

23. The Committee commended the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their field of competence and welcomed the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in February and March 2015.

24. The Committee welcomed the successful finalization of 8 cooperation projects funded under the first call of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2014 and also welcomed the identification of 17 new projects to be implemented in 2015.

25. 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.

26. 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 Project Funding for realizing their cooperation projects.

27. 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.

28. The Committee welcomed the offer of the COMCEC Coordination Office to organize the Third Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points on 10-11 June 2015 in Ankara, Turkey and called upon the concerned focal points and their national focal points to actively participate in the meeting.
29. The Committee requested the COMCEC Coordination Office to regularly report the progress on the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Sessions and to the Follow-up Committee Meetings.

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

30. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 41st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the 30th Session of the COMCEC, the Committee reiterated its request to the OIC General Secretariat to submit a comprehensive evaluation report to the 31st Session of the COMCEC on the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the 10 Year-Programme of Action during the last 10 years, with specific emphasis on the achievements and challenges, as well as recommendations for the successor programme.

31. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of COMCEC, The Committee invited the OIC General Secretariat, in preparing the new 10-Year Programme of Action, to involve all member states and OIC Organs, and to give due regard to the COMCEC Strategy in formulating the economic and commercial component to avoid duplication.

32. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of COMCEC, the Committee underlined the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the new 10-Year Programme of Action by the COMCEC.

33. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, 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

34. The Committee welcomed the convening of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on March 26th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving the Role of Eximbanks/Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) in the OIC Member States” and took note of the following policy recommendations:

- Member States are encouraged to examine and assess the financing needs of their exporters
- Member States are invited to enhance transactional cooperation among their ECAs
Member States are encouraged to review the soundness of their ECAs with the aim of improving the overall performance of the ECA. Member states are called on to promote public-private dialogue within the ECA context.

Member states are encouraged to initiate capacity building activities for strengthening institutional and human capacities of their ECAs.

(Ref: Document code OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(5)-CCO)

35. 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 COMCEC Strategy since the 30th Session of the COMCEC.

36. The Committee called upon the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to actively participate in the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be held on September 17th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “Establishing Well-Functioning Trade Facilitation Bodies in the OIC Member States”. The Committee also called upon the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Trade Working Group.

37. 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 and called upon these institutions to send invitations to the Member States sufficiently in advance of their meetings so as to ensure their participation.

38. The Committee requested the concerned Member States to update the previously submitted concession lists and convey the updated lists to the TNC Secretariat no later than July 31st, 2015 to be circulated among the participating states and requested the TNC to consider its convening upon the circulation of the concession lists by the TNC Secretariat.

39. The Committee requested the concerned Member States to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin no later than July 31st, 2015.

40. The Committee appreciated the successful convening of the training seminar on the implementation of the Rules of Origin and the concession list under the TPS-OIC,
which was organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office in cooperation with the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB), on 26-27 January 2015 in Ankara.

41. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Turkey and Qatar respectively for hosting and to the ICDT for organizing following sensitizing events towards increasing awareness on the benefits of TPS-OIC among the government officials and the private sector in the Member States;

- Training Seminar on TPS/OIC for ECO Countries in Istanbul on 7-9 April 2015 organized in collaboration with the CCO and the IDB Group,

42. The Committee took note of the organization of an awareness-raising Seminar by ICDT on TPS/OIC and its protocols for the benefit of the Public and Private sectors of the Republic of Suriname and the Republic of Guyana in Paramaribo on June 1st, 2015.

ii) Islamic Trade Fairs

43. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the ICDT towards enhancing the quality and quantity of Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions and requested the latter to organize side events for businesspeople on the margin of these activities.

44. The Committee expressed its thanks and appreciation to the following Member States for hosting Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT:

- The State of the United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah) for hosting the “3rd OIC Halal Middle East Exhibition and Conference” in Sharjah on 8-10 December 2014.
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the “8th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” in Jeddah on 13-16 April 2015;

45. The Committee welcomed the offers of the following Member States to host the following Islamic Trade Fairs in collaboration with the ICDT and called upon all Member Countries to actively participate in these events:
• The Republic of Tunisia to host the 1st Exhibition of Organic and Local Products of the OIC Member States in Tunis on 28 October -1st November 2015;
• The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 15th edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in Riyadh on 8-12 November 2015;
• The State of the United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah) to host concomitantly the “2nd Tourism & Travel Exhibition” and the “4th OIC Halal Expo” in Sharjah on 8-10 December 2015;
• The Arab Republic of Egypt to host the “3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States” in 2016;
• The Republic of Senegal to host the 3rd Edition of the OIC High Education Expo and Forum in Dakar in 2016;
• The Republic of Iraq and the Republic of Guinea to host the, 16th and the 17th editions of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States respectively, in 2017 and 2019.

46. The Committee reiterated its request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

47. 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

48. The Committee took note of the of the ICDT’s 2014-2015 Annual Report on “Trade among the OIC Member States” and noted that, despite the impact of world economic and financial instability, the net volume of intra-OIC trade reached US$ 388.1 billion and the share in the overall foreign trade of Member States reached 18.64% in 2013.

49. The Committee took note of the report of the “7th Meeting of the Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade” held on 2-3 March 2015 in Casablanca–Kingdom of Morocco.

50. The Committee commended the ICDT and other Members of the Consultative Group for successfully concluding their mandate in 2015 and recalling the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of the COMCEC, reiterated its request to the ICDT to
prepare comprehensive evaluation report on the implementation of the Road-Map in collaboration with other relevant OIC Institutions and submit it to the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

51. The committee also requested the ICDT to take into consideration, in preparing the evaluation report, the challenges faced by the member states such as impediments to market access, lack of investment and financing for strategic products, lack of involvement of the private sector and complex administrative procedures.

52. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host and ICDT to organize “The Conference of the TPOs Network” in Riyadh on 9th November 2015, on the sidelines of the 15th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States and urged the Member States to actively participate in this event.

53. 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

54. The Committee noted with satisfaction the organization by the Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco, ICDT and the IDB Group of a “Workshop on the new generation of FTAs and their impact on Intra-OIC Trade of the Arab and African Countries” in Casablanca on 4-6 May 2015.

55. The Committee welcomed the offer of IDB Group and ICDT to organize a “Workshop on the new generation of FTAs and their impact on Intra-OIC Trade of the Asian Countries and Turkey, Albania, Suriname and Guyana” to be held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 25-27 May 2015.

56. 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.

57. 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 and requested them to pool 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.
v) **Trade Financing Activities**

58. The Committee **commended** the efforts of ITFC in financing the SMEs and Least Developed Member Countries, and diversifying into new markets, with innovative financing products and programmes.

59. 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.

vi) **Trade Related Activities of SMIIC**

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

61. The Committee **requested** the Member States to actively participate with their national competent authorities in the meetings of the technical committees of SMIIC as well as the Accreditation Committee and Metrology Committee under SMIIC.

62. The Committee **requested** the Member States which have not done so far, to join SMIIC to benefit from its services.

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

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

64. The Committee **welcomed** that the 17th Private Sector Meeting would be held on 8-12 November 2015 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with the 15th Islamic Trade Fair.

65. The Committee **commended** ICCIA for organizing a 2-day Training Program for the development of SMEs by the ICCIA in cooperation with Small and Medium Enterprise Development Organization of the Republic of Turkey (KOSGEB), in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan and **welcomed** the ICCIA’s offer of holding of a similar training program in Uganda in the second half of 2015 in collaboration with SESRIC and KOSGEB.
66. The Committee **took note** of the following activities to be organized by the ICCIA and **called upon** the private sector of the Member States to actively participate in such activities:

- **8th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries** to be held in 2015 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
- **Training program (Outstanding Leader – Convert Good Managers to Great Leaders)**, on third quarter of 2015 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates,
- **Workshop on the Development of SMEs** on 2nd half of 2015, in Uganda,
- **Training Programs for the Member Chambers** on Capacity Building, Poverty Alleviation, Sustainable Development and Utilization of Microfinance, in 2015,
- **Trade Exchange Forum among OIC Countries** to be held in 2015.

67. The Committee **took note** of the new projects of ICCIA for private sector, namely the Islamic Corporate Masfaq, Innovation and Excellence Award and International Commercial Arbitration Center.

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

68. The Committee **welcomed** the convening of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on February 12th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “Evaluating the Ownership, Governance Structures and Performances of the Ports in the OIC Member States” and **took note** of the following policy recommendations;

- Member states are invited to enhance the private sector participation in the port sector
- Member states are encouraged to establish port regulators
- Member states are called on to promote intermodal container transportation

(Ref: Document code OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(16)-CCO)

69. The Committee **called upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to actively participate in the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to be held on October 22nd, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “Review of Urban Transport in OIC Megacities”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group.
70. The Committee welcomed the holding of a training course on “Technical Operations and Infrastructures” in the field of transport on 10-11 March 2015 in Sudan by SESRIC in cooperation with Turkish State Railways (TCDD).

71. In line with the resolution taken by the 30th COMCEC Meeting, the Committee reiterated its request to 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 among the Member Countries and welcomed the activities done by OISA in this area.

72. The Committee welcomed the recent developments regarding Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project, notably following the recent investment meeting held in Dubai and the new cooperation between OIC, African Union and NEPAD, and congratulated the achievements towards renewal of Dakar-Bamako Railway line, which is a main element of the said project. The Committee also encouraged the concerned parties to support the realization of this important project.

Agenda Item 7: Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector

73. The Committee welcomed the convening of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group on February 5th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “Travel Facilitation for Enhancing Mobility in the OIC Member Countries” and took note of its following policy recommendations;

- Encouraging visa facilitation among the Member Countries
- Developing air linkages and increasing the airline capacity in the Member Countries

(Ref: Document code OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(19)-CCO)

74. The Committee called upon the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to be held on September 3rd, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “Effective Marketing Strategies: ICT-Based Solutions for the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee also called upon the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

75. The Committee took note of the report of the “Third Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum” held on 29-30 January 2015 in Istanbul with the theme of “International Branding of Tourism Destinations in the OIC Member Countries.”
76. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of COMCEC, the Committee called upon the Member Countries to actively participate in the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in 2015 to be hosted by the Republic of Niger.

77. The Committee welcomed the hosting of the “2nd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States by the United Arab Emirates on 8-10 December 2015 and urged the Member States to participate actively in this event.

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

78. The Committee welcomed the convening of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group on March 5th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "Improving Institutional Capacity: Strengthening Farmer Organizations in the OIC Member Countries" and took note of the following policy recommendations;

- Research and extension services of the farmer organizations need to be improved for increasing agricultural productivity
- The capacity of farmer organizations to access agricultural market information and dissemination of the market information to their members need to be improved

(Ref: Document code OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(21)-CCO)

79. The Committee called upon the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to be held on October 8th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “Promoting Agricultural Value Chains in the OIC Member States”. The Committee also called upon the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group.

80. The Committee welcomed the organization of “The Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agri-Business” on 1-3 December, 2014 in Ankara, Turkey by SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA), (FAO) and Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of UNDP.

81. The Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of the Republic of Turkey and 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.
Agenda Item 9: Eradicating Poverty

82. The Committee welcomed the convening of the 5th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group, held on February 26th, 2015 with the theme of “Activation Policies for the Poor in the OIC Member States”, and took note of the following policy recommendations;

- Increasing the capacity of the institutions providing Public Employment Services (PES) in the Member Countries through enhancing the quality and quantity of the human resources and developing information technology (IT) infrastructure of the PES institutions as well as ensuring an effective partnership with the relevant stakeholders in delivering activation measures.

- Promoting employer engagement in the preparation/implementation of the activation programmes through establishing a sound mechanism for ensuring the active involvement of the relevant stakeholders, and conducting employer surveys to identify the skills/needs in the labour market.

(Ref: Document code OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(26)-CCO)

83. The Committee called upon the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to actively participate in the Sixth Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group on September 10th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “Improvement of Basic Services Delivery for the Poor in the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee also called upon the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

84. Recalling the relevant decision of the 30th COMCEC Session, the Committee took note of the “Concept Paper on the Joint COMCEC/IDB Study: Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals” which was prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office and IDB and requested the COMCEC Coordination Office and IDB to finalize their joint study and present it to the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to be held in September 2015 for its consideration by the member country experts before its submission to the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

i) Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA)

85. The Committee reiterated its requests to the Member Countries which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments so as to enable it to finance more projects in Member States.
86. 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.

87. The Committee 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).

**ii) OIC Cotton Plan of Action**

88. The Committee took note of the submission of the capacity building project which combines 14 cotton projects into one by SESRIC to the IDB in accordance with the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of COMCEC and requested the IDB to finalize its consideration for funding this project proposal.

89. The Committee took note 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 Centers of Excellence to enhance their cooperation with SESRIC in implementing these training courses.

**iii) OIC-VET Program**

90. The Committee appreciated 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 with a view to enhancing the capacities and quality of human resources in these countries.

91. The Committee requested 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.

**Agenda Item 10: Deepening Financial Cooperation**

92. The Committee welcomed the convening of the Fourth Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on March 19th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "Improving Banking Supervision Mechanisms in the OIC Member Countries" and took note of the following policy recommendations;
- A credit risk data collection strategy for the OIC Member Countries needs to be developed for reducing risks during episodes of economic turbulence and the risk assessment capacity of the OIC Member Countries should also be developed in line with the international best practices

- An Effective Deposit Insurance Scheme for the Banking Sector needs to be developed for achieving a higher degree of financial stability and financial inclusion

- A Regulatory and supervisory Framework needs to be developed specifically for Islamic Banking in order to benefit from the significant growth potential of Islamic Banking System.

(Ref: Document code OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(34)-CCO)

93. The Committee called upon the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively participate in the Fifth Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group to be held on October 15th, 2015 with the theme of “Retail Payment System in the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee also called upon the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.

i) OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum

94. The Committee welcomed the efforts carried out by the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchange Forum and its Task Forces and also invited the Member States to actively participate in the activities organized under this Forum.

95. Recalling the relevant decision of the 30th Sessions of the COMCEC, the committee requested the Member States and IDB to further their support for the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index in the Member States with a view to making it an effective investment instrument.

96. Recalling the proposal made in the statement of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, Chairman of the COMCEC, in the 30th Session of the COMCEC, on establishing a Gold Exchange among the OIC Member Countries, the Committee requested the Secretariat of the OIC Stock Exchange Forum to conduct a study on the feasibility and the ways and means of realizing the proposal and submit it to the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

97. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Borsa İstanbul to host the 9th Meeting of the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchange Forum on November 19th, 2015 in Istanbul and requested the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.
ii) Cooperation among Capital Markets’ Regulatory Bodies

98. The Committee welcomed the efforts carried out by the Task Forces of COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum on Islamic capital market challenges, database, financial literacy as well as capacity building, and also invited the Member States to support the efforts of the Forum through participating in its meetings, contributing to the accomplishment of the mandates of the Task Forces and appointing contact persons to follow up its work.

99. Recalling the proposal made in the statement of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, Chairman of the COMCEC, in the 30th Session of COMCEC on establishing a Real Estate Exchange among the OIC Member Countries, the Committee requested the Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum to conduct a study on the feasibility and the ways and means of realizing the proposal and submit it to the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

100. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the Fourth Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum on November 19th, 2015 in İstanbul and requested all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

iii) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities

101. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Republic of Suriname to host the 15th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States in 2015 and requested the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.

102. The Committee welcomed the training and capacity building programs organized by SESRIC in the field of Central Banks and requested SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the relevant institutions of the Member States.

Agenda Item 11: Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery”

103. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of the COMCEC, the Committee took note of the preparations for the exchange of views Session of the 31st COMCEC Session and requested the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic in its 6th Meeting and report them to the 31st COMCEC Session.
104. The Committee also encouraged the Member States to prepare their country reports on the mentioned theme and convey them electronically to the CCO on October 15th, 2015 at the latest.

Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 32nd COMCEC Session

105. The Committee took note of the following possible themes of the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC:

    Theme 1: Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in line with the global practices
    Theme 2: Establishing and Improving Institutional Capacity: Infrastructural Problems for Islamic Financial Institutions and Possible Solutions
    Theme 3: Preventing Post-harvest Food Losses in the OIC Member Countries
    Theme 4: Strengthening the Compliance of OIC Member States to the International Technical Standards
    Theme 5: Improving Border-Agency Cooperation among the OIC Member States
    Theme 6: Increasing the visibility of the OIC Institutions and their activities in the field of economic cooperation.

106. The Committee requested the COMCEC Coordination Office to circulate a questionnaire to the Member States to explore their views on the above-mentioned themes and report to the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

Agenda Item 12: Draft Agenda of the 31st Session of the COMCEC

(İstanbul, 23-26 November 2015)

107. The Committee prepared and decided to submit the Draft Agenda to the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

(A copy of the Draft Agenda of the 31st Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex VII.)
Closing Session

108. 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 Thirty First Session of the COMCEC to be held on 23-26 November 2015 in İstanbul.

109. On behalf of all delegations, Head of Delegation of State of Palestine expressed thanks to H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC for his high guidance to the intensive efforts carried out under the auspices of COMCEC and the government of the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality extended to the Follow-up Committee Members.

110. Mr. Gholamhossein DARZI, Director of the Economic Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat, delivered his closing remarks. Mr. DARZI expressed the importance of follow-up and implementation of COMCEC resolutions as well as the recommendations adopted by the 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC. Mr. DARZI also expressed his appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality accorded to all delegations.

111. In his closing statement, H.E. H. Emre YUNT underlined that the Follow-up Committee successfully reviewed the implementation status of the resolutions of the 30th Session of the COMCEC and stated that Committee has been making good headway towards realization of noble objectives under the guidance of COMCEC Strategy. He specifically emphasized successful implementation of COMCEC Strategy regular convening of working groups and growing interest in member countries in new COMCEC Project Funding, TPS-OIC, financial cooperation and Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs. H.E. YUNT invited all the Member Countries to maintain their interest in and support to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

112. H.E. YUNT concluded his statement by expressing his thanks and appreciations to all delegations from member countries for their active participation and valuable contributions, Rapporteur, representatives of the OIC Institutions, COMCEC Coordination Office, interpreters, translators and other staff taking part in the organization of the meeting for their contributions to the success of the meeting.

(A copy of the text of the Closing Statement by H.E. H. Emre YUNT is attached as Annex VIII.)
ANNEXES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
OF THE THIRTY FIRST MEETING
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(Ankara, 13-14 May 2015)

A. MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- H.E. ASHRAF IBRAHIM
  Deputy Assistant Minister for International Economic Relations, Ministry of
  Foreign Affairs

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

- Ms. NASHWA BAKR
  Vice Commercial Consul, Embassy of Egypt in Istanbul

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

- Mr. FAHMI ARIS INNAYAH
  Counsellor for Economy, Embassy of Indonesia in Ankara

- Ms. TUTI WINARTI
  Section Head for Non UN Bodies, Directorate of APEC and Other International
  Organizations Cooperation

- Mr. MICHAEL FERNANDO GINTING
  International Trade Cooperation Analyst, Directorate of APEC and Other
  International Organizations Cooperation

STATE OF KUWAIT

- Mr. ISHAQ ABDULKARIM
  Director of International Economic Cooperation Department, Ministry of Finance

- Mr. SAAD AL RASHEDI
  Head of OIC Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance
Republic of Mali

- H.E. BIRAHIMA SOUMARE
  Ambassador of Mali in Ankara

- Mr. OUMAR ALASSANE KOUYATE
  Minister Advisor

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

- Mr. SAMUEL SAYE
  First Counsellor in Ankara

- Mr. GARAN DIATIGUI DIARRA
  Ambassador in Ankara

- Mr. YUSUF KAYA
  Assistant of the Ambassador of Mali in Ankara

- Mr. FAROUK CENGIC
  Honorary Consul of the Republic of Mali in Istanbul

Republic of Niger

- Mr. ADAM ABDOULAYE DANMARADI
  Ambassador of Niger in Ankara

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

- Mr. YOUSAF JUNAID
  Consul General

- Mr. MIAN ATIF SHARIF
  First Secretary, Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara

State of Palestine

- Mr. ZIAD TOAME
  Minister Deputy Assistant
STATE OF QATAR

- Mr. AHMAD MOHAMMED ALMARZOUQI
  Assistant Manager of International Co-operation, Economic & Trade Agreements Department

- Mr. OMRAN MOHAMMED DARWISH
  Project Management Specialist

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

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

- Mr. HUSSIN EED AL RASHEED
  Economist

- Mr. ANWAR AYIDH AYIDH BIN HASUSAH
  Commercial Attache

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

- Mr. MEHMET CEYLAN
  Deputy Minister

- Mr. EMRE YUNT
  Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. HASAN ERSAN
  Deputy Governor, Governorship of Ankara

- Mr. FERRUH TİĞLİ
  Advisor to the Minister

- Mr. YAŞAR GÜLSOY
  Advisor to the Minister
- Mr. KÜRŞAT YILMAZ
  Director of International Relations, TSE

- Mr. EMRE DİNÇER
  Head of Department, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications

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

- Ms. MEHTAP BAŞER
  Head of Department, TSE

- Mr. EDA BURCU BULUT
  EU Expert, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications

- Mr. ELIF AÇIKPORTALI
  Expert

- Mr. HIDIR İLYAS KARABIYIK
  Expert, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications

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

- Mr. MUZAFFER KÜÇÜK
  Expert

- Mr. SERDAR ÇATAKÇI
  Expert

- Ms. EDA AKÇA
  Expert, Development Bank of Turkey

- Mr. ŞENOL SANCAK
  Expert

- Mr. AHMET TELLİ
  III. Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. AYŞEGÜL DEMİR
  Ministry of Economy

- Mr. AHMET ALTUĞ LEBLEBİCİER
  Ministry of Economy

- Ms. ZEYNEP MERVE SAATCIOĞLU
  Assistant Expert, Ministry of Customs and Trade

- Ms. F. ZEHRA TÜRKÖZ SAYAR
  Coordinator, Ankara Regional Directorate, Eximbank

- Mr. OĞUZHAN ALOĞLU
  Coordinator of OIC Member States' Forum, Borsa İstanbul

- Ms. BAŞAK ÖNSAL DEMİR
  Coordinator, Ministry of Culture and Tourism

- Ms. ŞEHLA ALİ HASAN
  Directorate of International Relations, TOBB

- Mr. YUNUS KAYA
  Assistant Expert, Undersecretariat of Treasury

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

- Ms. ŞEYMA SERDENGECİTİ
  Assistant Expert, Central Bank of Turkey

- Mr. SEÇİL SAYIN KUTLUCA
  SPK

C. THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

- Mr. GĦOLAMHOSSEIN DARZI
  Director in the Department of Economic Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
D. **OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGS**

**STATIC, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)**

- Amb. MUSA KULAKLIKAYA  
  Director General

- Mr. NABIL DABOUR  
  Director of Research Department

**ISLAMIC CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)**

- Mr. MAMOUDOU BOCAR SALL  
  Head of Studies and Training Department

- Ms. KADIATOU DIALLO  
  Head of Department, Publication & Communication

E. **SPECIALIZED ORGS OF THE OIC**

**ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB GROUP)**

- Mr. ABDUL BASIT JAM

**INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC TRADE FINANCE CORPORATION (ITFC)**

- Mr. MUHAMMAD AZAD  
  Adviser to CEO

F. **AFFILIATED ORGS OF THE OIC**

**ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE (ICCIA)**

- Ms. ATTIYA NAWAZISH ALI AYAZ  
  Assistant Secretary General
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION (OISA)

- Mr. OSMAN ELAMIN ELHAG
  Director Cabinet

FEDERATION OF CONTRACTORS FROM ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (FOCIC)

- Mr. ABDERRAHIM ALAMI LAHJOUJI

STANDARDS AND METROLOGY INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SMIIC)

- Mr. İHSAN ÖVÜT
  Secretary General

- Ms. SEVDE ÖZBEY
  Administration Staff

I. OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (GCC)

- Mr. FAISAL ALBUAINAIN
  Head of Department

O. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

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

- Mr. FATİH ÜNLÜ
  Senior Expert

- Mr. MUSTAFA TEKİN
  Head of Department

- Mr. FATİH KAYA
  Head of Department

- Mr. SELÇUK KOÇ
  Head of Department
Annex I to OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/REP

- Mr. SEYFİ UYANIK
  Advisor of Press and Public Relations

- Mr. ABDULKADİR KÜLCÜ
  Advisor

- Mr. ALİ İŞLER
  Expert

- Mr. DENİZ GÖLE
  Expert

- Ms. AYLİN ŞENOL GÜN
  Expert

- Ms. HANDE HACIMAHMUTOĞLU
  Expert

- Mr. UTKU ŞEN
  Expert

- Ms. VİLDAN BARAN
  Expert

- Mr. EKREM KARADEMİR
  Expert

- Mr. E. EMRAH HATUNOĞLU
  Expert

- Ms. SIRMA DEMİRŞEKER
  Expert

- Mr. OKAN POLAT
  Assistant Expert

- Ms. ASLİ DADAKOĞLU
  Expert

- Mr. KAĞAN AKDOĞAN
  Assistant Expert
- Mr. AHMET OKUR
  Assistant Expert

- Mr. MEHMET FİDAN
  Assistant Expert

- Mr. MEHMET AKİF ALANBAY
  Assistant Expert

- Mr. AYKUT YILMAZ
  Assistant Expert

- Mr. EREN SÜMER
  Assistant Expert

- Mr. NİHAT AKBALIK
  Assistant Expert

- Mr. HASAN YENİGÜL
  Assistant Expert

- Mr. MUSTAFA ADİL SAYAR
  Assistant Expert

- Mr. ALİ ORUÇ
  Assistant Expert

- Mr. ENİS YILDIRIM
  Assistant Expert

- Mr. MEHMET C. AKTAŞ
  Assistant Expert

- Dr. NAZIM GÜMÜŞ
  Protocol Relations

- Mr. KEMAL ARSLAN
  Coordinator of Meeting Rooms

- Mr. ORHAN ÖZTAŞKIN
  Protocol Relations
- Ms. LEYLA AŞK
  Social Program

- Ms. NAZIFE GÜLGEN
  Social Program

- Ms. H. GÜL SAYIN
  Coordinator of Documentation

- Mr. ERCAN İBİK
  Coordinator of Transportation

- Ms. EBRU ÇETİNkürşUN KANYILMAZ
  Coordinator of Meeting Rooms

- Mr. EMİNE DEMİREL
  Coordinator of Documentation

- Mr. BİLGE GÜLLÜ
  Executive Secretary

- Ms. HANDE ÖZDEMİR
  Coordinator of Registration

- Mr. OZAN LİF
  Coordinator of Documentation

- Ms. HAVVA KÖSEOĞLU
  Coordinator of Registration

- Mr. ALİ VURAL
  Coordinator of Meeting Rooms

- Mr. YUSUF YILMAZER
  Photographer
ANNEX

II
MESSAGE OF H.E. RECEP TAYYİP ERDOĞAN,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC

Thirty First Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC
(Ankara, 13 May 2015)

Distinguished Chair,
Esteemed Members of the Follow-up Committee,
August Brothers,

I would like to extend my heartfelt and warm greetings to you all.

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

I would like to welcome all representatives to the 31st Follow-Up Meeting of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

I would like to express my pleasure to see you all in Turkey

I wish this meeting of the Follow-up Committee, which is a major body of the COMCEC, to lead to fruitful conclusions for the entire Islamic world and humanity.

I would like to congratulate all brothers and sisters who will contribute to the meeting with their valuable ideas, and I believe that important policy recommendations will emerge to strengthen our cooperation.

Distinguished Delegates,

The whole world and Islamic countries in particular have gone through a torrid time for the past couple of years.

Unfortunately, many Islamic countries have experienced conflicts, financial and political crises.

I personally believe that the majority of such crises and tensions can be prevented and resolvable.
We need to be able to show the will to offer solutions through our common values, legitimacy, political dialogue, consultation, solidarity and collaboration for problems emerging across the region.

As a matter of fact, no one does and will benefit from such tensions and crises.

Rather than wasting efforts and resources of the Islamic world on such problems, it is now time to produce a solution and a model for development, welfare and justice without turning our minor differences into major issues.

In this context, I consider COMCEC as an important platform and I particularly would like to express my appreciation for the vigorous effort exerted by COMCEC to offer solutions for our economic problems.

Distinguished Delegates,

As you all know, the efforts exerted since the inception of the COMCEC in 1984 are ongoing in a much more effective and systematic manner under the COMCEC Strategy adopted in 2012.

I would like to express my pleasure to see the completion of the 5th round deliberations of the Working Groups.

I attach importance to elaborative discussion of problems in thematic areas and developing major political recommendations.

In case we attach due importance to the implementation of political recommendations, the political convergence that we have been longing for among member countries will come to fruition.

I would like to call upon member countries, which have not done so, to join the Working Groups and take an active part in them as soon as possible.

I also welcome the selection and kick-off of 17 new projects under the "Project Financing Mechanism", another important means introduced by the Strategy.

The most innovative aspect of these projects is the fact that they enable member countries to provide COMCEC objectives with direct support.

Distinguished Delegates,

We are the Ummah of a Prophet who engaged in trade even before the Prophecy, stated that out of ten parts, nine parts of one's sustenance is in business, and recommended us to trade.
Commercial activities constitute the basis of economic relations among countries.

High-volume commercial relations among countries make contributions to the political convergence and thus eliminate potential conflicts.

Within this framework, the COMCEC has kicked off a great deal of programmes and held a series of events in line with the objective to put the economic potential of member countries into effect.

Thanks to these efforts exerted particularly in recent years, the OIC member countries have made a substantial progress in total trade volume, trade with other OIC countries, and total production.

However, I would like to point out that the current figures are not at the desired level.

Accounting for approximately 11 percent in total global trade, the share of OIC Member Countries needs to be increased to a much higher level.

Likewise, we need to further increase the intra-OIC trade, which stands at 18.7 percent, to a much higher level.

In order to play a more active role in global trade, we need to introduce major improvements in export mechanisms of member countries.

Major losses of income experienced by some member countries due to the decrease in oil prices have once again proved the importance of the added value in trade and product range.

We see some developed countries exerting efforts to improve their environmentally-friendly industries and service sectors manufacturing high added-value technological products based on innovation rather than raw materials.

In such an environment, many Islamic countries are now required to transform their export mechanisms based on raw materials or semi-processed products.

In order to do so, we immediately need to take necessary steps in areas ranging from education, innovation and manufacturing infrastructure to improvement of human and institutional capacity.

Distinguished Delegates,

The necessary conditions to put the Agreement on Trade Preferential System of the OIC Member Countries (TPS-OIC) into force as the most important project of the COMCEC in trade were met in late 2014.
I hope that necessary practical steps to put this momentous Agreement into force will be taken as soon as possible.

Following this stage, I hope that member countries will begin to reap benefits from advantages to be introduced by the Agreement.

I hope that we will see some tangible developments in this respect prior to the COMCEC meeting to be held in November and I would like to call upon all respective member countries to complete their preparations for the Agreement and be a part of this important system.

Distinguished Delegates,

In the wake of the global financial crisis, the importance and potential of the Islamic Financial instruments began to attract financial markets a lot more.

It is undoubtedly our common wish to enable member countries to be the main providers of the Islamic Financial instruments shaped by our own values in nature.

Within this framework, I would like to reiterate the importance of meetings held under COMCEC by the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group, the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum, the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum, and the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States.

I would like to take this occasion to call upon all member countries to make active contributions to the efforts in the field of financial cooperation.

Distinguished Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

The share of developing countries in global economy increases on a regular basis.

In spite of major recent improvements in the national income of developing countries, the improvements in social and economic development indicators have been limited.

Sustainable development ranks first on the agenda of the United Nations.

"Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which will replace the "Millennium Development Goals", are expected to be adopted within this year.

As you know, 21 members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation are among the least-developed countries with economic and social development in particular of crucial importance for them.
On this occasion, I would like to point out that I find it pertinent to discuss over "the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Services Delivery" for the Exchange of Views Session at the 31st Meeting of the COMCEC.

In line with these thoughts, I wish the 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC to lead to fruitful conclusions for all member countries, and I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to all guests and delegates and wish them success in their endeavors.

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ANNEX

III
OPENING STATEMENT BY H.E. MEHMET CEYLAN,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Thirty First Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC
(Ankara, 13 May 2015)

As-Salamu Alaikum,

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

I wish to express my pleasure in meeting with you once again on the occasion of the 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC. I would like to welcome you all in Ankara with my sincerest regards.

During the Meetings of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC, we review the implementation status of resolutions taken during past COMCEC sessions and prepare necessary recommendations for forthcoming meetings. In this regard, as the Follow-up Committee we have an important task here in terms of dealing with challenges regarding the implementation of the COMCEC resolutions, taking necessary steps and composing the agenda of the next COMCEC Session. I wish you all a fruitful meeting in advance.

Esteemed Participants,

As you are kindly aware, oil prices fell sharply between June 2014 and January 2015 after four years relative stability at around 105US Dollars.\textsuperscript{1} Decrease in oil prices has major macroeconomic, financial and policy implications on our economies. Oil-importing countries will benefit from this decline through reductions in their energy bills but at the same time they will be challenged by losses in their export markets and tourism revenues. Meanwhile, oil-exporter countries will be influenced much more adversely, particularly if their exports are mainly based oil and oil products. Recent

\textsuperscript{1}World Bank Group, The Great Plunge in Oil Prices: Causes, Consequences, and Policy Responses, p. 41.
sharp decline in oil prices and resulting income losses of our oil exporting member countries have already caused serious setbacks especially in their budget balances.

As we touched upon in our previous statements on the occasion of various COMCEC meetings, fostering innovation and value addition, enhancing human capital and institutional capacities, boosting production base and diversifying our economies and export products would be crucial measures for alleviating possible problems to be caused by such economic crisis and shocks. Furthermore, an equitable income distribution, social inclusion and cohesion among the various segments of the society would help us in sustaining our development pace.

Moreover, for a more sustainable and foreseeable world economy, there needs to be a reasonable correlation between demand and supply of commodities and their prices. Rather than market distortions and speculative actions, economic dynamics should play the major role in the determination of price; otherwise, our economic endeavors might always be disturbed by sharp and unpredictable price fluctuations.

Low oil prices and widespread monetary easing are boosting growth in the world’s major economies. However, global economy is still fragile and unstable. In order to boost the global economic activity, low oil prices are not sufficient alone. The positive effect of low oil prices will remain modest without implementing suitable measures towards structural reforms.

Distinguished participants,

According to IMF data, world economy grew by 3.3 percent in 2014 and it is expected to grow around 3.5 percent in 2015 and 3.7 percent in 2016. While global economy recovers slowly in 2014 much the same as in 2012 and 2013, China and India are expected to grow considerably during next two years. China is expected to grow by about 7 percent annually in both 2015 and 2016 while India will grow by 7.7 percent in 2015 and 8 percent in 2016. On the other hand, the euro area is projected to grow at a 1.4 percent rate in 2015 and a 2 percent pace in 2016. United States is in a better position; it will grow by 3.1 percent this year and by 3 percent in 2016 while Japan is projected to grow by 1 percent in 2015 and 1.4 percent in 2016. 

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2. OECD
In the meantime, OIC countries witnessed a slowdown in economic activity and their average growth rate declined from 4.6 percent in 2012 to 3.9 percent in 2013. They will likely experience a recovery with growth rate estimated to be realized at 4.1 percent in 2014. Likewise, the growth rate of Islamic countries for 2015 is forecasted at 4.9 percent.\(^4\)

OIC countries had approximately 11.3 percent share in the world trade in 2013.\(^5\) According to UNCTAD data, exports and imports of developing countries increased by 3.3 and 4.2 percent respectively from 2012 to 2013. For the same period, OIC Member Countries\(^7\) exports remained at the same level while their imports increased by 4.7 percent.\(^6\) More dramatically, the share of mineral fuels, oils and related products in total OIC exports increased from 56.9 percent in 2010 to 61.8 percent in 2013.\(^7\) These indicators and recent sharp decline in oil prices further underlines the necessity of economic reforms I mentioned before towards reducing our dependence on the exports of limited number of commodities.

The share of Intra-OIC trade in total trade of Member States corresponded to 18.7 percent in 2013. We need practical and effective instruments to further increase this ratio to enhance our economic potential. In this regard, we must put TPS-OIC into practice as soon as possible. TPS-OIC has already entered into force legally. However, there is a need to update our concession lists and finalize other preparations to make this very important trade project operational.

Efficient cooperation in the field of standardization is also crucial for facilitation of trade among our member countries. In this regard, I am glad to see that SMIIC attracts more attention from our countries. At present, 32 OIC countries are members of SMIIC. I have no doubt that with strong support of its members, SMIIC will deepen its activities and enhance our cooperation in the field of standards.

Distinguished Guests,

In order to provide sustainable economic growth, fiscal and structural reforms are of crucial importance. In addition to developments taking place in international arena, unemployment, resistance to macro and micro reforms, lack of focus on inclusive growth, weak linkages between the finance sector and the real sector, weak

\(^4\) SESRIC, OIC Economic Outlook 2014
\(^5\)ICDT, Annual Report on Trade between the OIC Member States 2014-2015, p.3
\(^6\)UNCTAD data.
\(^7\) COMCEC Trade Outlook 2014, p. 15.
corporate governance in the financial institutions are some of the serious problems facing the OIC Member Countries. To collectively overcome these difficulties, we should intensify our cooperation in the finance sector both within the available projects on our agenda and initiation of new projects in this critical sector. In this respect, I would like to highlight the two proposals made by H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC in his statement last November in 30th COMCEC, namely Establishment of OIC Gold Exchange and OIC Real Estate Exchange. I am sure these proposals will be diligently processed by the relevant COMCEC forums for the benefit of member countries.

As you all know, political challenges and problems influence our economies considerably. Therefore, it is important to ensure political stability in our region in order to improve investor confidence of national as well as foreign investors. We should find practical and sustainable solutions to the problems that we face in our region. Peace and stability will still be lacking in our region if we cannot solve our regional problems mainly through our own means. Deepening our cooperation with brotherly Islamic countries in all areas including economic and technical cooperation will certainly facilitate the solution of economic and political problems in our region.

In this respect, making best use of existing cooperation tools for learning from each other gains a paramount importance. Our member countries can benefit from the COMCEC Working Groups by partaking actively in their meetings. I am quite pleased to see that 43 out of 57 OIC Member Countries have registered to at least one of the COMCEC Working Groups. I invite again the member countries which have not registered to all of the Working Groups to do so in order to benefit from this crucial mechanism.

Within the framework of COMCEC Strategy, working groups have successfully concluded 5 rounds of meetings in 6 cooperation areas since 2013 and deliberated on important issues and themes in each cooperation area. I am of the view that the recommendations of these meetings will provide concrete policy options for our member countries. In fact, these meetings are convenient platforms to share experiences and best practices and will serve to approximate our policies among the OIC Member Countries in the long run.

Regarding the second mechanism of the Strategy, the Project Cycle Management, as a result of the first project call made in September 2013 and 8 projects were implemented successfully. The second call was made in September 2014 and 17
projects have been selected. After the signing ceremony held in early April, 2015, implementation process have already commenced. We are proud to observe that our member countries are engaging more and more to this important technical cooperation mechanism. In this regard, I strongly believe that project owners will successfully implement the activities and come up with significant outcomes in line with the project purposes.

I would like to highlight that efficiency of the COMCEC programmes and projects and the success of our initiatives for economic and commercial cooperation depends on your efforts and contributions. Seizing the opportunity, I would like to invite all member countries to benefit more from the mechanisms brought by the COMCEC including Working Groups and PCM.

Esteemed Members of the Follow-up Committee,

We should keep in mind that economic growth cannot always generate sufficient decent and productive employment opportunities. We should also put into practice efficient activation policies in order to orientate the poor towards employment along with comprehensive social security programmes to reduce the negative effects of inequality. Income inequality, lack of access to basic services such as health, education, water and electricity especially of vulnerable groups are some of the other social challenges in our countries. Enhancing social protection, promoting productive and decent work, strengthening redistributive policies are some of the important tasks in front of us.

These issues are also included in Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will probably be announced in September this year. The Post-2015 Agenda and the new development framework will bring a shared responsibility to countries and organizations to follow up the process. This includes working together at national, regional and international levels to achieve sustainable development for all and embrace the next development agenda through 2030.

In this regard, the selection of “Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery” as the theme of exchange of views session of the next COMCEC Ministerial Meeting is of crucial importance. After the adoption of SDGs and on the eve of significant milestone developments in this important agenda of the international community, I
believe that it would be quite pertinent as OIC countries to discuss these issues thoroughly and make required preparations at the earliest. To a great extent, our progress will be shaped by our readiness.

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude my remarks, I sincerely wish that your deliberations during the 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC contribute to peace, prosperity and welfare of the Islamic Ummah.

Thank you.
MESSAGE OF H.E. IYAD AMEEN MADANI,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC COOPERATION

Thirty First Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC
(Ankara, 13 May 2015)

Your Excellency Mr. Cevdet Yılmaz, Minister of Development of Turkey,
Honorable Delegates,
Distinguished Participants

Assalamu Alaikum wa-Rahmatu Allah wa Barakatuhu

I am pleased to address the 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC, as you set out to deliberate on the implementation of the various decisions of COMCEC, since the last session of the COMCEC General Assembly held in Istanbul, Turkey on 25-28 November 2014. Permit me to, first and foremost, express my appreciation, through the Chairman, to His Excellency President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Chairman of COMCEC, as well as the Government and esteemed people of the Republic of Turkey for their constant support to the activities of the OIC, particularly the activities of COMCEC.

Since the last follow-up meeting, the General Secretariat has continued to give effect to the various decisions and resolutions of the OIC, aimed at consolidating socio-economic cooperation among our Member States. The major achievements recorded in this regard are highlighted in my report before this august meeting. However, for the purpose of emphasis, I wish to briefly mention a few of the activities, which have contributed to our collective efforts at scaling up intra-OIC trade and investment promotion, capacity-building and infrastructure development.

In the first instance, the staging of the 1st Investment Forum on OIC Plan of Action on Central Asia in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 27-28 October 2014 was largely facilitated by the closer collaboration among our executive institutions and a wide range of stakeholders, including the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB). The success of this Forum can be seen from its identification of 23 priority projects for implementation in Central Asia, foremost among which is the flagship Regional Power Transmission Project, known as CASA 1000.
In the second instance, the commemoration of Al-Quds Al-Shareef as the first winner of OIC City of Tourism Award 2015 was flagged-off during my visit to the third holiest Islamic city on 4th January 2015. I must place on record our commendation to the various OIC institutions, which have so far contributed to the year-long activities to mark this award. I should also commend Turkey’s contribution of 74 books to the various national libraries in Al-Quds Al-Shareef. As we prepare for the second edition of this award, let me also seize this opportunity to congratulate the Government of Turkey on the conferment of the 2016 edition of the award on the city of Konya. It is my sincere belief that the series of commemorative activities, along with the implementation of our joint action on Islamic tourism, would boost intra-OIC cooperation in this crucial sector.

The third noticeable action in my Report before this meeting revolves around our trade and investment cooperation. The completion of administrative requirements for the take-off of the Trade and Preferential System of the OIC (TPS-OIC) has, no doubt, paved the way for the resumption of the trade negotiation rounds and the implementation of the needed tariff measures to facilitate trade exchanges among our countries. However, as we proceed with these trade facilitation measures through tariff reduction and harmonization measures, it is gladdening to note that the gradual elimination of non-tariff barriers is receiving the attention of our officials.

It is, in this regard, that I call for the implementation of the outcome of the OIC High Level Forum on Trade Facilitation and Single Window Initiatives for Enhanced Regional Economic Cooperation held in Casablanca, Morocco on 25-26 February 2013 by our institutions, notably the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT) and International Islamic Trade Finance Cooperation (ITFC). I should recall here the need to factor into our trade facilitation agenda the outcome of the Expert Group Meeting organized by the Islamic Development Bank on 28-29 April 2015 on the role of inter-regional trade in strengthening economic cooperation among OIC member states. This is with regard to the progressive elimination of non-tariff barriers and cooperation with sub-regional organisations within the OIC, which is in line with the objective of the proposed Workshop to be organized by Saudi Arabia on the Single-Window Modality in due course.

Your Excellency,
Distinguished Delegates,

The other major issues, which the General Secretariat is desirous of according due priority during the year revolves around the consolidation of our joint actions on the development of the Halal Standards, accreditation and certification procedures as well as the replenishment of the poverty alleviation fund. I wish to recall here that...
there are still some pending issues on the three documents so far approved by the OIC on our Halal Standards, Accreditation and Certification and to confirm that efforts are now underway to explore, in collaboration with our relevant institutions, such as ICDT, International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), and Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), the definitive resolution of such pending issues, which will pave the way for the adoption of a unified but binding OIC Halal Standards and Procedures.

In the same vein, the on-going action, in collaboration with the IDB Group, to organize an open-ended meeting of micro-finance institutions in OIC member states during the year is aimed at identifying the major constraints and challenges facing Small and Medium Enterprises in our communities. This measure is timely, considering the proposed the convening of a special funds mobilization session, during the 2016 Council of Foreign Ministers, to increase available resources for the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), the capital contributions on which still stands at 26.8% of its target capital.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

I should not end this message without intimating you of the latest development with regard to the elaboration of OIC 2025: Programme of Action. Based on the draft document prepared by the relevant OIC institutions and Standing Committees, two Expert Group Meetings were held at the OIC General Secretariat on 18 March and 6-7 May 2015 respectively. However, the EGM has resolved to complete its assignment on a later date before it could present its final draft document to the Secretary General as requested in the enabling resolution.

As I wish this meeting a fruitful deliberation, let me underscore the commitment of the OIC General Secretariat to continue to give prominence to the activities of all OIC institutions as we seek to improve synergy and coordination for the purpose of realizing our common goals and objectives.

I thank you all for your kind attention,

\textit{Wassalamu Alyakum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu}

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ANNEX

V
REPORT OF THE 26th MEETING OF
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

(Ankara, 12 May 2015)

1. The 26th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on May 12th, 2015 in Ankara, on the sidelines of the 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Selçuk KOÇ, Director at the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), 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)

3. The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items:

   - Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy
     ▪ The List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Aligned with the COMCEC Strategy

   - Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions
     ▪ Conducting Joint Activities
     ▪ Raising Awareness of the OIC Institutions’ Activities
     ▪ Enhancing Cooperation with other Regional and International Organizations

   - Any Other Business
Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy

4. Highlighting the significance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the realization of the COMCEC Strategy, the Committee reviewed the lists of activities of the relevant OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy for 2015 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation.

5. The Committee noted that the activities have mainly been concentrated on a limited number of cooperation areas and certain type of activities and invited the relevant OIC Institutions to give due importance to the research-type activities in their future efforts.

6. The Committee elaborated on the possibility of re-structuring the format of the List of Activities and requested the relevant OIC Institutions to convey their list of completed and planned activities aligned with the COMCEC Strategy to the CCO by September 30th, 2015 at the latest.

(The list of activities organized and to be organized by the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy in 2015 is attached as Annex 1.)

Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions

7. Regarding the first sub-item, namely Conducting Joint Activities, the Committee was informed by the IDB Group representative of the preparations for the model project on joint activities including all the relevant OIC Institutions working in the field of economic and commercial cooperation. The Committee requested the IDB Group to finalize its work and share it with the relevant OIC Institutions two months before the next the Sessional Committee Meeting.

8. Highlighting the importance of joint activities organized by the OIC Institutions, the Committee discussed the challenges (i.e. limited financial resources, overlapping activities and logistical issues, etc.) faced by the OIC Institutions in conducting joint activities. In this respect, the Committee noted that the OIC Institutions’ existing facilities (conference halls etc.) may be utilized in conducting joint activities.
9. Regarding the second sub-item, “Raising Awareness of the OIC Institutions’ Activities”, the Committee was informed by the ICCIA representative about the preparations for the guideline for increasing the awareness of the Member Countries and the private sector on their activities. It was noted that based on the preliminary findings of the survey conducted by the ICCIA, the level of awareness regarding the OIC in general and the OIC Institutions in particular is limited among the private sector of the Member Countries. The Committee asked the ICCIA to finalize the above-mentioned guideline and share it with the relevant OIC Institutions at least two months before the next Sessional Committee Meeting to get their views and comments.

10. The Committee stressed the need for coordinated efforts for long term and sustained visibility of OIC Institutions and elaborated on how to enhance awareness on the OIC Institutions’ programs/projects/activities. It was noted that preparation of high quality promotional materials (brochures, visuals, documentary, etc.), updating the web-sites of the OIC Institutions, displaying promotional materials and publications of the OIC Institutions, organizing press conferences might be important measures in this regard.

11. Regarding the third sub-item, “Enhancing Cooperation with other Regional and International Organizations”, the Committee noted that the contributions of the OIC to the implementation of the SDGs may be one of the agenda items of the OIC-UN Coordination Meetings.

12. Regarding the incorporation of the OIC Member Countries as a group in the statistical databases of the relevant international organizations, the Committee was informed by representative of the SESRIC that the issue is on the agenda of the 5th Session of the OIC Statistical Commission to be held in 12-14 May 2015 in Ankara. It was noted that SESRIC, as the Secretariat of the Statistical Commission, would follow this issue and report the outcomes to the next Sessional Committee Meeting.

Any Other Business

13. The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.
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<td>Abuse of Dominant Position: Dominance/Market power</td>
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<td>Turkish Competition Authority</td>
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<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
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<td>Training on Data Dissemination, Data Warehousing</td>
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<td>National Statistics Office of Morocco</td>
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<td>2nd Seminar on Introduction to Islamic Banking and Finance in selected OIC Countries</td>
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<td>17th Private Sector Meeting</td>
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<td>2015 (8-12 Nov.)</td>
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<td>Development of a Mechanism for Joint Ventures and partnerships among Women-led Enterprises through South-South Cooperation</td>
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<td>Trade</td>
<td>MC’s, UNDP</td>
<td>2015 (dates to be determined)</td>
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<td>(NEW) Food Trade Exchange Forum between the Islamic Countries</td>
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<td>ICCIA/MCs</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>8th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries</td>
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<td>MC’s, IDB</td>
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<td>Training programs on Entrepreneurship Development for Youth and aspiring young entrepreneurs</td>
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<td>Poverty Alleviation</td>
<td>ICCIA/ Local Academia</td>
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<td>Workshop on the Development of SMEs in Uganda</td>
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<td>MCs/KOSGEB</td>
<td>1st Half of 2015</td>
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<td>Training of Trainers for the Enterprise Development &amp; Investment Promotion Program (EDIP)</td>
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<td>MC’s</td>
<td>2015 (dates to be determined)</td>
<td>Kampala-Uganda</td>
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<td>MC’s</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>(NEW) Training Program (Outstanding Leader - Convert Good Managers to Great Leaders)</td>
<td>Training Program</td>
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<td>18–19 February 2015</td>
<td>Dubai - U.A.E.</td>
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<td>ICDT</td>
<td>13th Meeting of the Economic Counsellors of the OIC Embassies accredited in Rabat</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>OIC Member States</td>
<td>12 January 2015</td>
<td>Rabat Morocco</td>
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<td>Regional online Marketing Workshop of the WIEF Foundation</td>
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<td>Trade</td>
<td>WIEF</td>
<td>16–21 February 2015</td>
<td>Dakar/Senegal</td>
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<td>111</td>
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<td>7th Meeting of the Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade</td>
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<td>Trade</td>
<td>ITFC</td>
<td>2-3 March 2015</td>
<td>Casablanca/ Morocco</td>
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<td>UFI Seminar for African and Middle Eastern Countries</td>
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<td>Trade</td>
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<td>23-24 March 2015</td>
<td>Marrakech/ Morocco</td>
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<td>113</td>
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<td>Training Seminar for the benefit of the Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organisation on “the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPSOIC)”</td>
<td>Training Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Dept. of Integration and Cooperation of IDB and COMCEC</td>
<td>7-9 April 2015</td>
<td>Istanbul/ Turkey</td>
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<td>National Training Seminar on “the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPSOIC)”</td>
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<td>Trade</td>
<td>Ministry of Economy and Business</td>
<td>13-14 April 2015</td>
<td>Doha/ Qatar</td>
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<td>8th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries in the OIC Member States</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>El Harithy Company</td>
<td>13-16 April 2015</td>
<td>Jeddah/ Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminar on Food Security in OIC Member States</td>
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<td>El Harithy Company</td>
<td>14 April 2015</td>
<td>Jeddah/ Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>Seminar on Agadir Agreement: current status and perspectives</td>
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<td>Trade</td>
<td>ASMEX</td>
<td>22 April 2015</td>
<td>Casablanca/ Morocco</td>
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<td>Seminar of the New Generation of Free Trade agreements and the feasibility of the signing of the agreements between the regional economic groupings of the OIC Member States and their impact on intra-OIC trade (Arab and African Countries)</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Dept of Cooperation and Integration/IDB</td>
<td>4 – 6 May 2015</td>
<td>Casablanca/ Morocco</td>
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<td>120</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Training Seminar on TPS/OIC</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td></td>
<td>25-29 May 2015</td>
<td>Ramallah/Palestine</td>
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<td>121</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminar on Export Auditing the internationalization of SMEs for the benefit of Suriname and Guyana</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-4 June 2015</td>
<td>Paramaribo/Guyana</td>
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<td>122</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminar on Competition Policies in the OIC Member States</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 – 3 June 2015</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
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<td>124</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminar on Trade in Services in RTAs: What Lessons for the Quad Countries?</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Agadir Technical Unit</td>
<td>7 – 8 October 2015</td>
<td>Amman/Jordan</td>
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<td>125</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>1st Exhibition of Organic and Local Products of the OIC Member States</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Handicraft of Tunisia</td>
<td>28th October – 1st November 2015</td>
<td>Tunis/Tunisia</td>
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<td>126</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>6th OIC World Biz and 3rd Africa-Asia Forum</td>
<td>Forum</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>OICBC</td>
<td>28th - 29th October 2015</td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia</td>
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<td>127</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>International Conference on offshoring</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce &amp; Industry of Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>3-4 November 2015</td>
<td>Tunis</td>
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<td>129</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Meeting of the Global Network of the TPOs of the OIC Member States</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce &amp; Industry of Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>9 November 2015</td>
<td>Riyadh/Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>130</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>4th OIC Halal Exhibition</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>8th – 10th December 2015</td>
<td>Sharjah/United Arab Emirates</td>
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<td>2nd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>8th – 10th December 2015</td>
<td>Sharjah/United Arab Emirates</td>
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<td>132</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Training Seminar on the Industry of Fairs</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Trade</td>
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<td>2nd semester 2015</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
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<td>133</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Forum for the benefit of the Businessmen of the QUAD Countries</td>
<td>Forum</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Agadir Technical Unit</td>
<td>End of 2015</td>
<td>Casablanca/Morocco</td>
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<td>134</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminar on the impact of the Agadir Agreement on the Economies of the Member States and the role of the private sector</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Agadir Technical Agreement</td>
<td>2nd Semester 2015</td>
<td>Jordan/Morocco</td>
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<td>Seminar on Exports and Investments Promotion Strategies in the Context of Globalisation</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
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<td>2nd semester of 2015</td>
<td>Nouakchott (Mauritania) or Maputo (Mozambique)</td>
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<td>Trade Mission of Mozambican Businessmen to North Africa</td>
<td>Trade mission</td>
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<td>2nd semester 2015</td>
<td>Casablanca/Morocco</td>
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<td>137</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminar on Export Auditing</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
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<td>138</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminar on “doing business in specific markets”</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>West Africa</td>
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<td>139</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Training seminar on the role of International Conventions on Trade and Logistics Facilitation in the AMU and WAEMU Countries</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Casablanca/Morocco</td>
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<td>140</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminar on the impact of the TPS/OIC Agreement on the Economies of WAEMU Countries</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Ouagadougou/Burkina Faso</td>
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<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminar on the Approach of the Markets of the Gulf Countries and Libya</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Casablanca/Morocco</td>
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<td>142</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Forum on “Trade and Investment Expansion among the OIC African Member States and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)”</td>
<td>Forum</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
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<td>143</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Awareness-raising and training Seminar in the different regions of the OIC on TPS/OIC for the benefit of the Countries of the COMESA and Central Asia/South East Asia Countries</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
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<td>144</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminar on “the Proliferation of regional and bilateral trade agreements and their impact on the regional integration process in the OIC Member States”</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
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<td>145</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Workshop on the results of the 9th Ministerial Conference of the WTO and Post Bali Work Programme for the OIC Asian Countries</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
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<td>146</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Training seminar on Exports Techniques in the context of globalisation for the benefit of the Primo-Exporters in the OIC Member States</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
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<td>147</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Training seminar in the organisation and participation in fairs and exhibitions for the benefit of the economic operators of the OIC Member States</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
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<td>148</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Coaching Seminars «Trade is Fair» for the benefit of exporting SMES of the OIC Member Countries</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
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<td>Partners</td>
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<td>149</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminar on multilateral agreements and treaties for trade and logistics facilitation</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Amman/Jordan</td>
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<td>150</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Expert meeting on NTBs to trade</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Casablanca/Morocco</td>
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<td>151</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>2nd Edition on the forum on “Offshoring sector in the OIC Member States”</td>
<td>Forum</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>152</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Experts monitoring meeting of the Single Window project among the OIC Member States</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Casablanca/Morocco</td>
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<td>153</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Training in projects handling for the implementation of the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>UNTWO/Regional Coordinator(Guinea)</td>
<td>1st Semester 2015</td>
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<td>154</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Forum on the Role of RTAs in Trade facilitation and Logistics</td>
<td>Forum</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>2nd semester 2015</td>
<td>Agadir/Casablanca</td>
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<td>155</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Training in parks management for the implementation of the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>UNTWO/Regional Coordinator(Guinea)</td>
<td>2nd Semester 2015</td>
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<td>156</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>UNTWO/Regional Coordinator(Guinea)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>On the sidelines of OIC Tourism Ministers or the UNWTO General Assembly in 2015</td>
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<td>157</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Training Seminar on TPS/OIC, PRETAS and ROO</td>
<td>Training Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>158</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminars on Doing business in specific markets</td>
<td>Training Workshop</td>
<td>Trade</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>159</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Seminar on the multilateral agreements and treaties for trade facilitation and logistics</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Technical Unit of Agadir Agreement and URU</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Amman/Jordan</td>
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<td>Seminar on &quot;the Proliferation of Bilateral and Regional Trade Agreements and their Impact on the Regional Integration Process in the OIC Countries&quot;</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Cooperation Department of IDB</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Casablanca/Morocco</td>
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<td>Seminar on the “Accession to the WTO and the impact of Doha Development Round on the Economies of the OIC Countries”</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Cooperation Department of IDB</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Casablanca/Morocco</td>
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<td>163.</td>
<td>ICDT</td>
<td>Experts Group Meeting on the Follow up of the Single Window Project among the OIC Member States</td>
<td>Forum</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>ITFC</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Casablanca/Morocco</td>
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<td>164.</td>
<td>IDB GROUP</td>
<td>IDB Group’s Annual Meetings</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>ITFC, ICIEC, ICD, IRTI</td>
<td>10-11 June 2015</td>
<td>Maputo Mozambique</td>
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<td>IDB GROUP</td>
<td>Regional Seminar on Trade Facilitation for Asian and Central Asian Countries</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>IDB Group, WTO ITC</td>
<td>Jan 2015</td>
<td>Turkey, Kazakhstan (Tentative)</td>
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<td>IDB GROUP</td>
<td>Regional Seminar on Cross border Management for selected Arab countries in collaboration with UNDP</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>IDB Group, WTO ITC, ICDT</td>
<td>Jan 2015</td>
<td>Dubai, Casablanca (Tentative)</td>
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<td>Seminar on Proliferation of Regional and mega-regional Trade and Partnership Agreements and its implications to the OIC countries (African Countries)</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>IDB Group, WTO ITC</td>
<td>Feb 2015</td>
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<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>IDB Group, WTO ITC</td>
<td>Feb 2015</td>
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<td>IDB GROUP</td>
<td>Seminar on WTO Accession</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>IDB Group. WTO ITC</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
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<td>170.</td>
<td>IDB GROUP</td>
<td>Joint Activity with OIC institutions to promote intra-OIC cooperation</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>IDB Group. WTO ITC</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
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<td>171.</td>
<td>IDB GROUP</td>
<td>Regional Workshops on TPS/OIC and Non-Tariff Barriers</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>IDB Group. WTO ITC</td>
<td>April 2015</td>
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<td>172.</td>
<td>IDB GROUP</td>
<td>Regional Seminar on Trade Facilitation for Asian and Central Asian Countries</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>IDB Group. WTO ITC</td>
<td>April 2015</td>
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<td>Regional Seminar on Cross border Management for selected Arab countries in collaboration with UNDP</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>IDB Group. WTO ITC</td>
<td>April 2015</td>
<td>To Be Decided</td>
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<td>174.</td>
<td>IDB GROUP</td>
<td>Seminar on Proliferation of Regional and mega-regional Trade and Partnership Agreements and its implications to the OIC countries (African Countries)</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>IDB Group. WTO ITC</td>
<td>May 2015</td>
<td>To Be Decided</td>
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<td>175.</td>
<td>IDB GROUP</td>
<td>7th Meeting of the IDB Alliance To Fight Avoidable Blindness, Baku, Azerbaijan</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Poverty Alleviation</td>
<td>Ministry of Health Azerbaijan</td>
<td>13-15 Jan 2015</td>
<td>Baku, Azerbaijan</td>
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<td>176</td>
<td>IDB GROUP</td>
<td>Selection Committee meeting - 10th Edition of IDB Prize for Women’s contribution to Development</td>
<td>Consultative Meeting</td>
<td>Poverty Alleviation</td>
<td>IDB Group and relevant OIC institutions and intergovernmental organizations</td>
<td>25-26 Feb 2015</td>
<td>IDB HQs, Jeddah</td>
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<td>177</td>
<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>Building and Enhancing Standardization, Metrology and Accreditation Capacity in the SMIIC LDC Member States</td>
<td>Workshop/Training</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>COMCEC PCM</td>
<td>To be decided</td>
<td>To be decided</td>
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<td>178</td>
<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>Building and Enhancing Standardization, Metrology and Accreditation Capacity in the OIC Member States</td>
<td>Workshop/Training</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Islamic Development Bank (IDB)</td>
<td>To be decided</td>
<td>North African Arabic Speaking Countries; African French Speaking Countries; African English Speaking Countries; Central Asian Countries (CACs)</td>
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<td>179.</td>
<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>The Arab-Islamic Conference: &quot;The Role of Conformity Assessment in Enhancing the Trade Capacity Between Arab and Islamic Countries&quot;</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO)</td>
<td>First Half of 2015</td>
<td>Rabat, Morocco</td>
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<td>180.</td>
<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>SMIIC/TC1 Halal Food Issues Meeting</td>
<td>Technical Meeting</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>SMIIC Technical Committee</td>
<td>To be decided</td>
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<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>SMIIC/TC2 Halal Cosmetic Issues Meeting</td>
<td>Technical Meeting</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>SMIIC Technical Committee</td>
<td>To be decided</td>
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<td>182.</td>
<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>Accreditation Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Technical Meeting</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>SMIIC GS and SMIIC Accreditation Committee</td>
<td>17-19 March 2015</td>
<td>Sarajevo, Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</td>
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<td>183.</td>
<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>Metrology Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Technical Meeting</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>SMIIC GS and SMIIC Metrology Committee</td>
<td>To be decided</td>
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<td>184.</td>
<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>SMIIC Forum 2015: Standardization and Conformity Assessment on Halal Issues</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>ESMA (Emirates Authority for Standardization &amp; Metrology)</td>
<td>05 May 2015</td>
<td>Dubai, UAE</td>
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<td>185.</td>
<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>SMIIC TC 1 &amp; SMIIC AC Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting</td>
<td>Technical Meeting</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>SMIIC Committee Members</td>
<td>06-07 May 2015</td>
<td>Dubai, UAE</td>
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<td>186.</td>
<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>SMIIC Halal Conference</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>DSM (Department of Standards Malaysia)</td>
<td>03-04 November 2015</td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
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<td>187.</td>
<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>1st OIC Stakeholders’ Forum on Unified Halal Food Standards and Procedures</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>OIC General Secretariat</td>
<td>Last Quarter of 2015</td>
<td>Jeddah / KSA or Istanbul / Turkey</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>Theme of the Activity</td>
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<td>188</td>
<td>SMIIC</td>
<td>Training Program for the Chairmen and Secretaries of the Committees of SMIIC</td>
<td>Technical Training</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>SMIIC GS and SMIIC Technical Committees</td>
<td>Last Quarter of 2015</td>
<td>Istanbul / Turkey</td>
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<td>189</td>
<td>OISA</td>
<td>Meeting to discuss the possibilities of reactivation of Bakkah Shipping Company</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>Members from Ex. Com and General Assembly</td>
<td>July 2015</td>
<td>Dubai</td>
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<td>190</td>
<td>OISA</td>
<td>Workshop on Importance of unifying main engine of member’s vessels</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>Technical and marine engineers representatives from member companies</td>
<td>August 2015</td>
<td>Jeddah</td>
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<td>191</td>
<td>OISA</td>
<td>Meeting to open branches of Islamic Protection and Indemnity Club in Turkey and Egypt</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>IPIC, Marine Official from member countries</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>Cairo / Turkey</td>
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<td>192</td>
<td>OISA</td>
<td>Ex. Com &amp; General Assembly Meeting of OISA</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>Ex.Com and General Assembly members, OIC and its Institutions, Port Authorities, Marine Academies, Shipbuilding and Repair Yards</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
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<td>193</td>
<td>OISA</td>
<td>Visit to Turkish Shipbuilding &amp; Repair Yards</td>
<td>Visit</td>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>OISA members and GISBIR</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>Istanbul</td>
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<td>194.</td>
<td>OISA</td>
<td>Meeting with International Maritime Organization and Islamic Protection and Indemnity Club for deepening relationship between IMO &amp; IPIC</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>IMO, IPIC, some Member Companies</td>
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<td>196.</td>
<td>CCO</td>
<td>5th Meeting of the Trade Working Group</td>
<td>Working Group Meeting</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives</td>
<td>March 26th, 2015</td>
<td>Ankara</td>
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<td>197.</td>
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<td>6th Meeting of the Trade Working Group</td>
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<td>Trade</td>
<td>MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives</td>
<td>September 17th, 2015</td>
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<td>198.</td>
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<td>5th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group</td>
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<td>Tourism</td>
<td>MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives</td>
<td>February 5th, 2015</td>
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<td>Tourism</td>
<td>MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives</td>
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<td>Working Group Meeting</td>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives</td>
<td>February-12th, 2015</td>
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<td>Transport</td>
<td>MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives</td>
<td>October 22nd, 2015</td>
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<td>Financial Cooperation</td>
<td>MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives</td>
<td>March 19th, 2015</td>
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<td>Working Group Meeting</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives</td>
<td>March 5th, 2015</td>
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<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>5th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group</td>
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<td>Poverty Alleviation</td>
<td>MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives</td>
<td>February 26th, 2015</td>
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<td>3rd Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Focal Points</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>All Cooperation Areas</td>
<td>MCs</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
<td>Ankara</td>
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AGENDA OF THE THIRTY FIRST MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC

(Ankara, 13-14 May 2015)

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 31st Session of the COMCEC
13. Any Other Business
14. Adoption of the Report
ANNEX

VII
DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE 31ST SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(İstanbul, 23-26 November 2015)

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation
3. The OIC Ten-Year Program of Action
4. World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries
5. 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 32nd Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Resolutions
CLOSING SPEECH BY H.E. EMRE YUNT,
AMBASSADOR, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Thirty First Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC
(Ankara, 14 May 2015)

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

After intensive deliberations, we have successfully concluded the 31st Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC. We have drawn up the agenda of the 31st Session of the COMCEC and reviewed the issues on the agenda with a view to enhancing cooperation among the Member Countries. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all delegations for their active participation to the Meeting as well as their valuable contributions to the deliberations.

Distinguished Delegates,

OIC Region has a great potential for development. Young and dynamic population, geo-strategic location, natural and mineral resources and most importantly our rich cultural heritage and high values are the main strengths of our region. Yet, we have to admit that, on the top of this great potential many of the OIC Member Countries have been facing with various social and economic challenges. Unfortunately 21 of our Member Countries are still under the least developed country classification and 30 OIC Member Countries are among the International Development Assistance (IDA) recipient countries. There is indeed an urgent need to improve current socio-economic state in the OIC Region. I sincerely believe that our potential could only be materialized through effective cooperation.

In this respect, as the highest economic and commercial cooperation platform of the OIC, COMCEC has been exerting efforts to further cooperation among the Member Countries since its establishment. It is our great pleasure to see that efforts and outcomes of the COMCEC have been steadily increasing after the operationalization of its Strategy in 2013.
Distinguished Guests,

I would also like to briefly elaborate on some important issues that were highlighted in our deliberations during the Meeting. I believe we have been making good headway towards realization of our noble objectives. Implementation of the Strategy is progressing quite well. In less than 3 years, 29 Thematic Working Group meetings were organized. During these meetings, as an outcome of evidence based discussions on our common development challenges, various key policy recommendations were developed.

As the COMCEC Coordination Office has already briefed us extensively regarding their specific work in each of the six cooperation areas, I will not give more details but I would like to stress that it is crucially important to have Member Countries’ active involvement to the work of the COMCEC. In this sense, it is really encouraging that member countries have been quite active in the meetings and have increased their utilization from COMCEC project funding. I would like to remind you that COMCEC is a member driven organization, thus success of the activities, projects and programs under its umbrella depends mostly on your participation and contributions.

Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of the OIC, TPS-OIC has been on our agenda for some years awaiting for implementation. It is a great pleasure for us that necessary requirements for the realization of the System were finally completed by the end of 2014. At this stage, there are some minor actions to be taken by the Member Countries for the implementation of the System. COMCEC Coordination Office has already initiated action towards that end. Seizing this opportunity, I would like to call upon all our Member Countries to become part of the System by taking necessary actions.

Esteemed Delegates,

Regarding the efforts under the financial cooperation, I would like to highlight our recommendation for requesting the Secretariats of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum and the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum to conduct feasibility studies on gold and real estate exchanges among the OIC Member Countries. I strongly believe that we have to continuously enrich our agenda with new ideas and proposals.
Distinguished Delegates,

Poverty Alleviation has an important place in the global development agenda. There has been extensive talks and negotiations for the last years to finalize the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is also noteworthy that the theme of the exchange of views session of the 31st COMCEC Session was designated by our Member Countries as “Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery” and this issue will be deliberated by the sixth meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group for submitting proper recommendations to our Ministers. As we have heard yesterday, a Joint Study is currently being conducted by the CCO and the IDB. The Study will mainly focus on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the OIC Member Countries.

We also observed noticeable progress in the relevant initiatives of OIC institutions, namely the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, Special Programme for Development of Africa and the OIC Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET).

Esteemed Guests,

Before concluding, I would like to thank the Members of the Follow-Up Committee, the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, the IDB Group, ICDT, ICCIA, SMIIC, and OISA, for their participation and valuable contributions to the meeting. I would also like to thank our colleagues in the COMCEC Coordination Office, staff on duty in this Organization, interpreters, revisers and translators for their untiring efforts which helped rendering this meeting successful. I wish you all a safe trip to your home.

Thank you.
LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE THIRTY FIRST MEETING OF
THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(Ankara, 13-14 May 2015)

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<td>3</td>
<td>CCO Brief on Trade</td>
<td>OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(3)-CCO</td>
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<td>Proceedings of the 5th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group</td>
<td>OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(4)-CCO</td>
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<td>Policy Recommendations of the 5th Meeting of the Trade Working Group</td>
<td>OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(5)-CCO</td>
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<td>Reports of ICDT on the OIC Fairs and Exhibitions</td>
<td>OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(6)-ICDT</td>
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<td>Annual Report on Trade Between the OIC Member States 2014-2015</td>
<td>OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(8)-ICDT</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Report on IDB’s WTO-Related Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program</td>
<td>OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(9)-IDB</td>
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<td>Progress Report on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade</td>
<td>OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(11)-ITFC</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Annual Report on the Activities of Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)</td>
<td>OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(12)-SMIIC</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>CCO Brief on Transport and Communications</td>
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<td>Proceedings of the 5th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport Working Group</td>
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