

Original: English

**RESOLUTION
OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE COMCEC
(İstanbul, 21-24 November 2016)**

The Thirty-Second Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 21-24 November 2016 in İstanbul, Turkey;

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 13th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, which commended the role of the COMCEC under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey in contributing to the realization of OIC objectives in the economic domain and expressed its profound appreciation for the successful implementation of the COMCEC revised statute and strategy adopted at the 4th Extraordinary Summit;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the 31st Session of the COMCEC;

Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the OIC-2025: Programme of Action adopted at the 13th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 April 2016 in İstanbul, Turkey and to the COMCEC Strategy adopted by the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 August 2012 in Makkah Al-Mukarramah;

Taking note of the submission of the progress reports, working papers and studies on the different agenda items submitted by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC);

Expressing its appreciation to the Member States for hosting Ministerial Conferences, Meetings, workshops, fairs and other activities in the cooperation areas;

Commending the efforts made by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office and the OIC institutions working in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, namely SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIC.

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

- 1- **Welcomes** the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy; **commends** the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to its implementation and **requests** the Member States and OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.
- 2- **Welcomes** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 31st Session of the COMCEC and **also welcomes** the research studies and sectoral outlooks conducted and prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for enriching the discussions in each COMCEC Working Group Meeting.
- 3- **Commends** the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their fields of competence and **welcomes** the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in February-March and September-November 2016.
- 4- **Invites** all the Member Countries to exert efforts, to the extent possible, to implement the policy recommendations and **urges** relevant OIC Institutions to support the Member States in this regard.
- 5- **Welcomes** the finalization of the fourteen projects funded under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2015 and the progress achieved in the implementation of the nine new projects under the third project call in 2016, and **also welcomes** the fourth project call, made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in September 2016.
- 6- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to regularly report the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Sessions, the Follow-up Committee Meetings and other relevant OIC fora.

7- **Encourages** 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.

8- **Noting with appreciation** that the number of Member Countries having registered to at least one working group has reached 50, **requests** 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.

9- **Welcomes** the holding of the Fourth Annual Coordination Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office on 1-2 June 2016 in Ankara, Turkey.

10- **Calls on** the COMCEC National Focal Points and working group focal points to work more closely with the COMCEC Coordination Office for effective coordination and communication.

11- **Calls upon** the Member States concerned to respond to the “Evaluation Forms” circulated each year by the COMCEC Coordination Office with a view to following-up the implementation of the Policy Recommendations of the COMCEC Working Groups.

12- **Also calls upon** the working group focal points to be actively involved in knowledge production efforts of the COMCEC through, among others assisting in collection and verification of country specific data and providing feedbacks to research studies.

13- **Expresses** its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, and SMIIC for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

14- **Adopts** the recommendations of the 32nd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC held on 17-18 May 2016 in Ankara, Turkey.

OIC Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) (Agenda Item: 3)

15- **Welcomes** the adoption of OIC-2025: Programme of Action by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, which sets ambitious targets in various fields for the Member States of the OIC to

achieve in the next ten years.

16- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 30th and 31st Sessions of COMCEC, **underlines** the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action by the COMCEC and **requests** the OIC General Secretariat to regularly submit comprehensive progress reports on the implementation of the Programme to the COMCEC Sessions and to the Follow-up Meetings.

17- **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat, in consultation with the relevant OIC organs including COMCEC to propose an implementation plan to the Member Countries for their consideration.

18- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, **also requests** the Member States to sign and ratify the agreements in the economic domain for furthering economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.

World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 4)

19- **Takes note** of the 2016 edition of SESRIC's annual economic report titled "Transforming the Potentials into Impact". In line with the findings of the report:

- **Calls upon** the Member States to improve accessibility, relevance and quality of education and training programmes in order to equip younger generations with the right mix of skills and competencies in line with the requirements of the labour market and facilitate their participation in the economy by developing young entrepreneurship programmes.
- **Taking into consideration** the opportunities offered by great market potential of the OIC region, **invites** Member States to take effective steps to reduce barriers to intra-OIC trade and investment that hinder the movement of goods, services, people and capital among the Member States.
- Given their rich natural resources and renewable energy potentials, **calls upon** the Member States to diversify their energy sources with a view to improving overall energy security.

20- **Entrusts** the SESRIC to continue monitoring the world economic developments and their implications on the Member States and to report thereon to the annual sessions of the COMCEC.

21- **Takes note with appreciation** of the sectoral outlook reports prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office and submitted to the relevant Working Group meetings.

Intra-OIC Trade (Agenda Item: 5)

22- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the Seventh Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on February 25th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Strengthening the Compliance of OIC Member Countries to International Standards”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Developing/Strengthening a National Quality Infrastructure,
- Supporting the Member States’ Efforts for their Active Participation in the work of International Standardization Bodies,
- Strengthening SMIIC for the Adoption of Harmonized Standards for the Development of Quality Infrastructure in the OIC for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

23- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the Eighth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on October 6th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving the Border Agency Cooperation among the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Promoting the adoption of international standards in customs and other relevant cross border trade and logistics matters as well as accession to the relevant international conventions for harmonizing and simplifying rules and procedures related to the cross border trade and logistics operations,
- Promoting mutual recognition arrangements/agreements for border controls and trusted traders,
- Enhancing information exchange among the border agencies of the Member Countries through enhancing connectivity of information and communication technology systems, providing regular knowledge exchange platforms and participating in relevant international networks,
- Improving the infrastructure of land border crossing points and transport connectivity through the joint efforts of the neighboring countries e.g. through

establishing joint technical/working committees, which include relevant stakeholders to identify the factors which cause bottlenecks.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

24- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to attend the Ninth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be held on March 9th, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “*Single Window Systems in the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade*” and the Tenth Meeting to be organized on November 2nd, 2017 with the theme of “*Special Economic Zones in the OIC Member States: Learning from Experiences*” and also **calls upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Trade Working Group.

25- **Requests** the Member States to actively participate in the trade activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in 2017 and also **requests** these institutions to send invitations and documents to the Member States sufficiently in advance of their meetings so as to ensure the widest possible participation.

26- **Commends** the efforts of the Gambia in partnership with Turkey and Senegal for the successful implementation of the project titled “Capacity-building and Institutional Strengthening of the Gambia Standards Bureau for the Adoption and Implementation of OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards and related Conformity Assessment” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

27- **Also commends** efforts of Qatar in partnership with five other member countries for the successful implementation of the project titled “Trade Agreements and Economic Diversification in Qatar, Opportunities and Challenges for Entrepreneurs” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

28- **Recognizing** the COMCEC’s efforts in its Working Group Meetings in the issue of travel facilitation, **invites** the COMCEC Coordination Office to dwell on facilitation of the movement of business-people in the forthcoming Working Group Meetings.

29- **Takes note** of the joint report of IDB and ITC entitled “Halal goes Global”.

i) TPS-OIC

30- **Calls upon** the Member States which have not yet signed or ratified TPS-OIC Agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, PRETAS and Rules of Origin, to do so at their earliest convenience and **expresses** its intention to work with the regional trading blocs for the completion of the necessary requirements for the implementation of the System.

31- **Welcomes** the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, and Islamic Republic of Iran.

32- **Takes note with appreciation** that the Kingdom of Morocco would convey its updated concession list to the TNC Secretariat in the forthcoming months.

33- **Appreciating** the commitment of Indonesia to join the TPS-OIC System, **welcomes** the offer of Indonesia to host “Training Seminar for the benefit of the Member States of the Asian Countries on the TPS-OIC” in Jakarta in 2017.

34- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 31st Session of the COMCEC, **invites** the GCC Secretariat, on behalf of its six member states, to convey their updated concession lists at their earliest convenience to the TNC Secretariat with a view to early utilizing market access opportunities to be brought by the TPS-OIC.

35- **Welcomes** the notification made by Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Morocco and Turkey to the TNC Secretariat on their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin, and **requests** the other participating Member States to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience.

36- **Commends** the ICDT and the IDB for organizing the 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 and its Protocols for the benefit of the African Countries”, organized on 28-30 March 2016 in Casablanca, Morocco;
- Training Seminar on “TPS-OIC and its Protocols for the benefit of the State of Palestine and Jordan” held in Amman, Jordan on 4-5 April 2016.

37- **Requests** the ICDT, COMCEC Coordination Office, IDB and other relevant OIC Institutions to continue organizing awareness raising and capacity building activities with regard to TPS-OIC.

ii) Islamic Trade Fairs

38- **Commends** the improvements in the number and quality of Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions, and **expresses** 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 for hosting concomitantly the “2nd Tourism & Travel Exhibition” and the “4th OIC Halal Expo” in Sharjah on 8-10 December 2015,
- The Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the “3rd OIC Health Expo” in Casablanca on 24-26 March 2016,
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the “9th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” in Jeddah on 9-12 May 2016 and 15th OIC Trade Fair in Riyadh on 22-26 May 2016,
- The Republic of Senegal for hosting the 1st “African Halal Business Forum” in Dakar on 3-5 March 2016 and the “2nd Higher Education Expo” in Dakar on 9-12 May 2016.

39- **Welcomes** the offer of the following Member States to host Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT in 2017/2019 and **requests** the Member States to encourage active participation of their private sector and relevant institutions in these events:

- The Republic of Iraq to host the 16th OIC Trade Fair of the Islamic Countries in Baghdad on 2-7 April 2017,
- The Arab Republic of Egypt to host the “3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States” in Cairo on 18-21 October 2017,
- Republic of Senegal to host “1st OIC Green Economy Expo” on 26-29 October 2017 and “1st OIC Fisheries and Marine Expo”, in 2017 in Dakar,
- The Republic of Turkey to host the “5th OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 23-26 November 2017 in cooperation with SMIIC,
- Republic of Guinea to host the 17th OIC Trade Fair in 2019,
- The State of Kuwait to host a “Special OIC Trade Fair” in Kuwait-City 6-10 February 2018,

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the “10th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” in Jeddah on 10-13 April 2017,
- The Republic of Azerbaijan to host the “1st Exhibition of Sport Equipment and Leisure of the OIC Member States” in Baku on 13-15 May 2017 in collaboration with Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation,
- The Republic of Côte d’Ivoire to host the “2nd OIC Building and Real Estate Exhibition” in 2017 and “4th Health Expo” in 2018 in Abidjan.

40- **Endorses** amendments submitted by ICDT in the Internal Regulations of the OIC Islamic Trade Fair specifically by adding the following paragraph in the article no.2: any applicant for hosting the Islamic Trade Fair or a Specialized Exhibition shall meet the following conditions;

- The selected venue shall have a fairground with international standards,
- The co-organizing company shall have a robust experience in organizing international exhibitions,
- The company shall have a sound financial basis,
- The selected city shall be linked with regular flights,
- The applications for hosting Islamic Trade Fair and Specialized Exhibitions are examined by a “selecting committee chaired by ICDT”.

41- **Reiterates** its request to ICDT to continue holding sector specific fairs in cooperation with the Member States and submit regular progress reports on the fairs to the COMCEC Sessions.

42- **Also reiterates** its request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

iii) WTO Related Technical Assistance

43- **Notes with satisfaction** the organization of “Ministerial Consultative Meeting of OIC Trade Ministers” held on December 14th, 2015 on the sidelines of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

44- **Expresses** 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.

45- **Calls on** IDB, SESRIC and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and to carry on with their efforts in raising the awareness of Member States on the importance of the WTO

trade negotiations and their impact on economies and **requests** them to synergize and coordinate their efforts to strengthen 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.

46- **Calls upon** the WTO members of the OIC to assist non-WTO Members of the OIC in their accession process to WTO.

47- **Welcomes** the willingness of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to continue to share its WTO-accession experiences with the non-WTO Members of the OIC.

48- **Expresses** its appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting, ICDT and the IDB Group for organizing the Seminars on “Administration of Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and Prospects of the Regional Trade Integration in the OIC Member States” in Casablanca on 21-23 December 2015 and “The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Prospects of Activating The OIC Single Window” for the benefit of the member states of the African Countries in Casablanca on 30 May-01 June 2016.

49- **Also expresses** its appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting ICDT and Agadir Technical Unit for organizing a workshop on “Trade in Services among the Regional Economic Groupings: What lessons for the QUAD Countries” in Cairo on 21-23 December 2015.

iv) Trade Financing Activities

50- **Appreciates** trade finance and trade promotion and development activities of ITFC and the mobilization of funds from the international market and development partners for funding the trade operations in the Member States, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 25 percent.

51- **Commends** the efforts of ITFC in financing SMEs and Least Developed Member Countries and **takes note** of its efforts to diversify its portfolio and extend more financing for agriculture sector that has direct and prominent impact on improving productivity, job creation, increasing export revenues and alleviating poverty.

52- **Calls upon** the Member States to complete their membership requirements for the institutions of the IDB Group (ITFC and ICIEC) so that the IDB Group implements its mandate successfully.

53- **Takes note** of the trade promotion and capacity development initiatives being implemented by ITFC under its various flagship programs including Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS), Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program and Trade Knowledge Program.

54- **Also takes note** of the efforts of the ITFC to organize a Trade Development Forum to raise awareness of the private sectors of the Member States on the trade financing facilities of the ITFC and **encourages** the private sector organizations of the Member States to actively participate in the Forum.

55- **Welcomes** the official launch of the Special Program for Central Asia (SPCA), with its trade financing component, during the 41st Annual Meeting of the IDB Group Board of Governors and **takes note of** the preparatory efforts being undertaken by IDB Group (ITFC) for its effective implementation.

56- **Takes note** of the efforts of the ITFC in implementing integrated Trade Programmes for commodity development through blending its trade finance facilities with its trade related technical assistance interventions and **requests** ITFC to develop similar programs for other strategic commodities.

57- **Commends** ITFC's efforts for the diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments, supporting training programs on Islamic finance and promoting Islamic Finance solutions at international foras and **welcomes** the announcement of organizing a side event on Islamic Trade Finance during the next WTO Public Forum.

v) Trade Related Activities of SMIIIC

58- **Welcomes** the activities of Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in the area of standardization, metrology and accreditation and their impact on trade facilitation and capacity building projects for Member States.

59- **Invites** the Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Committees.

60- **Welcomes** the increasing visibility of the SMIIC and **expresses** its appreciation to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence.

61- **Takes note with appreciation** of the organization of SMIIIC Halal Conference on 14-15 December 2015 in Malaysia jointly by the SMIIIC General Secretariat and Department of Standards Malaysia.

62- **Invites** the Member States to participate in the World Halal Summit to be held on the sidelines of the 10th SMIIIC General Assembly Meeting on 15-17 December 2016 in İstanbul.

63- **Takes note** of the following capacity building activities organized by SMIIIC:

- Training programs on Scientific Metrology on 22-26 February 2016 in Turkey in coordination with SMIIIC Metrology Committee Chair, SMIIIC General Secretariat and SESRIC,
- SMIIIC Information System Training on 19-21 April 2016 in Turkey.

Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation (Agenda Item:6)

64- **Taking note** of the report of the ICCIA submitted to the 32nd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up the Committee and the explanation given by the ICCIA during the Session regarding the relevant resolution of the 31st Session of the COMCEC and recommendation of the 32nd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee, **encourages** the ICCIA to strive to continue to serve the emerging needs of the private sector in the member countries and report the progress to the 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee and 33rd Session of the COMCEC.

65- **Also encourages** their Chambers of Commerce to be actively involved in the ICCIA's activities.

66- **Welcomes** the holding of the 9th Businesswomen Forum for Islamic Countries, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with the 15th Islamic Trade Fair on 25 May 2016.

67- **Commends** the Republic of Turkey for the successful organization of the Second Workshop on “Enhancing Cooperation among the Trade Registry Agencies of the OIC Member States” on 16-17 November 2016, in Ankara.

68- **Takes note** of the following activities to be organized by the ICCIA and **calls upon** the private sector of the Member States to actively participate in these activities;

- The 17th Private Sector Meeting of the OIC Countries to be held in 2017,

- 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Countries to be held in Sudan / Egypt in 2017,
- Workshop on Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries to be held in Lahore, Pakistan on 29th November to 1st December 2016,
- Training Program on Entrepreneurship Development through IT for OIC Countries to be held in 2017,
- Trade Exchange Forum/Exhibition (Sector-wise) to be held in 2017.

69- **Takes note** of the strategy for increasing trade in services in the Member Countries prepared by the ICCIA in collaboration with IDB Group and ICDT.

70- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 43rd Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting of the OIC and the relevant recommendation of the 32nd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee, **takes note** of the briefing by ICCIA and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) on the setting up of the OIC Arbitration Center affiliated with ICCIA in Istanbul and **requests** them to submit a progress report on this issue to the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

Improving Transport and Communications (Agenda Item: 7)

71- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 7th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group held on March 24th, 2016 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey with the theme of “Enhancing Road Maintenance in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a National Road Maintenance Strategy Based on Evidence and Data,
- Ensuring the Allocation of Adequate and Sustainable Funding for Road Maintenance and Increasing Effective Utilization of Available Road Funds through a Sound Legal Framework and Institutional Structure,
- Making Use of Performance-Based Contracts in Road Maintenance,
- Establishing a Road Database Management System.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

72- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the Eighth Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on October 27th, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "Improving Road Safety in the OIC Member States", **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Raising Awareness of Road Safety in the Member States,
- Adhering to the Major UN Road Safety Agreements and Conventions and Adapting the Safe Systems Approach to the National Road Safety Management System,
- Establishing a Reliable and Sustainable Road Safety and Crash Data System,
- Developing a National Road Safety Strategy and Assigning a National Lead Agency/Institution Responsible for Road Safety Management.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

73- **Calls upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group, to actively participate in the Ninth Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group to be held on March 16th, 2017 with the theme of “Increasing Broadband Internet Penetration in OIC Member Countries”, as well as its Tenth Meeting to be held on October 19th, 2017 with the theme of “Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group.

74- **Commends** the efforts of Turkey for the successful implementation in partnership with six member countries of the project titled “Measuring and Benchmarking of Passenger Movement Performance Index among the OIC countries” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

75- **Appreciates** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat to sensitize the OIC Member States concerned to the need to include the respective national segments along the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor in their national development plans and **requests** the Member states concerned to submit their well-designed feasibility studies to the IDB Group and other international development banks for securing adequate technical support and financing for this project.

76- **Commending** the efforts of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group for enhancing multimodal transport in the OIC Region including railway connections, **invites** the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to revisit railway connectivity, including the major problems faced, in its future meetings.

Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector (Agenda Item: 8)

77- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 7th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on February 4th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Understanding the Demand and Supply Sides in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing basic guidelines for improving the basic MFT related services,
- Increasing awareness of MFT market among the travel industry stakeholders through standardizing terminology used in MFT, introducing market awareness and customer service training programmes and utilizing social media for promotion and marketing,
- Developing healthcare services and facilities for the MFT market through identifying the different strengths of the OIC Region, building specialization hubs, developing alternative/traditional treatments and wellness programs,
- Launching an alliance among the Muslim-friendly travel agents/ tour operators targeting MFT market.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

78- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 8th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on September 1st, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Muslim Friendly Tourism: Developing and Marketing MFT Products and Services in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a national Muslim Friendly Tourism strategy that links to the country’s overall tourism goals through focusing on building stakeholder awareness, establishing a dedicated MFT body/committee and developing a national MFT products/services and marketing development strategy,
- Conducting government-led MFT-focused destination marketing through developing an MFT branding and positioning for the benefit of local service

providers and measuring the potential of a destination for MFT by funding/organizing short-term campaigns.

- Supporting SMEs through developing training and mentorship programmes,
- Developing bilateral tourism cooperation within the OIC through technical knowledge exchange and joint promotion efforts for MFT destinations.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

79- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the 9th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group to be held on February 16th, 2017 in Ankara with theme of “Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Regulations for Accommodation Establishments in the OIC Member Countries” and its 10th Meeting to be held on September 21st, 2017 with the theme of “Risk and Crisis Management and Recovery from Crisis in Tourism Sector in the OIC Member Countries” and **also calls upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

80- **Commends** the Gambia for the successful implementation in partnership with Senegal and Guinea Bissau of the project titled “Strengthening Community Resilience through Eco tourism” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

81- **Welcomes** the holding of the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) on 21-23 December 2015 in Niamey, Republic of Niger, and **commends** the selection of al-Madinah al-Munawwarah as the OIC City of Tourism, 2017, and Tabriz as the OIC City of Tourism, 2018 by the Conference.

82- **Also welcomes** the offer of People’s Republic of Bangladesh to host the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in November 2017 and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

83- **Takes note** of the report of the Fourth Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held on 14-15 January 2016 in İstanbul with the theme of “Promoting Muslim-friendly Tourism Products and Services in the OIC Member Countries.”

84- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 5th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum in the first quarter of 2017 and **requests** the Member States to encourage their private sector representatives in tourism sector to actively participate in this event.

85- **Welcomes** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 10th Tehran International Tourism Exhibition on 6-9 February, 2017 and **requests** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

86- **Welcomes** the organization of the Workshop on “the Future of Tourism Development in Konya” by SESRIC in cooperation with ICDT on 15-16 November 2016, in Konya, the Republic of Turkey.

Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security (Agenda Item: 9)

87- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 7th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group on March 3rd, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Reducing On-Farm Food Losses in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Identifying the knowledge and information gaps regarding the levels and specific causes of on-farm food losses for key crops and food products with a view to providing solutions for each OIC Member Country,
- Improving/developing agricultural extension, training and outreach activities for reducing on-farm food losses,
- Developing specific programs/projects to address on-farm losses in agricultural value chains in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

88- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 8th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group held on October 13th, 2016 with the theme of “Reducing Post-Harvest Losses in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Setting up national post-harvest losses reduction coordination committees with a view to identifying, prioritizing and sharing post-harvest losses data and practices across a range of strategic commodities and raising awareness on post-harvest losses,

- Mobilizing agricultural finance providers to allocate more financial resources with a view to addressing agricultural infrastructure investment needs in post-harvest losses,
- Improving and developing agricultural extension, training and outreach activities for reducing post-harvest losses.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

89- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in the 9th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group to be held on February 23rd, 2017 in Ankara with theme of “Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries” and its 10th Meeting to be held on September 28th, 2017 with the theme of “Improving Agricultural Market Performance: Creation and Development of Market Institutions” and **also calls upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group.

90- **Commends** the efforts of Chad, Indonesia, Suriname and Turkey for the successful implementation of the following projects respectively under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- “Project for supporting the Agricultural training centers in Chad”; Chad in partnership with Turkey and Burkina Faso,
- “The project on improving the income of small and medium scale farmers in OIC Member States through Integrated Farming System” by Indonesia in partnership with the Gambia, Egypt and Sudan,
- “The project on the gaps for greenhouse vegetable Crops; Principles for tropical climate areas” by Suriname in partnership with Guyana and Turkey,
- “The project on the establishment of database, network connection and web pages of smallholders/family farmer’s agricultural cooperatives between OIC member states” by Turkey in partnership with 19 member countries.

91- **Notes 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.

92- **Takes note with appreciation** of the organization of the 7th Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development and the Inaugural General Assembly of the Islamic Organization for Food

Security (IOFS) held on 26–28 April 2016 in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan.

Alleviating Poverty (Agenda Item:10)

93- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 7th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group on February 11th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “*Accessibility of Vulnerable Groups to Social Protection Programmes in the OIC Member Countries*”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Promoting formalization in the labor market through creating a regulatory environment for facilitating the transition of informal businesses to formal sector, and increasing the productivity of informally employed and long-term unemployed people via training and skill-development programs, credit and business development services,
- Promoting free and universal health care coverage for vulnerable groups,
- Developing specific social safety net programs to improve the access of vulnerable children to health and education services for preventing intergenerational transmission of poverty,
- Designing specific social safety net programs to offer a minimum regular income to people who cannot work (disabled, poor female-headed households, elderly without a pension) as well as developing social safety net programs (including activation programs) for people who can work.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

94- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 8th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group held on November 3rd, 2016 in Ankara, with the theme of “*Forced Migration in the OIC Member Countries: The Policy Framework Adopted by Host Countries*”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a sound policy framework at the national level coherent with legislations and mechanisms in the host countries and strengthening their institutional and human capacity in order to manage diverse set of forced migration flows and address the needs of migrants,
- Facilitating access to safe and affordable housing with a view to decreasing housing shortages and the economic burden on both migrants and host

communities and allowing them to actively participate in daily life in the host country,

- Increasing the forced migrants' access to labour market through providing work permits and developing programs for upgrading their skills with a view to enhancing self-sustainability,
- Facilitating forced migrants' access to health and education services through eliminating the practical barriers including linguistic disparities and service fees,
- Collecting reliable data on forced migrant population with a view to increasing the efficiency of policy making and monitoring as well as evaluation processes,
- Mobilising the international and OIC support and resources for alleviating poverty among the forced migrants.

95- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to actively participate in the Ninth Meeting of the Working Group to be held on April 6th, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of "*Malnutrition in OIC Countries: A Trap for Poverty*", as well as its 10th Meeting to be held on October 5th, 2017 with the theme of "*Education of Disadvantaged Children in OIC: the Key to Escape from Poverty*" and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

96- **Commends** the efforts of Cameroon, Iran, Suriname and SESRIC for the successful implementation of the following projects respectively under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- "The project on building productivity capacities of agriculture small scale producers of the coffee and cocoa within some Central African and West African States through the improvement of phytosanitary practices" by Cameroon in partnership with Nigeria and Benin,
- "The project on the Role of Community-Based Rehabilitation in Poverty Reduction" by Iran in partnership with Malaysia and Indonesia,
- "Design and implementation of the Management Information System for SSNs within the Ministry" by Suriname in partnership with Turkey and Guyana,
- "Improving Statistical Capacities of OIC Member Countries in Poverty Statistics" by SESRIC in partnership with 25 Member Countries.

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

97- **Reiterates** its requests to the Member Countries which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and those who have not yet pledged to the ISFD to do so in order to enable the Fund to undertake more developmental projects in the member countries. The Session **also requests** the Member Countries to consider making additional commitments on a voluntary basis.

98- **Calls on** the Member Countries to implement the IDB Board of Governors resolution in donating Waqf land for the ISFD to invest and enhance its income resources for poverty alleviation.

99- **Also requests** the ISFD to increase its efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including the private sector in the Member States.

100- **Welcomes** 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

101- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 30th and 31st Session of the COMCEC on OIC Cotton Programme, **welcomes** the IDB's allocation of the necessary funding to the capacity building project of SESRIC for 2017.

102- **Welcomes** the successful finalization of the Programme with the SESRIC's capacity building project and expresses its thanks and appreciation to all stakeholders, which contributed to the Programme.

103- **Takes 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 **urges** the Cotton Research Centers of Excellence to enhance their cooperation with SESRIC in implementing these training courses.

iii) OIC-VET Program

104- **Appreciates** the continuous efforts of SESRIC towards initiating and implementing various vocational 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 and **calls upon** SESRIC to mobilize more financial resources towards the programme.

105- **Requests** SESRIC and IDB to continue developing and implementing new projects and initiatives under the OIC-VET sub-programmes, and **calls upon** the Member States to participate and support the various programmes of SESRIC under the OIC-VET Programme through, among others, activating the role of their National Focal Points (NFPs) in this important Programme.

iv) Implementation of the SDGs

106- **Recalling** the relevant recommendation of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee, **welcomes** the study titled “Contributions of the OIC Institutions in Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” conducted by the IDB and COMCEC Coordination Office in cooperation with SESRIC, ICDT, ICCIA, SMIIC and **calls upon** the Member States and relevant OIC Institutions to utilize the findings of this Study.

107- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to compile the activities, which are conducted on the implementation of the SDGs in the Member Countries and submit a report to the next COMCEC Session.

108- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 31st Session of the COMCEC on identifying the priority SDG areas for the Member States, **invites** the Member States to duly complete the “Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries” designed and circulated by the SESRIC and requests SESRIC to submit a report on the results of the survey to the 33rd Follow-up Committee Meeting and 33rd COMCEC Session.

109- **Entrusts** SESRIC to be the focal point, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat, at the OIC level for following up the SDGs indicator framework, currently being developed by the international statistical community and to report regularly the progress recorded in the finalization of the SDG indicator framework to the annual sessions of COMCEC.

Deepening Financial Cooperation (Agenda Item: 11)

110- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on 17-18 March, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member States”, **welcomes** its policy recommendations, as reference guidelines for the interested Member Countries for developing Islamic Finance Strategies.

111- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the Seventh Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on October 20th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “National and Global Islamic Financial Architecture: Problems and Possible Solutions for the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations, as reference guidelines for the interested Member Countries to develop Islamic Financial Architecture;

- Developing/ Supporting Legal Framework for Islamic Finance by Reviewing Islamic Financial Laws, Tax Regimes, Dispute Settlement Framework and Bankruptcy Law,
- Developing Necessary Regulatory and Supervisory Institutional Framework for the Islamic Financial Services Industries (IFSI) through Adopting Standards Developed by Islamic Financial Architecture Institutions and Improving the National Framework,
- Establishing a Sound Governance Framework by Introducing the Requirement of Shariah Governance at the Financial Institution Level in Islamic Financial Laws and in Regulations,
- Enhancing Consumer Protection and Financial Education through Ensuring Full Disclosure in Islamic Finance Contracts and Having Financial Education Programs to Increase Awareness and the Level of Understanding of Islamic Financial Transactions,
- Developing Liquidity Infrastructure for Islamic Financial Sector by Issuing Shariah Compliant Liquidity Instruments, Developing an Active Islamic Money Market and Ensuring Lender of the Last Resort to Offer Shariah Compliant Facilities.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

112- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively participate in the Eighth Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group to be held on March 30th, 2017 with the

theme of “Improving Public Debt Management in the OIC Member Countries”, as well as its Ninth Meeting to be held on October 26th, 2017 with the theme of “Diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.

113- **Commends** the efforts of the Gambia for the successful implementation in partnership with Nigeria and Sierra Leone of the project titled “Capacity Building on Islamic Financial Instruments” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

114- **Also commends** the efforts of Malaysia for the successful implementation in partnership with Azerbaijan, Turkey and the UAE of the project titled “Islamic Capital Market Capacity Building Programmes” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

i) OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum

115- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 30th and 31st Sessions of the COMCEC, **takes note of** the report of the 10th Meeting of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum hosted by Borsa Istanbul on October 27th, 2016 and **welcomes** the Forum’s proposal to establish a highly adaptable web-based gold trading and clearing platform with the ultimate aim of a gold exchange/platform among the volunteering Member Countries. The Session also **requests** the Forum/Forum’s Secretariat to carry out necessary studies for the suggested platform/exchange.

116- **Also invites** the interested member states to actively participate in Forum’s Task Force to support the suggested platform/exchange through accelerating the process of integration of exchanges and harmonization of regulatory frameworks.

117- **Welcomes** the offer of the Borsa Istanbul as the Secretariat of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum, to host the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum in 2017 in İstanbul and requests all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

118- **Requests** the Member States and IDB to support the promotion of both the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index and sub-indices.

ii) Cooperation among Capital Markets' Regulatory Bodies

119- Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 30th and 31st Sessions of the COMCEC, **takes note of the** Report of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum hosted by the Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey on October 27th, 2016 in İstanbul and **takes note of the** Forum's proposal to establish COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform among the interested OIC Member States participating in the Forum. The Session **also requests** the Forum/ the Forum's Secretariat to conduct comprehensive studies to identify necessary stages towards establishing the suggested platform, with the support of the relevant national authorities and securities exchanges from volunteering Member States.

120- **Also invites the** interested member states to actively participate in studies to support the suggested platform by identifying their authorized bodies to expedite further technical work for establishing the platform.

121- **Welcomes** 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 **invites** 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.

122- **Welcomes** the offer of the Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum in 2017 in İstanbul and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

iii) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities

123- **Welcomes** the offer of the Central Bank of Turkey to host the 15th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States in the second half of 2017 and **urges** the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.

124- **Welcomes** the training and capacity building programs organized by the SESRIC among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States in different aspects of cooperation and **requests** the SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the relevant institutions of the Member States.

Exchange of Views on “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” (Agenda Item: 12)

125- **Welcomes** the policy recommendations of the 6th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group on “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” organized on 17-18 March 2016 in Ankara, Turkey, as reference guidelines for the interested Member Countries to develop Islamic Finance Strategies.

Ref: Policy Recommendations Document (Annex 7.)

Theme of the next Exchange of Views Session

126- **Decides** on “Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries” as the theme for the Exchange of Views Session at the 33rd Session of the COMCEC and **requests** the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 33rd COMCEC Session.

Date of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC (Agenda Item: 13)

127- **Decides** that the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 10-11 May, 2017 in Ankara, Turkey and the 33rd Session of the COMCEC will be held on 20-23 November, 2017 in İstanbul, Turkey.

Any Other Business (Agenda Item: 14)

i) Renewal of the Bureau Members

128- **Elects** State of Qatar, Malaysia and Republic of Gabon as Vice Chairmen of the Bureau of the COMCEC to represent the Arab, Asian and African Regions, respectively, and Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Rapporteur, to assume their posts as of the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC; as a result of the election, the composition of the Follow-up Committee is as follows;

<u>Country</u>	<u>Status</u>
Republic of Turkey	: Chairman (Permanent)
State of Palestine	: Vice-Chairman (Permanent)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	: Vice-Chairman (Permanent)
State of Qatar	: Vice-Chairman (Representing the Arab Region)
Malaysia	: Vice-Chairman (Representing the Asian Region)
Republic of Gabon	: Vice-Chairman (Representing the African Region)
State of Kuwait	: Member of the Previous Bureau
Republic of Indonesia	: Member of the Previous Bureau
Republic of Niger	: Member of the Previous Bureau
Islamic Republic of Pakistan	: Rapporteur

