

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF  
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE  
(İstanbul, 20 November 2016)**

1. The 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Ankara, on the sidelines of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mehmet Metin EKER, Director General 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
- International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)-IDB Group
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
- Organization of Shipowners Association of the OIC (OISA)
- Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)

3. The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items for discussion:

- 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 and COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations
- Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions
  - Developing Multi-Year Technical Capacity Building Programs
  - Enhancing Cooperation with other Regional and International Organizations
- Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the SDGs in OIC Member States
- Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025
- Any Other Business

## **Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy and COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations**

4. Emphasizing the significance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the realization of the COMCEC Strategy and the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, the Committee reviewed the completed and planned activities for the relevant OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy for the periods of 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation. The Committee was also briefed by the relevant OIC Institutions on their planned activities.

*(The list of activities organized and to be organized by the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy between 2016 and 2017 is attached as Annex 1.)*

5. The Committee was informed by the CCO that out of 204 activities of the OIC Institutions completed since the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC, 36.8 percent of the activities were implemented in trade area followed by poverty alleviation (%18.6) and financial cooperation (%8.8). The Committee was also informed that with respect to types of the activities, the Institutions specially focused on trainings and technical assistance programs (%41,2), various expert meetings and workshops (%15,2) and fairs, exhibitions and forums (%14.2).

6. With a view to better reflecting the activities of the OIC Institutions in line with COMCEC Strategy and Policy Recommendations adopted at the Ministerial level, the Committee asked the OIC Institutions to indicate specifically the alignment of their activities to the policy recommendations in their lists of activities.

7. The Committee underlined that the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations can be of benefit to the OIC Institutions in planning their future cooperation activities and programs. While discussing possible means and ways of the OIC Institutions' possible contributions to the implementation of the Policy Recommendations by the Member Countries, the Committee took note that policy recommendations could be supported by the Institutions through training projects, conducting studies and surveys and building expertise in the Member Countries, to be financed either by the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism or institutions' own financing facilities.

8. Highlighting the importance of measuring the impact of the activities implemented by the OIC Institutions, the Committee agreed to add *"The Issue of*

*Measuring the Impact of the Activities of the OIC Institutions*” to the agenda of the 30<sup>th</sup> Sessional Committee Meeting as a separate item.

9. Stressing the need to complementarity of existing efforts in tourism area and considering the similar efforts of the CCO on Muslim-Friendly Tourism, the Committee agreed that the COMCEC Coordination Office shall be invited to the Islamic Tourism Working Group, chaired by Indonesia,

10. The Committee also agreed that along with efforts to increase intra OIC trade quantitatively, the quality of trade including its composition and value addition aspect should also be paid due attention by the relevant OIC institutions through conducting various programmes and innovative ideas.

### **Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions**

11. With respect to the sub-item titled "Developing Multi-Year Technical Capacity Building Programs", the Committee was briefed by the ITFC (IDB Group) on a sample "Multi-year Cooperation/Capacity Building Program of Trade Facilitation for Enhanced Regional Cooperation & Seamless Connectivity." Welcoming the views expressed by ITFC (IDB Group) on following a programmatic approach in the cooperation efforts instead of activity-based one, the Committee asked the ITFC (IDB Group) to elaborate on the programming logic. The Committee also invited the participants to communicate their comments and feedbacks on the mentioned presentation to the IDB Group and come up with some concrete ideas regarding programming approach methodology.

12. Regarding the project on the establishment/updating of the OIC Countries' statistical database (OICStat), the Committee was informed by representative of the SESRIC that relevant work is being conducted in line with the decisions of the OIC Statistical Commission, and accordingly the SESRIC aims to commence its database in 2017.

### **Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the SDGs in OIC Member States**

13. The Committee was informed by the SESRIC that "Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries" was circulated to the Member Countries in line with the relevant resolutions of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC and the response rate of the member countries is relatively low since the most of the countries are at the stage of being sensitized to the SDGs. The Committee was also informed that SESRIC

has recently prepared a report titled “Moving from MDGs to SDGs: Prospects and Challenges for the OIC Countries”

14. The Committee was briefed by the CCO on the report titled “Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” The Committee decided that the CCO can follow-up the SDG-related activities of the OIC Institutions and report to the forthcoming COMCEC Session accordingly.

### **Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025**

15. Regarding the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, the Committee noted that the inputs of the relevant stakeholders, OIC Institutions and Standing Committees are of particular importance while designing the implementation plan.

### ***Any Other Business***

16. The Committee Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

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