

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 30th MEETING OF
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(Ankara, 9 May 2017)**

1. The 30th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on May 9th, 2017 in Ankara, on the sidelines of the 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee.

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)
- 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
 - The Issue of Measuring the Impact of the Activities of the OIC Institutions
- Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions
 - Developing Multi-Year Technical Capacity Building Programs
- 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

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 period December 2016- November 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 December 2016 and November 2017 is attached as Annex 1.)

5. The Committee was informed by the CCO that out of 235 activities of the OIC Institutions implemented/to be implemented in the reviewed period, 36.6 percent of the activities will be/were implemented in trade area followed by poverty alleviation (24.3%), financial cooperation (9.8%), agriculture (9.4%), tourism (4.7%) and transport (4.7%) respectively. The Committee was also informed that with respect to types of the activities, the Institutions specially focused on trainings and technical assistance programs (30.6%), various expert meetings (16.6%) and Workshops (14.9%) between December 2016 and November 2017. In view of the fact that the research reports and studies constitute only 8.4 percent of all activities, the Committee highlighted the importance of conducting greater number of research reports and studies in the future.

6. The CCO informed the Committee about the sectoral themes to be supported by the COMCEC Coordination Office in the 5th Project Call to be made in September 2017, under the COMCEC Project Funding. In this regard, the Committee underlined the importance of the submission of the project proposals by the OIC Institutions through COMCEC Project Funding for the realization of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations. The Committee also underscored that the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations should be utilized by the OIC Institutions in planning their future cooperation activities and programs.

7. With a view to better reflecting the activities of the OIC Institutions aligned with COMCEC Strategy and Policy Recommendations adopted at the Ministerial level, the

Committee requested the OIC Institutions to indicate specifically the relevance between the activities and the policy recommendations in their lists of activities.

8. Highlighting the importance of measuring the impact of the activities implemented by the OIC Institutions, the Committee asked the relevant OIC Institutions to present their best practices in this crucial subject and the CCO to present the practices from the other international institutions/organizations on this topic to the next Sessional Committee Meeting.

Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the OIC Institutions

9. With respect to the sub-item titled "Developing Multi-Year Technical Capacity Building Programs", the Committee was briefed by the ITFC (IDB Group) on the comments of the ICCIA and CCO to the sample "Multi-year Cooperation/Capacity Building Program of Trade Facilitation for Enhanced Regional Cooperation & Seamless Connectivity". The Committee thanked the ITFC (IDB Group) for their efforts, requested the remaining institutions to share their views, asked ITFC (IDB Group) to revise the aforementioned document accordingly and to circulate the revised document to the OIC Institutions one month before the next Sessional Committee Meeting for the further deliberations.

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

10. 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 31st and 32nd Sessions of the COMCEC and 27 member countries have communicated their completed or partial responses to the SESRIC. The Committee was also informed that SESRIC will submit a report on the Member Countries' survey responses to the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session.

11. The Committee reviewed "the Template of the List of Activities of the OIC Institutions to SDGs", which was proposed by the CCO in line with the relevant resolution of the 32nd COMCEC Ministerial Session. After deliberations, the Committee asked the OIC Institutions to give their feedback and comments to the aforementioned template within one month especially for its simplification. Accordingly, the Committee requested the CCO to revise and simplify the proposed format taking into consideration the comments of the OIC Institutions.

12. While underlining that the possible contributions of the OIC Institutions can play a role for the implementation of the SDGs in the member countries, the Committee emphasized the realization of the objectives of the OIC 2025 Programme of Action and the COMCEC Strategy.

Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025

13. Regarding the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, the Committee underlined the importance of getting the inputs of the Member Countries as well as the OIC Institutions and Standing Committees to the implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action. In this respect, the Committee noted that Standing Committees, including COMCEC, can be utilized in their respective fields for expediting the receipt of the inputs from the Member Countries.

Any Other Business

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

