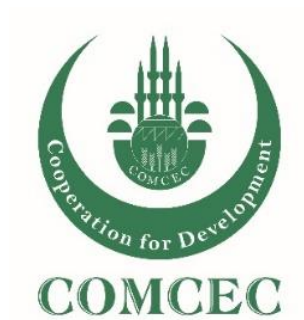


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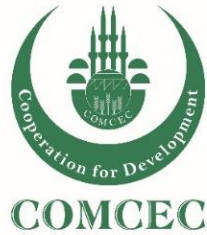
ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA

**33rd Session of the COMCEC
(İstanbul, 20-23 November 2017)**

COMCEC Coordination Office

Ankara, November 2017

www.comcec.org



**DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE 33rd SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 20-23 November 2017)**

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-2025: Programme 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. Alleviating Poverty
11. Deepening Financial Cooperation
12. Exchange of Views on “Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries”
13. Date of the 34th Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Resolutions

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to give background information and the current status on the cooperation areas, programs and projects of the COMCEC for its 33rd Session, to be held on 20-23 November 2017 in İstanbul, Turkey.

The document provides background information and the required actions on the Draft Agenda Items from 2 to 13. As the remaining Agenda Items are self-explanatory; they are not included in the Document.

The reports and studies to be submitted under each agenda item will be placed on the COMCEC's website (www.comcec.org).

ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM 2 Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation

- The COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation

COMCEC has been continuing its activities in light of the COMCEC Strategy, which has become operational in 2013.

The Strategy has a well-defined implementation mechanism, which ensures active and direct involvement of the Member Countries with its two instruments. Through the Working Groups (WGs), member country experts in the cooperation areas convene twice a year with the aim of producing and disseminating knowledge, and sharing experience and good practices. The WGs also provide a solid ground for creating a common understanding and approximating policies among the Member Countries to respond their common development problems.

The COMCEC Project Funding, second instrument of the COMCEC Strategy, enables the member countries registered to the WGs and the relevant OIC Institutions, to submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO).

As of November, the WGs have held 10 rounds of meetings in six cooperation areas (9 meetings for Financial Cooperation Working Group) so far and deliberated on important issues and themes in each cooperation area. The details of each working group are given under the relevant agenda item. Under the COMCEC Project Funding mechanism, in 2017, 14 projects are being implemented and expected to be finalized by the end of the year. The CCO made the fifth project call on September 5th, 2017. The relevant documents regarding the COMCEC Project Funding are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org)

Successful implementation of the Strategy requires effective coordination and communication between the member states and the CCO. In this regard, COMCEC National Focal Points and Working Group Focal Points responsible for each cooperation area in each member country convene annually to discuss ways and means to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the Strategy. In this respect, the 5th Annual Coordination Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points was held on 23-25 May 2017, in Ankara, Turkey.

Moreover, cooperation efforts of the OIC Institutions operating in the economic domain have particular importance for the realization of the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy. In this respect, in line with the relevant resolution of the COMCEC, the OIC Institutions have been organizing activities aligned with the objectives and expected outputs of the COMCEC Strategy.

In this framework, the 32nd Session of the COMCEC **welcomed** the Progress Report submitted by the CCO highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy and **commended** the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to its implementation. The Session also **requested** the Member States and OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy. Moreover, the Session **welcomed** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas and the research studies and sectoral outlooks conducted and prepared by the CCO specifically for enriching the discussions in each COMCEC Working Group Meeting.

Furthermore, the Session **welcomed** 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 **welcomed** the fourth project call, made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in September 2016.

The 32nd COMCEC Session also expressed its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, and SMIIC for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

The 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC held on 10-11 May 2017 in Ankara **welcomed** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC. The Committee also **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-April 2017. The Committee also **invited** all Member Countries to exert efforts, to the extent possible, to implement the policy recommendations and **urged** relevant OIC Institutions to support the Member States in this regard.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the COMCEC Strategy and its implementation. The Session will consider the report submitted by the CCO for necessary action.

- **Report of the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC**

The 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC was held on 10-11 May 2017, in Ankara, Turkey. The Committee reviewed the implementation of the programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC and prepared recommendations for the 33rd Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): The 33rd Session of the COMCEC will be briefed by the Rapporteur of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the recommendations of the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3

OIC 2025: Programme of Action

The OIC Programme of Action for the period of 2016-2025 (OIC-2025: Programme of Action) was adopted at the 13th Islamic Summit held in İstanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 30th and 31st Sessions of COMCEC, the 32nd Session of the COMCEC **underlined** the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action by the COMCEC and **requested** 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. The Session also **requested** 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.

Moreover, the 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee took note of the preparations by the OIC General Secretariat and further **requested** the OIC General Secretariat to formally circulate the Implementation Plan of OIC-2025: Programme of Action to the Member Countries and OIC institutions/organs including the COMCEC Coordination Office with a view to seek their inputs for further development; and called upon the OIC General Secretariat to submit the relevant sections of

the aforementioned plan to the 33rd Session of the COMCEC for consideration and its further development.

Required Action(s): The OIC General Secretariat is expected to brief the Session on the recent developments regarding the implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action and to submit the relevant sections of the above-mentioned Implementation Plan to the Session. The Session will consider the General Secretariat's report and implementation plan for necessary action.

AGENDA ITEM 4

World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries

-Annual Economic Report on the OIC Member Countries

SESRIC, in light of the relevant decision of the 12th Session of the COMCEC, has been preparing an annual report on recent world economic developments and their implications on the OIC member countries and submit it to the annual sessions of the COMCEC.

In its Annual Economic Reports, SESRIC summarizes the global and regional economic and financial developments as well as provides some policy recommendations for the member countries.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to submit a report on world economic developments. The Member Countries will share their experience regarding the recent economic developments.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Intra-OIC Trade

Expansion of intra-OIC trade is one of the most important objectives of the COMCEC and trade occupies an important place topic in the COMCEC agenda. , The COMCEC Trade Working Group, in its recent meetings, has focused on the various aspects of the trade facilitation. In this regard, the 32nd Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation of the convening of the 7th and 8th Meetings of the Trade Working Group, which elaborated on the international standards and border agency cooperation aspects for trade facilitation respectively, and the Session **welcomed** the policy recommendations formulated in these meetings.

Moreover, in accordance with the relevant resolution of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC, the 9th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was held on March 9th, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of "Single Window Systems in the OIC Member States." The Working Group has considered the research report prepared specifically for this Meeting and come up with a set of policy recommendations. The 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee took note with appreciation of the convening of the Meeting and welcomed its policy recommendations.

Furthermore, in line with the resolution of the 32nd COMCEC Session and the recommendation of 33rd Follow-up Committee, 10th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was organized on November 2nd, 2017 with the theme of "Special Economic Zones in the OIC Member States: Learning from Experiences". In accordance with the main findings of the research report prepared for and the

discussions held during the meeting, the Trade WG has come up with some concrete policy recommendations to be submitted to the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session.

All the relevant publications conducted for and the presentations made during the meeting are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

Regarding the multilateral cooperation projects in trade domain under the COMCEC Project Funding, the 32nd Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts of the Gambia and Qatar and their partner countries for the successful implementation of two projects under the second project . The 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee also commended the efforts of Uganda and its partner countries for the successful implementation of a trade project, and also commended the efforts of Palestine, Suriname and ICDT for the projects to be implemented within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2017.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 9th and 10th Meetings of the Trade Working Group as well as the projects finalized in 2016 and being implemented in 2017 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the Trade Working Group for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What measures can be taken to improve effectiveness of existing Single Window Systems in the OIC Member Countries?
- ii) How can the cooperation among the member countries be enhanced regarding Single Window Systems?
- iii) What are the main challenges faced by the OIC Member Countries in utilizing Special Economic Zones?
- iv) How can the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the Member Countries be utilized to contribute to the economic development efforts in the Member Countries?

There are also several important programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC to enhance cooperation among the OIC Member States in the field of trade. Some of the ongoing programs and activities are; TPS-OIC, Islamic Trade Fairs, WTO-Related Technical Assistance, Trade Financing Activities and Trade Related Activities of SMIIC.

- **TPS-OIC**

TPS-OIC (Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States) is the most important project of the COMCEC in trade area. The System is based on three agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and the Rules of Origin. The legal basis of the TPS-OIC was completed in 2011. The required number of member countries for the operationalization of the System has already been reached by the end of 2014.

The 32nd Session of the COMCEC **called 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. Moreover, the Session **took note with appreciation** that the Kingdom of Morocco would convey its updated concession list to the TNC Secretariat in the forthcoming months and **invited** 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.

The 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee also invited the GCC Secretariat, on behalf of its six member states, and Morocco to convey their updated concession lists at their earliest convenience and **requested** the participating Member States, who have done not so yet, 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.

As of November 2017, the following member countries have conveyed their updated concession lists: Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, and Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the other hand, ICDT organizes sensitizing events for increasing awareness on the benefits of TPS-OIC among the government officials and the private sector in the Member States. In this regard, the “Workshop on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPSOIC)” was organized on 13-14 September 2017 in Jakarta/Indonesia.

Required Action(s): As the TNC co-Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the progress regarding the operationalization of the TPS-OIC. The Session will consider the recent developments and take appropriate action, if necessary.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) Has there been a new development in your country since the 32nd Session of the COMCEC regarding the signing/ratification of TPS-OIC Agreements, submission of updated concession lists, or administrative measures for the implementation of the System?
- ii) What is the level of awareness on TPS-OIC System in your country? Do you think more sensitization events are needed?
- iii) Which additional measures can be taken to expedite successful implementation of the TPS-OIC?

- Islamic Trade Fairs

Islamic trade fairs are held every two years in one of the OIC Member Countries in order to promote intra-OIC trade. ICDT has organized fifteen Islamic Trade Fairs to date. In addition to the Islamic Trade Fairs, sector specific exhibitions are also organized by the ICDT in the Member States.

The 32nd Session of the COMCEC reiterated 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. The Session also reiterated its request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

Furthermore, the 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee expressed its thanks and appreciation to the following Member Countries for hosting the following events in cooperation with ICDT:

- The Republic of Senegal for hosting and ICDT and CICES for organizing the “2nd Higher Education Expo” in Dakar on 9th -12th May 2016,
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting and ICDT for organizing the “10th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” in Jeddah on 23- 26 April 2017.

Furthermore, the Committee welcomed the offer of the following Member Countries to host the fairs and exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT in 2017, as follows:

- 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 Cote d’Ivoire to host the “3rd African Halal Business Forum” on 30 October – 1 November 2017 in Abidjan,
- The Republic of Turkey to host the “5th OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 23-26 November 2017 in cooperation with SMIC,
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the “International Exhibition of light Industries and Handicrafts “ on 26 November – 2 December 2017 in Madinah Al Munawarah, in the framework of its commemoration as the Capital of Islamic Tourism in 2017.

Required Action(s): The ICDT is expected to report the recent developments on the Islamic Trade Fairs.

Question(s) for Discussion:

- i) How do you evaluate the performance of the Islamic Trade Fairs? How can the trade fairs be improved?

- WTO Related Technical Assistance

COMCEC encourages its members to join the WTO in order to benefit from the international trade system on an equitable and fair basis. For this purpose, the IDB Group and ICDT organize training courses, seminars and workshops on the WTO related issues for the benefit of the Member Countries.

The 32nd Session of the COMCEC 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. The Session also called 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.

The 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee expressed its appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco for the following workshops on WTO-related issues:

- The Workshop on “Mechanisms for Settlement of Trade and Investment Disputes for OIC Member States” in Casablanca, Morocco on 20- 21 February 2017 in cooperation with ICDT.
- The Workshop on “Trade in Services in OIC Member States” in Casablanca, Morocco, on 22- 23 March 2017 in cooperation with ICDT, IDB and SESRIC.

Required Action(s): The IDB and ICDT are expected to report their activities in this field to the 33rd Session of the COMCEC.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the challenges faced by your country in implementing the WTO provisions or acceding to the WTO? In this framework, what are your country’s technical assistance requirements on the WTO-related matters?

- ii) Do you consider the WTO-related technical assistance programs of the IDB and ICDT adequate? What additional measures can be taken in this regard?

- Trade Financing Activities

Access to affordable trade financing is one of the crucial factors for the business people to engage in international trade. Trade financing activities are mainly carried within the IDB Group's trade financing organ, which is Islamic Trade Financing Corporation (ITFC). Moreover, Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) has been providing export credit insurance to mitigate the risks of trades.

The 32nd Session of the COMCEC appreciated trade finance, promotion and development activities of ITFC, as well as the mobilization of funds from the international market and development partners for funding the trade operations in the Member States. The Session also called upon the Member States to complete their membership requirements for the institutions of the IDB Group (ITFC and ICIEC).

Moreover, the 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee took 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 requested ITFC to develop similar programs for other strategic commodities.

Required Action(s): The IDB Group is expected to report its activities on trade financing and export credit risk insurance to the Session.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the main challenges faced by the businesses, particularly SMEs, of your country in access to trade finance?
- ii) Does your country have specific policies/programs for better utilization of Shariah compliant export credit and investment insurance services by the private sector?

- Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

SMIIC, as the affiliated institution of the OIC, aims at enhancing trade among the Member Countries through realizing harmonized standards and eliminating technical barriers. The 32nd Session of the COMCEC **welcomed** the activities of the SMIIC in the area of standardization, metrology and accreditation and their impact on trade facilitation.

The 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee invited the Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Councils. The Committee also expressed its appreciation to SMIIC for supporting the organization of the World Halal Summit (WHS) in Istanbul on 15-17 December 2016 under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey.

Required Action(s): SMIIC will inform the Session on the recent developments regarding the SMIIC's trade related activities.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What measures can be taken to enhance the visibility of SMIIC and its services in the Member States?

AGENDA ITEM 6

Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation

- Private Sector Meetings

The strong involvement of the private sector to the COMCEC and other relevant fora under the OIC is very crucial for enhancing intra-OIC trade and investments. In this respect, Private Sector Meetings, organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), serves as a platform for the private sector of the 57 OIC Member Countries to communicate with each other, explore new markets and learn about best practices. Up to now, 16 private sector meetings have been held. Apart from private sector meetings, the ICCIA also organizes Businesswomen Forums.

The 32nd Session of the COMCEC encouraged 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.

Moreover, 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee took note of the organization of the Workshop on Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries, in Istanbul, Turkey on 24-25 April 2017.

Required Action(s): The ICCIA is expected to inform the Session on the recent developments regarding private sector meetings.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) In addition to ongoing efforts, what other additional steps can be taken for the active involvement of the private sector in the cooperation efforts under the COMCEC?
- ii) How can the effectiveness of ICCIA as the umbrella organization of Islamic chambers be enhanced?

- OIC Arbitration Center

ICCIA and TOBB have been working towards the establishment of the OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul/Turkey. In this regard, the 32nd Session of the COMCEC was briefed by the ICCIA and TOBB regarding the preparations for establishing OIC Arbitration Centre. The Session took 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 **requested** them to submit a progress report on this issue to the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC. Furthermore, the 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee took note of the briefing by the ICCIA and TOBB on the subject and requested them to submit a comprehensive report on this issue to the 33rd Session of the COMCEC. Moreover, the 44th Meeting of the CFM took note of the steps in setting up the OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul, as per the COMCEC's resolution.

Required Action(s):

- The ICCIA and TOBB are expected to submit a comprehensive report on the study towards the establishment of an OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul. The Session will consider the issue and take necessary action accordingly.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Improving Transport and Communications

The development of transport and communications among the Member States is given utmost importance by the COMCEC. Within this perspective, the Transport and Communications Working Group has convened ten times until now. The 32nd Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation the convening of the 7th and 8th Meetings of the Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) which have focused on road maintenance and road safety respectively, and the Session welcomed the policy recommendations formulated in these meetings.

The TCWG, in its 9th Meeting, held on March 16th, 2017 has elaborated on the theme of “Increasing Broadband Internet Penetration in OIC Member Countries.” The TCWG has considered the research report prepared specifically for this meeting and come up with a set of policy recommendations. The 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee took note with appreciation of the convening of the Meeting and welcomed its policy recommendations. The relevant documents of the 9th Meeting of TCWG are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

Moreover, in line with the resolution of the 32nd COMCEC Session and the recommendation of 33rd Follow-up Committee, 10th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group was organized on 18-19 October, 2017 with the theme of “Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries”. The Transport WG has come up with a set of policy recommendations to be submitted to the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session.

All the relevant publications conducted for and the presentations made during the meeting are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

The outcomes of the 10th Meeting of the TCWG will be the basis for the discussions during the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC. The TCWG is expected to come up with a set of policy recommendations to be reported to the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session. In this regard, the 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee invited the Transport Ministers of the Member Countries to participate in the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session along with the Ministers in charge of COMCEC Affairs.

Regarding the multilateral projects financed by the COMCEC Project Funding, the 32nd Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts of Turkey and its partner countries for the successful implementation of a transport and communications project under the second project call. Moreover, the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee commended the efforts of Turkey and its partner countries for the successful implementation of a transport project, and the efforts of Cote d’Ivoire for the transport project to be implemented within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2017.

Furthermore, the Second Islamic Conference of Transport Ministers will be held on 17-19 December 2017 in Hartum, Sudan. The 33rd COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meeting called upon the Member Countries and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions including the COMCEC Secretariat to actively participate in this important event.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 9th and 10th Meetings of the TCWG as well as the projects finalized in 2016 and being implemented in 2017 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the WG for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the main challenges faced by your country to enhance broadband penetration?
- ii) What actions can be taken to enhance broadband penetration in your country?
- iii) What are the significant barriers for efficient use of transnational transport corridors?
- iv) What type of governance mechanisms should be adopted for improving the transnational transport corridor management in the OIC Region?

AGENDA ITEM 8
Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector

Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) is one of the fastest growing segments of tourism sector. Given the importance of the MFT, Tourism Working Group (TWG) devoted its three consecutive meetings to this crucial subject.

In this framework, TWG has held its 9th Meeting on February 16th, 2017 with the theme of “Muslim Friendly Tourism: Regulating Accommodation Establishments in the OIC Member Countries.” The TWG has considered the research report on the theme of the meeting. After the fruitful deliberations, the WG has come up with a MFT Guideline, as a reference document for the Member Countries in this field. The 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee took note with appreciation of the convening of the Meeting and welcomed the COMCEC MFT Guideline as a reference document produced by the Working Group.

Moreover, in line with the resolution of the 32nd COMCEC Session and the recommendation of 33rd Follow-up Committee, 10th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group was organized on September 21st, 2017 with the theme of “Risk and Crisis Management and Recovery from Crisis in Tourism Sector in the OIC Member Countries”. Considering the main findings of the research report on the theme of the meeting and having fruitful discussions, the Tourism WG has come up with some concrete policy recommendations to be submitted to the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session.

All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

Furthermore, the 32nd Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts of the Gambia and its partner countries for the successful implementation of a project in tourism area under the second project call of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2015. Furthermore, the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee commended the efforts of the Malaysia and the Gambia and their partner countries for the successful implementation of two tourism projects within the framework of the third project call in 2016, and also commended the efforts of Mozambique, Sudan, the Gambia and SESRIC for four tourism projects to be implemented within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2017.

Regarding the ongoing cooperation activities in this cooperation area;

- The 5th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum was held on 4 May 2017 in İstanbul, Turkey with the theme of “Crisis Communication and Management in Tourism: Recent Challenges and Solutions in OIC Countries”.
- The 3rd OIC Tourism and Travel Fair will be held on 18-21 October 2017 in Cairo, Egypt.
- The 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) will be held on 12-14 November 2017 in Bangladesh.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 9th and 10th Meetings of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group and the projects finalized in 2016 and being implemented in 2017 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the COMCEC Guideline for Regulating MFT Accommodation Establishments and the policy recommendations of the 10th Meeting of Tourism Working Group Meetings for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the policies, initiatives or strategies implemented in your country for regulating MFT accommodation establishments in tourism sector?
- ii) What are the possible ways to enhance cooperation among the Member Countries on regulating MFT accommodation establishments?
- iii) What are the ways and means that can be utilized to enhance crises management in tourism sector?
- iv) What are the strategies, policies and initiatives implemented in your country for mitigating crises in tourism sector?

AGENDA ITEM 9

Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security

Agriculture is one of the important cooperation areas of the COMCEC since many OIC Member Countries are at developing stages and their economies strongly depend on agriculture sector. Within this perspective, the COMCEC AWG has devoted its 9th Meeting held on February 23rd, 2017 in Ankara to the theme of “Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries.” The AWG has considered the research report on the theme of the Meeting and come up with the concrete policy recommendations to be submitted to the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session. The 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee took note with appreciation of the convening of the Meeting and welcomed its policy recommendations.

Furthermore, in line with relevant resolution of the 32nd COMCEC Session and the recommendation of 33rd Follow-up Committee, the 10th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on September 28th, 2017 with the theme of “Improving Agricultural Market Performance: Creation and Development of Market Institutions”. Considering the main findings of the research report on the theme of the meeting and having fruitful discussions, the Agriculture WG has come up with some concrete policy recommendations to be submitted to the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session.

All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

Moreover, the 32nd Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts of Chad, Indonesia, Suriname and Turkey as well as their partner countries for the successful implementation of four projects in agriculture area under the second project call of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2015. Furthermore,

the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee commended the efforts of Iran, Palestine and Turkey as well as their partner countries for the successful implementation of three agriculture projects within the framework of the third project call in 2016, and also commended the efforts of the Gambia and Indonesia for two agriculture projects to be implemented within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2017.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 9th and 10th Meetings of the Agriculture Working Group and the projects finalized in 2016 and being implemented in 2017 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the Agriculture Working Group Meetings for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) Which measures have been/are being taken in your country for reducing food waste? What are the challenges faced by your country in this respect?
- ii) What sort of initiatives has been developed for reducing food waste in your country? Is there any specific legislative framework with regards to food waste that may inspire other member countries?
- iii) What are the key challenges regarding improving agricultural market performance in your country in terms of creation and development of Market institutions?
- iv) What type of strategies/policies/programmes is required for improving the agriculture market institutions in your country?

AGENDA ITEM 10
Alleviating Poverty

Poverty alleviation is occupying an important place in the COMCEC agenda. In this regard, in line with the relevant resolution of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC, the 9th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on April 6th, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “Malnutrition in the OIC Member Countries: A Trap for Poverty.” The Working Group has considered the research report prepared on the theme of the Meeting and has come up with a set of policy recommendations. Moreover, the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC took note with appreciation of the convening of the Meeting and welcomed its policy recommendations.

Furthermore, in line with relevant resolution of the 32nd COMCEC Session and the recommendation of 33rd Follow-up Committee, the 10th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on October 5th, 2017 with the theme of “Education of Disadvantaged Children in OIC: The Key to Escape from Poverty”. Considering the main findings of the research report on the theme of the meeting and having fruitful discussions, the Poverty Alleviation WG has come up with some concrete policy recommendations to be submitted to the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session.

All the publications conducted for and presentations made during the meeting are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org and ebook@comcec.org).

Regarding the COMCEC funded projects in the area of poverty alleviation, the 32nd Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts of Cameroon, Iran, Suriname and SESRIC for the successful implementation of the four projects under the second project call in 2015. Moreover, the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee commended the efforts of Indonesia as well as its partner countries for

the successful implementation of the project in the area of poverty alleviation within the framework of the third project call in 2016, and also commended the efforts of Albania, the Gambia, Indonesia and Suriname for four poverty alleviation projects to be implemented within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2017.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 9th and 10th Meetings of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group and the projects finalized in 2016 and being implemented in 2017 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Committee will also consider the policy recommendations of the WG for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the main causes and consequence of malnutrition in your country?
- ii) What are the efforts to address malnutrition and what are the critical success factors?
- iii) What is the current level of access to education of disadvantaged group in your country?
- iv) What are the efforts to increase access to education of the disadvantaged and what are the critical success factors?

Moreover, the ongoing cooperation efforts in the area of poverty alleviation have been carried out under the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA), Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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

The ISFD is a special fund established with the purpose of reducing poverty in the OIC Member Countries through providing financial support to enhance the productive capacity and sustainable means of income for the poor. The SPDA is another Special Program developed to alleviate poverty in the Member States in Africa with a view to enhancing agricultural production and creating employment opportunities.

The 32nd Session of the COMCEC reiterated its request to the Member Countries, which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and to consider making additional commitments on a voluntary basis. The Session also requested the Member Countries 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. Moreover, the 32nd Session called on the Member Countries to make donation of Waqf land for the ISFD to invest and enhance its income resources for poverty alleviation.

The 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee requested the ISFD to increase its efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including the private sector in the Member States.

Required Action(s): The IDB Group is expected to submit a report on the implementation of the ISFD and SPDA to the Session.

OIC-VET Program

SESRIC initiated Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) in 2009 in order to enhance the quality of vocational education and training in the Member Countries. SESRIC reports the developments regarding the implementation of the OIC-VET to the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings and the COMCEC Sessions.

The 32nd Session of the COMCEC 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).

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to inform the Session on the progress of the implementation of the OIC-VET Program.

- Implementation of SDGs

Having replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) refer to a set of goals and targets that were adopted in the 2015 Meeting of the UN General Assembly and are meant to be achieved by 2030.

Recalling the relevant resolution of the 31st Session of the COMCEC on identifying the priority SDG areas for the Member States, the 32nd Session of the COMCEC invited the Member States to duly complete the “Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries” designed and circulated by the SESRIC and requested SESRIC to submit a report on the results of the survey to the 33rd Follow-up Committee Meeting and 33rd COMCEC Session. The 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee requested SESRIC to submit a report on the results of the survey to the 33rd Session of the COMCEC.

Moreover, the 32nd Session of the COMCEC requested the COMCEC Coordination Office to compile the activities of the OIC Institutions regarding the implementation of the SDGs in the Member Countries and submit a report to the next COMCEC Session.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to submit a report on the results of the tendency survey to the Session. The COMCEC Coordination Office is also expected to submit a report on the OIC Institutions’ activities related to the implementation of the SDGs in the member countries.

AGENDA ITEM 11 Deepening Financial Cooperation

Financial cooperation, which has a significant place on the COMCEC agenda, is of particular importance for contributing financial stability and economic growth of the Member Countries. In this regard, the Financial Cooperation Working Group (FCWG) provides a regular platform for deepening the cooperation among the Member Countries in this field.

Within this perspective, in accordance with the relevant resolution of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC, the 8th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group was held on March 30th, 2017 with the theme of “Improving Public Debt Management in the OIC Member Countries.” The Working Group has

considered the research report prepared specifically for this Meeting and come up with a set of policy recommendations. The 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee took note with appreciation of the convening of the Meeting and welcomed its policy recommendations.

Furthermore, in line with the resolution of the 32nd COMCEC Session and the recommendation of 33rd Follow-up Committee, the 9th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group was organized on October 26th, 2017 with the theme of “Diversification of the Islamic Financial Instruments.” In accordance with the research report prepared for and the discussions held during the Meeting, the Working Group has come up with some concrete policy recommendations to be submitted to the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session.

All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

Regarding the COMCEC funded projects in the area of financial cooperation, the 32nd Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts of Gambia and Malaysia for the successful implementation of two projects under the second project call in 2015. Moreover, the 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee commended the efforts of Gambia as well as its partner countries for the successful implementation of the project in the area of financial cooperation within the framework of the third project call in 2016.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 8th Meeting and 9th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group and the projects finalized in 2016 and being implemented in 2017 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will also consider the policy recommendations of the Financial Cooperation Working Group for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the main challenges and obstacles faced in your country in public debt management?
- ii) What are the policies and experiences of your country regarding improving the quality of public debt management?
- iii) Which Islamic finance instruments are commonly used in your country?
- iv) Does Your Esteemed Country have a legal and regulatory framework to encourage the diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments?

Furthermore, the ongoing activities in the area of finance have been carried out under the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum, COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum and Meetings of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities.

- **OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum**

The OIC Member States Stock Exchanges Forum has been continuing its efforts for enhancing cooperation among the relevant authorities of the Member Countries towards the harmonization of the rules and regulations governing market operations. In this regard, the Forum has conducted ten meetings so far. Since its establishment, the Forum has also developed some important projects including S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index. The 11th Meeting of the Forum was organized on October 31st, 2017 in Turkey. The information about the efforts of the Forum is available on the Forum website (<http://www.oicexchanges.org/>).

Furthermore, the Forum has been undertaking the necessary studies towards establishment of a gold exchange/platform among the OIC Member Countries. The 32nd Session of the COMCEC **welcomed** 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 **requested** the Forum/Forum's Secretariat to carry out necessary studies for the suggested platform/exchange and invited the interested member states to actively participate in the Forum's Task Force to support the suggested platform/exchange through accelerating the process of integration of exchanges and harmonization of regulatory frameworks.

Moreover, recalling the above-mentioned resolution of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC, the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee took note of the efforts made towards establishing a highly adaptable web-based gold trading and clearing platform with the ultimate aim of a gold exchange/platform among the volunteering Member Countries and requested the Forum/Forum's Secretariat to finalize the necessary studies for the suggested platform/exchange and submit a comprehensive report to the 33rd Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, Borsa Istanbul is expected to inform the Session of the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum as well as to submit a comprehensive report on the above-mentioned gold exchange/platform. The Committee will discuss the issue and take necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) The S&P OIC/COMCEC Index has successfully been launched in 2012. How can the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index be enhanced in the member states as well as worldwide?
- ii) How do you foresee the potential of the Gold Market Initiative for the OIC Member Countries?
- iii) Which kind of facilities can be established under the Forum to enhance cooperation among the Member countries Stock Exchanges?

- **COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum**

The COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum formed in 2011 has been continuing its efforts for developing cooperation among the capital markets regulatory bodies of the Member States. The Forum has held five meetings till now. The 6th Meeting of the Forum was organized on October 31st 2017 in Turkey. Detailed information about the endeavors of the Forum is available on the Forum website (<http://www.oicexchanges.org/>).

The Forum also continues its efforts towards the establishment of COMCEC Real Estate Exchange among the Member Countries. In this regard, The 32nd Session of the COMCEC took 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 requested 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 the volunteering Member States. Furthermore, the Session invited 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.

Moreover, recalling the above-mentioned resolution of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC, the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee took note of the efforts made towards the Forum's proposal to establish COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform among the interested OIC Member States participating in the Forum and requested the Forum/the Forum's Secretariat to complete the comprehensive study for identifying the necessary stages towards establishing the suggested platform, with the support of the relevant national authorities and securities exchanges from volunteering Member States and submit a report to the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, Capital Markets Board of Turkey is expected to brief the Committee on the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum as well as the efforts towards the establishment of COMCEC Real Estate Exchange. The Committee will discuss the issue and take necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the challenges and obstacles in your country for enhancing capital market development and diversifying products in compliance with international standards?
- ii) How can the Forum be used more efficiently in order to increase cooperation between Member States Capital Markets Regulators Authorities?
- iii) How do you consider the potential of the Real Estate Securities Initiative for the OIC Member Countries?

- Meetings of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities

The Meetings of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities bring together the relevant authorities of the Member Countries annually for sharing experiences and enhancing institutional as well as human capacity in this field. In accordance with the relevant resolution of the 32nd COMCEC Session, the 15th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States was held on 21-22 September 2017 in Bodrum/Turkey.

Moreover, the 32nd Session of the COMCEC and the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee welcomed 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 requested the SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the relevant institutions of the Member States.

Required Action(s): The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey is expected to brief the Session on the outcomes of the 15th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States. Moreover, SESRIC is expected to brief the Session on the recent developments regarding capacity building programs in this area.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) How can the cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities be enhanced?
- ii) What are your country experiences in enhancing the institutional and human capacity of the Central Banks/Monetary Authorities?

AGENDA ITEM 12
Exchange of Views on
“Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member
Countries”

Exchange of views sessions are held regularly at the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. The 32nd Session of the COMCEC decided the theme of the Ministerial Exchange of Views of the next COMCEC Session as “Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries” and requested 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.

In line with the above-mentioned resolution, the 10th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group was held on 18-19 October, 2017 with the theme of “Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries.”

Furthermore, the 33rd Follow-up Committee Meeting encouraged the Member States to prepare their country reports on the mentioned theme and convey them electronically to the CCO by October 15th, 2017 at the latest.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office will inform the Session regarding the preparations for the exchange of views session including the recommendations of the Working Group which will be submitted to Ministerial Exchange of Views Session for consideration. The Session will consider the recommendations and take necessary action.

Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 34th Session of the COMCEC

During its 33rd Meeting, the Follow-up Committee discussed on the possible themes and took note of the following themes for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 34th Session of the COMCEC:

- Theme 1: Improving Customs Risk Management Systems in the OIC Member States
- Theme 2: Improving Agrifood Market Performance and Access in the OIC Member Countries
- Theme 3: The Role of Sukuk in Islamic Capital Markets
- Theme 4: Tourism Destination Development and Institutionalization Strategies in the OIC Member Countries
- Theme 5: Implementation of the SDGs: Education Quality in the OIC Member States
- Theme 6: Financing Transport Infrastructure in the OIC Member Countries

The 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee requested the COMCEC Coordination Office to circulate a questionnaire among the Member States to explore their views on the abovementioned themes and any other views and report the outcome to the 33rd Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office is expected to present the results of the questionnaire on the theme of exchange of views session of the 34th Session of the COMCEC. The 33rd Session of the COMCEC will decide on the theme of the next year’s exchange of views session.

AGENDA ITEM 13
Date of the 34th Session of the COMCEC

The Session will decide on the dates of the 34th Session of the COMCEC and the 34th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee. Annual sessions of the COMCEC are generally held in November and the Follow-up Committee meetings are usually held in May.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office will propose specific dates for the 34th Session of the COMCEC and the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee. The Session will decide on the dates of the said meetings.