

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 31st MEETING OF
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(İstanbul, 19 November 2017)**

1. The 31st Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on November 19th, 2017 in İstanbul, on the sidelines of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC.

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

- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
- Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group
- International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)-IDB Group
- The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)- 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
 - Utilizing COMCEC Project Funding for the implementation of 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 and December 2017-November 2018 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 November 2016 and November 2018 is attached as Annex 1.)

5. The Committee was informed by the CCO that out of 237 activities of the OIC Institutions listed in completed activities since the 32nd Session of the COMCEC, 32.1 percent of the activities were implemented in poverty alleviation area followed by trade (%30.4) and agriculture (%8). The Committee was also informed that with respect to types of the activities, the Institutions specially focused on trainings and technical assistance programs (%34.6), various expert and working group meetings %16.9) and workshops (%13.5).

6. Taking note of the IDB Group's efforts on raising awareness on strategic commodities in the OIC Member Countries, the Committee highlighted that all OIC Institutions should make this type of activities in all cooperation areas. Moreover, the Committee also agreed on that along with efforts to increase intra OIC trade quantitatively, the quality of trade including its composition and value addition aspect along with efforts for enhancing investments and production base in the member countries should also be paid due attention by the relevant OIC institutions while conducting various programmes and activities.

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. The CCO informed the Committee about the sectoral themes to be supported by the COMCEC Coordination Office in the 6th Project Call to be made in September

2018, 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.

9. The representatives of the relevant OIC Institutions presented their experiences related to measuring the impact of their activities. In this regard, ITFC (IDB Group) informed the participants regarding the “ITFC Annual Development Effectiveness Report”, which assesses the impact of the activities implemented by the ITFC in trade financing and trade development. Moreover, the Committee was briefed by the CCO on the impact assessment practices of the other international organizations.

Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the OIC Institutions

10. With respect to ITFC’s efforts on "Developing Multi-Year Technical Capacity Building Programs”, the Committee was briefed by the ITFC (IDB Group) on the comments of the SESRIC and ICCIA 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 on raising-awareness on developing multi-year cooperation programs rather than one-shot activity based programming.

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

11. The Committee was informed by the SESRIC on the results of the “Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries” circulated to the Member Countries in line with the relevant resolutions of the 31st and 32nd Sessions of the COMCEC. It was noted that 33 member countries have communicated their completed or partial responses to the SESRIC. The SESRIC informed the participants that SDG-3 titled “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”, SDG-2 titled “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” and SDG-1 titled “End poverty in all its forms everywhere” are the most highly prioritized SDGs by the Member Countries. Moreover, the SESRIC informed the Committee that the main challenges for achieving SDGs by the Member Countries are shortage of financial resources, inadequate human resources capacity and lack of political support. The Committee was also informed that SESRIC has prepared a report on the Member Countries’ survey responses to be submitted to the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session.

12. The Committee reviewed “the List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Related to the SDGs”, which was compiled by the CCO in line with the relevant resolution of the 32nd COMCEC Ministerial Session for the period of 2017 and 2018. The Committee was also briefed by the relevant OIC Institutions on their planned activities for the implementation of the SDGs. The Committee requested the OIC Institutions to give due regard to the needs and priorities of the Member Countries, which was presented by the SESRIC via the SESRIC’s above-mentioned tendency survey, while planning their activities related to the SDGs.

(The list of activities organized and to be organized by the OIC Institutions related to the SDGs between 2017-2018 is attached as Annex 2.)

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. The Committee noted that the inputs should be benefited for the improvement of the plan and its effective implementation. In this respect, the Committee also 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. ICIEC (IDB Group) made a presentation on their proposal about “Business Intelligence Center.” Highlighting the challenges regarding limited data, quality issues and high cost of information as well as the significance of business intelligence for making decisions, the Committee took note of the proposal made by ICIEC (IDB Group) and requested the ICIEC (IDB Group) to further elaborate on the proposal in cooperation with the other OIC Institutions and prepare a detailed concept note and share it with the relevant OIC institutions one month before the next Sessional Committee Meeting.

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

