REPORT

OF

THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

TO

THE 35TH SESSION OF STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC (COMCEC)

ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
25-28 November 2019
## INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL NO.</th>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>PAGE NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>Employment and Productivity</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.</td>
<td>Intra-OIC Trade and Investment</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.</td>
<td>Tourism Sector Development</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI.</td>
<td>Cooperation in the domain of Transport</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII.</td>
<td>Role of Private Sector</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII.</td>
<td>Poverty Alleviation Programmes</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX.</td>
<td>OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X.</td>
<td>Economic Assistance to OIC Member States and Muslim Communities in Non OIC Countries</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI.</td>
<td>Conclusions</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annex</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I. INTRODUCTION

1. The report of the Secretary General features the most recent actions by the General Secretariat and institutions working in the economic domain, since the convening of the 34th COMCEC General Assembly session held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 26-29 November 2018. These actions are aimed at following up the implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, the relevant resolutions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, COMCEC and other decision-making bodies of the OIC.

2. In addition to the series of interventions by the relevant OIC institutions through on-going projects on trade, tourism and investment, food security, and social finance, the convening of the 6th OIC Halal Expo, 16th OIC Trade Fair, the elaboration of OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy (IDRIP) and an intra-OIC cooperation framework on the development of strategic agricultural commodities have featured prominently on the agenda of the OIC during the period under review. The report also highlighted other activities implemented during the period under review with regard to development of private sector; execution of OIC poverty alleviation initiatives and regional development programmes; establishment of permanent OIC Investment Dispute Settlement Mechanism; and economic assistance to the needy OIC Member States, among others.

3. The report would also showcase activities aimed at attaining the new intra-OIC target of 25% in 2025, including the objective of establishing a trade-free zone, in the wake of the anticipated implementation of the Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC). Other programmes elaborated and implemented during the year under review are in the domain of industrialization, transport sector cooperation, energy, investment promotion, labour, employment and social protection, the role of the Private Sector, entrepreneurship and financial sector development.

4. In addition to the various activities conducted by the General Secretariat during the period under review, this Report shall dwell on the activities of the numerous OIC institutions working in the economic domain. In line with the statutory responsibilities of the General Secretariat on coordination of OIC institutions, the General Secretariat has organized the Fourth Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI), held in Jeddah, OIC Headquarters on 3-4 December 2018. This meeting was implemental in fast-tracking and prioritizing the implementation of various OIC resolutions, while at the same time creating synergy and effective collaboration among OIC institutions and indeed other development partners.

II. AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

5. The need to consolidate the various OIC executive organs for the implementation of OIC policies and decisions in the domain of agriculture, rural development and food security is closely related to the realization of relevant OIC targets in the agricultural sector. In this regard, during the period under review the OIC General Secretariat has continued to make efforts towards the consolidation of structures of newly established specialized institution, the Islamic Organization for Food Security and elaboration of dedicated OIC programmes.
for development of strategic commodities. This is in addition to programmes and projects that OIC institutions have continued to initiate and execute various initiatives for the benefit of OIC member states.

(a) Islamic Organization for Food Security

6. The 34th Session of COMCEC took note of the definitive entry into force of the Statute of Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS) on 19 February 2018, and the arrangements to convene the Second Session of IOFS General Assembly.

During the period under review, the Second Session of the General Assembly of IOFS was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 27-29 August 2019. The General Assembly approved the appointment of the new Director-General of IOFS and the reconstitution of the Executive Board of the Organisation with the following member states: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; State of the United Arab Emirates; People’s Republic of Bangladesh; Republic of Turkey; Burkina Faso; Republic of The Gambia; Republic of Kazakhstan; and Director General of IOFS.

7. The General Assembly also considered and formulated its resolutions on: IOFS 3-year Investment Programme; IOFS Work Programme; IOFS General and Financial Policies; Provisional Organizational Structure of IOFS Secretariat; Logo of IOFS; Scale of Assessed Contribution; and Budget for 2020-2022.

8. The Federal Republic of Nigeria signed the Statute of IOFS during the session. This brought the total number of OIC member states, which signed the same to 34. In addition, IOFS Secretariat signed two MOUs on cooperation with the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD).

9. The General Assembly further reviewed the issue of establishment of a Database on State of Food Security in Member States, the Regional Food Security Reserve, and the Grain Fund. It directed the Director-General to conduct necessary studies and submit for the consideration of the General Assembly.

10. In view of the foregoing, the General Secretariat renews its request to other OIC Member States to conclude all necessary arrangements to accede to the Statute of IOFS at their earliest convenience, as well as support IOFS in developing cooperation projects in this important sector.

(b) Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development

11. As it was reported to 34th Session of COMCEC, the Government of the Republic of Turkey graciously offered to host the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCFSAD) in Istanbul, Turkey during the last quarter of 2020. To this end, the General Secretariat is presently working with the relevant authorities in Turkey on fixing of the dates as well as preparing documents of the Conference, including necessary logistical arrangements.
12. It is expected that the 8th MCFSAD will consider the implementation of resolutions of the previous Conferences, including the activities of IOFS, and financing of projects in the domain of agriculture and food security in OIC member states. It will also consider the OIC Programmes of Action for Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities (wheat, rice, and cassava), which will outline the main objectives and focus areas of intra-OIC-cooperation. In addition, the 8th MCFSAD will appoint members of the Steering Committee of the MCFSAD, which will be established by the Conference for the purpose of following-up of implementation of the OIC resolutions in the domain of agriculture and food security.

(c) **OIC Programmes of Action for Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities**

13. The 34th Session of COMCEC took note of the ongoing elaboration of OIC programmes of action for development of strategic agricultural commodities such as wheat, rice and cassava pursuant to the Resolution No.1/43-E adopted by 43rd CFM and encouraged OIC member states to provide their respective inputs to these programmes.

14. Consequently, in February 2019, the General Secretariat circulated among OIC member states drafts of OIC Programme of Action for Development of Rice; OIC Programme of Action for Development of Wheat; and OIC Programme of Action for Development of Cassava, respectively. It also requested them to submit their respective inputs and comments on these drafts in order to enhance their ownership and subsequent implementation.

15. The proposed programmes lay out a vision for commodity-led industrialization. They will seek to enable OIC countries, which are top producers of these commodities, to add value, extract higher benefits from their commodities, integrate into the global value chains, and promote value addition, among others. Accordingly, the drafts of these programmes with Member States’ inputs will be submitted to the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development for review and validation.

16. Consequently, Burkina Faso, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Togo and Turkey have submitted their comments on the OIC programmes of action for development of strategic agricultural commodities. In order to make the document ready for the eventual submission to the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCFSAD) in 2020. The General Secretariat in May 2019 requested Member States, which have not done so, to send their comments on the above drafts. This is with a view of enhancing the compilation of an inclusive and comprehensive document, which will enjoy wide ownership by Member States.

17. In view of the foregoing, OIC Member States are hereby requested to send their inputs to above mentioned programmes at their earliest convenience.
18. Recognizing the importance of agriculture sector to socio-economic development of OIC Member States, in 2018 the Islamic Development Bank has completed a total of 31 projects and grant operations in the agriculture sector amounting to US$653 million and covering 15 Member States, mainly in Africa. These projects contributed to cultivating nearly 2,762 hectares of irrigated land and building storage capacity of 41,500 tons of agriculture products. They also contributed to an increase of over 3,000 tons in crop production. Moreover, the projects contributed in opening market centers and establishing farmer associations to facilitate the marketing of the products.

19. The IsDB has also launched two technical assistance initiatives: 1) support to Madinah Dates Service center to enhance the competitiveness of dates sector in Madinah Governorate in partnership with the Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and 2) support the establishment of International Innovation Centre for Aral Sea Basin in partnership with Government of Uzbekistan.

20. On its part, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation’s (ITFC) interventions in agriculture continues to cover commodities that help the Member States to create jobs, improve productivity, alleviate poverty, and bolster food security. In 2018, overall approvals of ITFC for the agriculture sector reached 14.4% of the portfolio, which received the second largest allocation after the energy. The agriculture portfolio is balanced between the strategic import of commodities (such as raw and refined sugar, fertilizers and other agriculture inputs) and support of key export commodities (such as cotton, groundnut and grains). OIC countries in Africa and MENA accounted for the largest share in this portfolio with the main beneficiaries being Egypt, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire and Indonesia.

(e) Training Programmes

21. Within its mandate, SESRIC has continued to organize training programmes in the area of increasing productivity of agriculture sector and sustaining food security for the benefit of OIC member states. Accordingly, during the year under review, SESRIC, within the framework of OIC Agriculture Capacity Building Programme, has organized the following activities:

1) Study Visit on “Sustainable Aquaculture in OIC Countries” in Antalya, Turkey on 3-7 December 2018;
2) Training Course on Designing and Engineering of Cold Storage and Hydroponic Greenhouses on 22-26 April 2019 in Mersin, Turkey, for the experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) of Afghanistan;
3) Technical mission to investigate the vegetable growing techniques in Kampala, Uganda on 12-14 March 2019.
III. EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY

22. In recent years, intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of labour, employment and social protection has continuously grown in depth and scope. The implementation of the OIC Framework on Labour, Employment and Social Protection has continued to stimulate the recorded growth in this sector. During the year under review, the OIC and its relevant institutions have continued to carry out activities aimed at helping job-seekers in OIC countries develop their personal and organizational skills, knowledge, and abilities, as well as improving their competitiveness and consequently their performance. This is more so considering the fact that the unemployment rate in OIC member states as a group fluctuated between 7.4% and 9.1% during the period 2000-2017 and creating decent job opportunities still continue to be priority for absolute majority of OIC countries. Accordingly, during the period under review the following activities were accomplished:

(a) 3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee of Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers

23. As it was reported to 34th Session of COMCEC, the 4th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers, was held on 21-22 February 2018 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The 4th ICLM considered and adopted the three legal frameworks to harmonize standards and practices on labour matters among OIC member states, namely: i) Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Skills; ii) Bilateral Agreement on Exchange of Workforce; and iii) OIC Labour Market Strategy.

24. In view of the foregoing, the Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 10-11 March 2019. The meeting undertook a review of the implementation of the decisions of the 4th ICLM, including the OIC Framework on Labour, Employment and Social Protection.

25. The meeting underscored the need to continue implementing the decisions of the Islamic Conferences of Labour Ministers, including the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection through identifying and incorporating concrete and implementable actions. To this end, the meeting endorsed the updated Executive Programme, which features capacity building activities to be executed during the year 2019/2020 in six cooperation areas prioritized by the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection.

26. During the project year 2019/2020, major training programmes projects planned for member states include:

(a) Training/capacity building programmes on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH);
(b) Workshop on Promoting self-employment and upgrading the informal sector;
(c) Training on skills and entrepreneurship development;
(d) Training workshop on improving the governance of labour migration and the protection of migrant/foreign contract workers’ rights;
(e) Workshop on institutional capacity building for effective labour market information systems;
(f) Workshop on Ensuring and Expanding Social Security and Protection of Wages; and
(g) Workshop on Reintegrating Former Prisoners into the labor market, among others.


28. On its part, the IsDB has continued capacity building in Member States through vocational and non-vocational training for creating employment opportunities in addition to skills and competency development. During the year 2018, about 2,000 people were trained in several Member States, which led to creation of new employment opportunities for 12,000 people.

(b) Accession to the Statute of OIC Labour Centre

29. The General Secretariat has continued to sensitize OIC Member States on the need to sign and ratify the Statute of OIC Labour Centre in order to facilitate its timely operationalisation. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that during the period under review, the Republic of Azerbaijan has ratified the Statute of OIC Labour Centre. In addition, Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Republic of Sudan signed the Statute of OIC Labour Centre during the 46th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of OIC held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019, while the Republic of Benin signed the same in Jeddah on 27 June 2019. This brought the total number of OIC Member States, which signed the same to six.

30. In view of the foregoing, it should be noted that the Statute of OIC Labour Centre provides that it shall be applied provisionally upon signing by at least ten OIC member states and definitively enter into force when ten member states submit their instruments of ratification.

31. The General Secretariat is presently working with the relevant authorities in UAE to make necessary arrangements for the Fifth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers scheduled for Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in 2020.

32. Against this background, the General Secretariat reiterates its earlier call on other OIC Member States to conclude all necessary arrangements to accede to the Statute of OIC Labour Centre at their earliest convenience. The General Secretariat also urges Member States to actively participate in the Fifth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers.
IV. INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT

33. Intra-OIC trade activities feature cooperation actions and interventions in the area of trade promotion, financing and facilitation, and export credit insurances. Other areas of activity include halal sector development, investment promotion and capacity building programmes, OIC South-South cooperation, including outcome of the various consultations and coordination with regional and international partners.

(a) Recent Outlook of Intra-OIC Trade

34. According to ICDT data, intra-OIC net trade volume reached US$ 381.4 billion in 2018 compared to US$ 322.2 billion in 2017, due to the fluctuation of commodities prices including oil, mining and food products and also exchange rate of USD an Euro. Besides, the share of intra-OIC Trade in the overall foreign trade of Member States increased by 7% from 19.8% in 2017 to 21.2% in 2018.

35. The main intra-OIC trading countries in 2018 were: UAE, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Pakistan and Oman. These countries registered 71.5% of the intra-OIC trade for a total of US$ 546 billion.

36. In 2018, about 31 countries reached the 25% target of intra-OIC trade target set up in the OIC-2025: Programme of Action. These countries are: Sudan, Djibouti, The Gambia, Somalia, Syria, Bahrain, Togo, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Mali, Senegal, Oman, Lebanon, Benin, Jordan, Guinea, Yemen, Guinea-Bissau, UAE, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Niger, Turkmenistan, Chad, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Kuwait, Pakistan and Côte d'Ivoire.

37. As for world trade of OIC countries as a group, the share of OIC countries increased from US$ 3.2 trillion in 2017 to US$3.6 trillion in 2018, i.e. a 10.7% of growth. This was a result of fluctuating commodity prices, the existence of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment and the fragile environment of the global economy and trade. The trade share of the OIC countries accounted for 9.4% in 2017 against 9.2% of world trade in 2018, i.e. a 2.2% decline.

(b) Trade Promotion

38. During the period under review, the OIC, through its relevant institutions, organized the following specialized exhibitions, aimed at promoting trade exchanges and increasing access to goods and products from OIC member states:

- *The 6th Exhibition of the OIC Halal Expo was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 29 November - 2 December 2018.* This Exhibition witnessed the nearly 32,000 visitors, over 150 firms, and 270 international B2B delegations.

- *4th OIC Health Expo.* 4th OIC Health Expo held in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire on 7-9 December 2018 in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Hygiene Public of the Republic of
Cote d’Ivoire. More than 10 countries attended this event mobilising 2000 visitors and organising 20 B2B Meetings.

- 16th OIC Trade Fair was held in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq, on 7-13 April 2019. In line with the resolution of the 45th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the relevant Authorities of the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) will organize a 16th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in Baghdad on 7 to 13 April 2019.

- 1st Exhibition and Forum on Transport and Logistics in the OIC Member States. 1st Exhibition and Forum on Transport and Logistics in the OIC Member States was held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco on 9-11 April 2019, concomitantly with the 8th edition of the International Exhibition of Transport and Logistics (LOGISMED 2019). The event was organized by ICDT in collaboration with National Single Window of Foreign Trade Procedures of the Kingdom of Morocco (PORTNET) and the Moroccan company (LOGISMED). On the sidelines of this event, ICDT also organised a panel on trade facilitation in the OIC Member States.

(c) Trade Financing and Export Credit Insurances

39. The steady increase in trade financing interventions by the relevant OIC organs has contributed greatly to stimulating productivity and appreciable growth among the beneficiary enterprises of the OIC member states. The major preoccupation is to put in place a robust modality for ensuring access of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to trade financing, particularly in the various sub-regions of the Organization.

40. For the year 2018, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation’s (ITFC) trade finance approvals reached US$5.2 billion (for a target of US$5.1 billion in 2018), a 6.1% increase, compared to the US$4.9 billion in 2017. On the other hand, disbursements reached US$4.5 billion (for a target of US$4.1 billion in 2018), an increase of 32.3%, compared to US$3.4 billion in 2017.

41. ITFC launched a flagship Arab Africa Trade Bridges (AATB) Program, which is designed to enhance trade as a tool to increase economic opportunities and support inclusive and sustainable growth across the Arab and sub-Saharan members of OIC. Key highlights of the program:
   - B2Bs in agri-food and pharmaceutical products
   - Partnering with the organization of Tunisia Africa Business Forum
   - Contributed and participated in the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF)
   - Established and managed the IsDBG AATB Steering Committee
   - Organized the first meeting of the top two layers of the Program’s Governance Structure, namely the Governing Board (GB) and the Executive Committee (EC)

42. ITFC has also launched a West Africa SMEs Program to establish a bridge between the West Africa’s SMEs and banks through capacity building for both SMEs and banks that will benefit from the effective utilization of lines of financing aimed at SME’s support. Key achievements in this domain include:
- Launching of pilot projects for Senegal and Burkina Faso;
- Establishing partnerships and mobilizing resources for the pilot project;
- Signing of agreements with the partner bank and the executing agency.

43. Since inception 25 years ago, Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit’s (ICIEC) mandate in providing Takaful credit and investment insurance services has uniquely positioned it to enlarge the scope of trade transactions and investment flow among member countries. While this has led ICIEC to be an impactful Multilateral financial institution, it has also put the Corporation at the cross-road of many global challenges.

44. In 2018, ICIEC was able to increase its business insured by 20% to USD 9.03 billion compared to USD 7.53 billion during 2017. Trade related business insured reached USD 6.19 billion compared to USD 5.81 billion in 2017 marking an increase by 7%; while Investment business insured remarkably increased by 65% reaching USD 2.84 billion compared to USD 1.72 billion.

45. As a result, the impact of ICIEC services translated into the support worth of USD 4.91 billion for member countries’ exports, USD 4.28 billion for member countries’ imports, USD 2.84 billion for inward foreign direct investments into member countries and USD 1.19 billion for outward foreign direct investments from member countries. In addition, the Corporation supported a volume of USD 8.5 billion of Intra-OIC business involving 35 countries.

(\textit{d}) Trade Facilitation

46. The General Secretariat has continued to sensitize member states on the need to give effect to the various OIC multilateral trade instruments in force. Although the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) on TPS-OIC could not convene during the period of this report, the status of signing and ratification of OIC economic agreements, including TPS-OIC is annexed to this Report (\textit{Annex-I}).

47. The following 14 OIC Member States: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Turkey, Malaysia, Syria, Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan and Jordan have sent to the TNC Secretariat the List of Products for tariff concessions under the TPS/OIC. Moreover, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Morocco and Turkey notified to the TNC Secretariat their internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS/OIC Rules of Origin.

48. The TNC Secretariat requested the concerned Member States to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience. The Committee welcomed the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan and Iran.
49. It is, therefore, appropriate to renew invitation to member states, which are yet to complete the signing, and ratification processes of OIC economic agreements to endeavour to do so at their earliest convenience. In the same vein, member states who have signed and ratified the TPS-OIC may wish to forward the required documents, in line with the CFM and COMCEC resolutions. This includes the submission of their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of products (schedules of concessions), sample of certificates and specimen impression of stamps used in their customs and to complete internal legislative, and administrative measures.

50. In line with the relevant OIC resolutions, the ICDT, the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) and the ICCIA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Sudan, organized a training Workshop on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC) and Multilateral Trading System in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan on 17-18 December 2018. More than 60 Participants from Sudan Public and Private Sector senior officials attended this workshop. The objective of the Workshop was to raise awareness about the importance of Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS/OIC) and its protocols and the recent development of the Multilateral Trading System including Sudan’s accession to WTO. This Workshop was beneficial as it explained the Trade Preferential System for the Private Sector, which can be instrumental in expanding the trade relations between the Member Countries.

(e) Investment Promotion

i. OIC High Level Public and Private Investment Conference

51. In line with the Resolution No. 2/46-E, adopted by the 46th CFM, held in Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, the General Secretariat, in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the relevant OIC institutions, will organize the OIC High Level Public and Private Investment Conference in Istanbul on 9-10 December 2019.

52. In this regard, the Republic of Turkey hosted 3 preparatory meetings on the said Conference in Ankara on 25 April 2019, in Istanbul on 14 June 2019 and on 9 September 2019 respectively. The said meetings have finalized a Draft Concept Note, Draft Work Programme, and other relevant documents. All the working documents have been distributed among the Member States on 30 September 2019.

53. The objective of the Conference is to provide a platform for OIC public and private policymakers to meet among themselves and interface with policy makers at national and regional levels with a view to sharing ideas on ways of improving the business climate and create an opportunity for business leaders to explore the challenges and opportunities in key strategic sectors. The Conference will also examine intra-OIC investment through elimination of all kinds of barriers to free movement of goods, services, people and finance among OIC member states, while at the same time promoting ease of doing business within the OIC region.
ii. Establishment of the Permanent OIC Investment Dispute Settlement Mechanism

54. The 43rd Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) mandated the Secretary General (Resolution No. 1/43-E) in consultation with Member States and relevant OIC organs/institutions including COMCEC to propose modalities for the creation of a permanent body for the settlement of disputes arising the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the OIC Member States. In this context, the General Secretariat in coordination with ICDT and IsDB, prepared a Concept Paper on the establishment of a permanent mechanism for the settlement of disputes out of the above-mentioned OIC Investment Agreement. The said Concept Paper was submitted to the 46th CFM, held in Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019 as well as distributed among the Member States in February 2019.

55. Consequently, the 46th CFM noted the Concept Paper contained in the Report of the Secretary General (Resolution No. 2/46-E (B)), which proposed modalities to the creation of a said permanent OIC body and requested the General Secretariat to submit the Concept Paper to an open-ended Intergovernmental Experts Group Meeting and then to COMCEC, to enable further discussions among Member States and relevant OIC institutions with a view to determining the appropriate modalities towards fulfilling the requirements of the above Agreement.

56. The General Secretariat, in cooperation with IsDB, has organized a Sensitization Meeting for OIC Member States on Proposed Permanent OIC Investment Dispute Settlement Mechanism held at the UN Headquarter in New York on 1 April 2019 on the sidelines of the UNCITRAL Working Group III Meeting. About 30 experts from the Member States attended the Meeting.

(f) Halal Sector Development

57. In line with the 34th COMCEC Resolution, the 6th OIC Halal Expo and World Halal Summit (WHS) 2018 were held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 29 November - 2 December 2018, under the auspices of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of the Republic of Turkey. The events were organized in line with the co-operation framework between SMIIC and ICDT, under the theme of “Halal and Healthy Life: Awareness and Sustainability”. The aim of the WHS and OIC Halal Expo is to promote intra-OIC Halal Trade and sharing of the latest developments regarding Halal across the OIC.

58. SMIIC Scientific Conference was held during the World Halal Summit 2018 on the 29 November -01 December 2018 and speeches/presentations on Halal Food, Meat and Slaughtering Studies, Halal Pharmaceuticals, Laboratories and Halal Authentication, Halal Supply Chain, Halal Animal Feed and Halal Leather Products were made 50 prominent scientists and/or experts from all over the world. The proceeds of the scientific conference are being gathered in a book that will be published.

59. World Halal Summit 2018 hosted 60 speakers from 25 different countries. Also 5000 delegates from 38 different countries followed the conference sessions. Meanwhile, 6th
OIC Halal Expo gathered 350 companies from 33 different countries to introduce their products/system in this platform and provided networking opportunities and B2B meetings to see the roles of each contributor in this industry.

60. A regional Conference on “Implementation of SMIIC Standards for Halal products in Central Asia” was held on the 19 November 2018 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. The Conference was organized by SMIIC and the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Conference was attended by approximately 120 representatives from the private and public sector from Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

61. SMIIC Auditor Foundation Training Program 2018-Central Asia was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic on 20-22 November 2018. The training was attended by 30 participants from private and public sector from Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The training was given in English and Russian. The program was co-organized by SMIIC and The Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic.

V. TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

62. The 46th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), commended the celebration of the City of Tourism Award, and encouraged OIC member states to actively participate in the commemorative programmes to be undertaken in their respective countries. While urging all member states to organize annual events on Islamic tourism in order to promote intra-OIC tourist flow, CFM encouraged private sector entities of the member states to promote intra-OIC tourism by actively participating in the OIC Tourism Fair, to be held in Kuwait City, State of Kuwait in 2019, including the sidelines event relating to the Forum on Public Private Investors in the area of Tourism.

(a) Commemoration of OIC City of Tourism Award 2019 and 2020

63. On the commemoration of Dhaka as OIC City of Tourism for 2019, the People’s Republic of Bangladesh celebrated its capital Dhaka as the OIC City of Tourism for 2019 in Dhaka on 11-12 July 2019. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the two-day official celebration in the presence of representatives from more than 30 OIC member states. In addition, General Secretariat requested all relevant OIC institutions to provide their proposed programmes for the commemoration of the OIC City of Tourism Award for 2019, including the capacity-building programme on Islamic Tourism.

64. In this regard, SESRIC organized an International Seminar on “Development of Muslim-Friendly Tourism in the Dhaka City” and an Award Ceremony, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 15 October 2019. This international seminar aimed to explore ways to mainstream the Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) in economic development through the integration of various stakeholders into new and existing initiatives.

65. With regard arrangements for the commemoration of Gabala as the OIC City of Tourism 2020, the General Secretariat has already communicated with the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan on this matter. To this end, the Government of Azerbaijan
has confirmed that it will organize the commemoration ceremony on the sidelines of the 11th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), to be held in Azerbaijan in 2020. The dates and venue will be informed in due course.

(b) Implementation of the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States

66. In line the implementation of the Strategic Roadmap on the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States and within the framework of the OIC Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tr-CaB), SESRIC, in cooperation with SMIIC, organized a 3-day training course on “Halal Tourism and Muslim-Friendly Hospitality Service” in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 13-15 November 2018.

67. The training focused mainly on the State of Halal Tourism in OIC countries; halal certification and accreditation: history and current practices; Halal Tourism standards around the world; Developing and marketing Halal Tourism products and services in the OIC countries. Other topics included; In-depth Understanding of Faith-based needs of Muslim travelers; Understanding Key Profiles, Drivers, Socio-Economic and Cultural Dimensions of Halal Tourism; and Designing Strategic Communications and Branding for Halal Tourism in OIC Countries. Following the theoretical training course, a study visit took place to various Muslim-Friendly hotels and locations.

68. Within the framework of the on-going OIC efforts to execute the said Strategic Roadmap, ICDT and the COMCEC Coordination Office organized, in collaboration with the relevant authorities in Suriname and Guyana, a Training Workshop on Developing Muslim-Friendly Tourism in Suriname and Guyana in Paramaribo, Suriname on 15-17 July 2019. The objective of this workshop was to enhance capacity of Suriname and Guyana in the Muslim Friendly-Tourism in order to increase tourist arrivals and receipts from OIC Member States as well as sharing best practices in this field with experts from OIC Member States and institutions. In addition, the 7th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 5 September 2019 with the theme of "Prospects for Development of Health Tourism in the OIC Member States".

69. In addition, SESRIC organized a statistics course on “Tourism Statistics” in Brunei on 4-6 December 2018 provided by an expert from BPS-Statistics Indonesia with the participation of relevant officials of the JPKE of Brunei Darussalam.

Tourism Fair and Forum

70. With regard to the convening of tourism fair and forum, the ICDT, in coordination with the host country, will organize the Exceptional Edition of the Tourism, Handicrafts and Interior Decoration Exhibition of the OIC Member States in Kuwait City, State of Kuwait on 18-23 December 2019. The Forum on Public and private investors in the area of Tourism will also be held on the sidelines of the said Exhibition.
VI.  COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF TRANSPORT

71. Cooperation in the transport sector remains an important area of interaction among the OIC member states. Available statistics indicate that this sector has recorded many cooperation activities, which could be said to account for the recorded growth in this sub-sector. For example, OIC countries carried 14% of the world passengers and 18.2% of the world freight in 2016 as against 9% of the world passengers and 10% of the world freight in 2009. In addition, the 925 km Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway, which IDB partially financed and was inaugurated in 2014, OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway and the Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Oman Transport Corridor Agreement (Ashgabat Agreement) are good examples of development of transport cooperation among OIC member states. This part of the report summarizes the recent developments and planned OIC activities in this important sector.

(a) Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers

72. As it was reported to 34th Session of COMCEC, the Government of the Republic of Sudan had graciously offered to host the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers in Khartoum, Sudan on 17-19 December 2017. However, Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers had been postponed due to some unforeseen logistical difficulties.

73. In view of the foregoing, the 46th CFM held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on 1-2 March 2019, requested the OIC Secretary General to conclude necessary arrangements with the relevant authorities in the Republic of Sudan for the early convening of the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers. To this end, the General Secretariat is presently working with the relevant authorities in Sudan on the rescheduling of Conference. It is expected that the Conference will evaluate the implementation of the OIC resolutions on transportation and review the progress on execution of OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project. The Conference will be briefed on the progress made in the execution of cross-border transport corridors such as (a) Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway project; and (b) Trans-Saharan Road Corridor. Most importantly, Conference will review and validate the envisaged actions of OIC-IDRIP in the transportation sector.

74. In addition, the Conference will also receive a presentation on the activities and challenges of the Organization of Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA) and make pronouncement on modalities for enhancing the role of OISA in realizing the OIC agenda on cooperation in maritime sector.

75. Furthermore, SESRIC has embarked on collating studies on constraints to connectivity among OIC Member States as well as main challenges of Landlocked Countries of OIC (LLDCs) in the area of transportation and development. SESRIC intends to finish the said research during 2020. This research will be included in the SESRIC’s Report titled “Transportation for Development in OIC Countries”, which will be released in 2020.
(b) IsDB Financing for Projects in Transportation Sector

In 2018, the IsDB has completed a total of 13 projects in the transportation sector totaling US$905 million in 12 Member States, namely: Albania, Benin, Chad, Cote D’Ivoire, Guinea, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Turkey. These projects have contributed to the construction of nearly 500 km of highways and 14,500 km of local roads.

76. Within its new approach to the promotion of regional connectivity, the IsDB is focusing on the development of inter-country corridors through aligning hard infrastructure with the “soft” aspects of regional integration. In doing so, priority is given to connection of the landlocked member states to international ports and maritime. To this end, IsDB in 2018 has allocated US$226,000 and US$187000, respectively, for conducting commercialization studies of the two existing corridors: a) Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway project; and b) Trans-Saharan Road Corridor. These studies are aimed at creating a regional corridor management mechanism with a view to ensuring regular and smooth operation of trains/vehicles with lower time and cost.

VII. ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR

77. Private sector growth is widely acknowledged to be an essential component in promoting socio-economic development and providing more economic opportunities in any given society. Recognizing this, the various CFM sessions called on member states to mainstream the role of the Private sector for the advancement of socio-economic development and cooperation within the OIC. Accordingly, this segment of report summarizes the activities of the relevant OIC institutions.

(a) 28th Board of Directors; and 35th General Assembly Meetings of ICCIA

78. The General Secretariat always sensitizes OIC Member States on the need to increase membership of ICCIA, to improve its image and visibility at all levels. To this end, the 28th Board of Directors and 35th General Assembly Meetings of Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) were held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 3-4 March 2019. The General Assembly Meeting approved the planned activities of the Chamber for the year 2019.

79. The major planned activities of ICCIA for 2019 include: 17th Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member States/Trade Exchange Forum; 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Countries; Forum/Workshop for Public and Private Investors in the area of Tourism Development; Workshop on Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries-Challenges and Opportunities; Workshop on Scaling-up existing Enterprises through Skill Development; and Workshop on Promotion of Cottage Industries through SMEs.

80. In a related development and in order to give more value to its Statutory Meetings, on the sidelines of 28th Board of Directors and 35th General Assembly Meetings, the ICCIA co-
organized with the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce (FEDCOC) the 4th Egypt Investment Forum in Cairo, Egypt from 2nd to 4th March 2019. The Forum was held under the Egyptian Presidency of the African Union on the theme "Go Africa". The aim was to promote trilateral cooperation in trade and investment through linking technology providers with Arab investors and development banks and funds to implement selected projects in manufacturing, agriculture, energy, ICT, transport and value-added trade and logistics. The event brought together business leaders from Arab, Asia and Africa regions.

(b) Sharing of Best Practices for the Benefit of the Private Sector

81. One of the positive results of the Businesswomen Forums organized by ICCIA has led to the setting up of a Family Bank in Sudan with a capital of US$35 Million. The said Bank’s portfolio provides micro-financing on Sharia terms for start-ups, productive families, women and youth. The Bank has expanded all over Sudan with 41 branches, offering services to the targeted segment of the society.

82. The Project was submitted to the 7th Ministerial Conference on Women’s Role in the Development of OIC Member States, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in November 2018. The Conference has adopted a Resolutions calling for the possibility of establishing similar entities in other OIC Countries, for the benefit of the women and youth. In this context, the Islamic Chamber in contact with the IDB Group to assist in holding Training Programmes in concerned Member Countries to familiarize to adopt the best practices of the Family Bank of Sudan.

83. The UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office (UNIDO/ITPO) in Bahrain has also shown their interest to assist Training Programme that can be held on the establishment of Microcredit entities on the line of Family Bank. Similarly, Arab Union for Industrial Exports Development, Egypt is also offering to work with the ICCIA to provide training on areas of common interest, particularly in the African Countries. They have also showed the possibility of undertaking some training programmes in CIS Countries.

84. Furthermore, in view of the useful and practical approach of the Family Bank in the field of Microfinance, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) has published the Success Story of the Family Bank in its publication “Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development”, which was translated into several languages and distributed globally, it was launched on 12th September 2018, in New York on the occasion of the UN South-South Cooperation Day.

(c) Establishment of OIC Arbitration Centre

85. The 46th CFM took note of the steps in setting up of the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul, as per the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, which will be hosted by the Republic of Turkey and Union of Turkish Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) as an organ affiliated to the ICCIA.
86. The 35th General Assembly Meeting of ICCIA approved the establishment of the OIC Arbitration Centre in Istanbul as ICCIA’s affiliated institution as per relevant OIC resolutions and authorized the President of ICCIA to sign all documents and to execute the necessary proceedings regarding the establishment of this Center.

(d) **Capacity Building programme for SMEs**

87. SESRIC in cooperation with the Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC) organized a Workshop on “Effect of Entrepreneurship Strategies on SMEs Development” on 30 April - 01 May 2019 in Tehran, Iran in line with the relevant resolution of the 34th Session of the COMCEC.

(e) **Activities of Islamic Corporation for Development of Private Sector (ICD)**

88. The Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), a member of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, currently has an authorized capital of US$ 4 billion and its shareholders feature 54 OIC member states and 5 public financial institutions. The mandate of the ICD is to support the economic development of OIC member states through the provision of finance to private sector projects in accordance with the principles of Sharia’a.

89. Since inception till 31st December 2018, gross approvals of ICD have amounted to US$ 6.4 billion, allocated to more than 400 projects. In terms of disbursement, the total ICD disbursement amounted to US$ 3.2 billion. Sector-wise, cumulative ICD approvals spread over a number of sector, namely: financial sector (57%), industrial and mining sector (20%), and real estate, healthcare and others (23%), respectively.

90. Regarding geographic distribution, ICD investment operations expanded to over 50 member states. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region accounts for 31% of gross approvals, followed by Europe and Central Asia (22%), Sub-Saharan Africa (18%), and Asia and Pacific (14%). The share of regional/global projects covering several countries was nearly 15% of gross approvals.

91. According to ICD’s General Assembly Resolution, the authorized capital of ICD has been increased from US$ 2 billion to US$ 4 billion, and the capital available for subscription has been raised from US$1 billion to US$2 billion. So far, ICD has received strong support of its shareholders for the 2nd General Capital Increase. As of the end of 2018, out of US$ 1 billion available for subscription, US$ 828 million worth of shares were subscribed by 36 ICD shareholders. On the payment side, and as of the end of 2018, ICD has already received payments of different shareholders at a total amount of more than US$ 410 Million.
VIII. POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

92. Alleviation of poverty remains a major challenge to developmental efforts of OIC member states. To this end, the various OIC poverty alleviation initiatives are aimed at creating jobs by fostering skills, competitiveness and entrepreneurship. Accordingly, this segment will highlight the latest developments with regard to OIC poverty alleviation programmes such as Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA) and Special Programme for Central Asia (SPCA). It also includes activities of relevant OIC institutions in the area of poverty alleviation.

(a) Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD)

93. The 46th Session of CFM reiterated its earlier call on OIC member states to redeem their respective pledges to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and to make additional commitments on a voluntary basis, including allocation of Waqf in favour of ISFD so as to achieve the target capital of the said Fund, which is US$ 10 billion.

94. As of 20 April 2019, the ISFD capital contribution has reached US$2.7 billion, committed by 49 OIC Member States (US$1.7 billion) and the IsDB (US$1 billion). This represents 27% of the targeted capital of the Fund. No new commitment has been made in 2019. No new commitment has been made in 2018.

95. The total amount of paid contributions stood at US$2.585 billion, of which US$1 billion was paid by the IDB and US$1.585 billion by member states. Out of 49 OIC member states, 28 have fully redeemed their pledges, 10 partially, and 11 have yet to redeem their pledges. 8 OIC member states (Afghanistan, Djibouti, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Tajikistan, Somalia and UAE) have not made any commitment with regard to ISFD.

96. With regard to operations, ISFD has continued to approve projects within the framework of its programmes such as Micro-Finance Support Programme (MFSP), Vocational Literacy Programme (VOILP), Sustainable Villages Programme (SVP), Save the Mother’s Programme and the Renewable Energy Programme for the Poor.

97. Cumulatively, ISFD, since its inception in 2007, has approved US$ $1.185 billion for financing a total of 127 projects in 34 OIC member states. The main sectors of focus have been (i) Agriculture (45%); (ii) Education (24%); (iii) Health (13%); and (iv) Finance (13%). The OIC Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have been the main beneficiaries, receiving more than 80% of the Fund’s financing.

98. In line with the relevant resolutions of CFM, the General Secretariat has sensitized member states of the need to make in-kind contributions to ISFD through allocation of Waqf landed property for ISFD and through the mobilization of contributions from high net-worth persons and philanthropies from OIC member states. Subsequently, Benin, Burkina Faso, Comoros and Cote D’Ivoire have allocated plots of land to the ISFD within the framework of the Waqf programme.
99. The ISFD is in need of funds to expand its activities towards alleviating poverty and improving social services and infrastructures. Accordingly, the General Secretariat will continue to sensitize the Member States to pay-up their subscribed contributions to the Fund and announce additional pledges to meet the target of US$10 billion set for the Fund by the OIC Leaders in 2005.

(b) Special Programme for Central Asia

100. As it was reported to 34th Session of COMCEC, SPCA, which is aimed at supporting the cooperation efforts of OIC Member States in Central Asia, and which has been elaborated within the framework of OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia (PACCA), covers six OIC countries, namely, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. This Programme with a total financing of US$6 billion features four priority areas as trade; energy; transport and agriculture, and its implementation period is set 2016-2020.

101. Within the framework of SPCA’s execution, IDB has received 12 projects, amounting to US$1.04 billion. Of these, two are energy projects aimed at tapping into the gas and water resources of the region to generate energy, while two transport projects will contribute to linking the region both within and with neighboring countries. Two agriculture projects will support increased fruit production and trading as well as the development of complementary infrastructure in an economic zone in Tajikistan and Halal meat standardization and certification in the Kyrgyz Republic. Other projects include a project on upgrading internet connectivity in Turkmenistan and a capacity building project on development value chains, among others.

(c) Special Programme for the Development of Africa

102. The SPDA is a US$12 billion facility launched in 2008 and aimed at advancing pro-poor socio-economic activities. The sectoral priorities under the SPDA are geared towards promoting economic growth and regional integration. The SPDA focuses on (i) agriculture and food security; (ii) water and sanitation; (iii) power generation and distribution; (iv) transport infrastructure; (v) education; and (vi) eliminating major communicable diseases.

103. In November 2012, when the approval phase of SPDA was completed, the level of funding commitments to the Programme by IDB Group reached US$ 5 billion, while those from other international partners amounted to US$7 billion. A total of 480 projects has been approved for financing under the SPDA in 22 OIC African member states.

104. Since the focus has been on deepening the implementation of approved projects to ensure that the expected outcomes are achieved. In this regard, it is noteworthy that the following projects were completed successfully, while other are still under implementation phase:

- Roseires Dam in Sudan;
- Basic Urban Infrastructure for Social Housing Project in Bamako, Mali;
- Social Housing Project in Bamako, Mali;
o Linguere-Matam Road, Senegal;
o Construction of the Dapaong-Ponio-Border Road, Burkina Faso;
o Construction of Koudougou Dedougou Road Project, Burkina Faso;
o Construction of Bassar-Katchamba Road Project, Togo; and
o Post-Conflict Reconstruction Programme for the Centre-North-West in Côte d'Ivoire, among others.

105. The implementation of SPDA is getting close to its end and an analysis of projects completion will be undertaken in due course in order to assess achievements under SPDA.

Support for Development of the Lake Chad Basin Countries

106. The Lake Chad Basin, which is shared by Algeria, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Libya, Niger, Nigeria, and Sudan, is one of the largest fresh water bodies in Africa. These eight countries have an estimated population of 373.6 million with 12% living around the Lake Chad Region. An estimated population of 40 million depend on the lake for crop and livestock farming, fishing, commerce and trade. The Lake is also a source of water supply for drinking, sanitation and development. It also offers a unique social and cultural environment contributing to the rich diversity of the region.

107. Since late 1960, due to increased human activities and series of droughts of high intensity and long duration saw the lake shrinking rapidly to 2,500 km2 by 1985. The lake presently covers an area of less than 1,500 km2. Diminishing water levels of the Lake Chad exacerbated by loss of biodiversity and ecosystems degradation, decline in fishing and irrigation activities, food insecurity, decline in income and consequent deterioration of living conditions, increase competition and conflict over the little available resource.

108. The foregoing situation has pushed people who depend on it for crop and livestock farming, fishing, commerce and trade to abject poverty. It also has triggered mass migration, conflicts and crises in the region, including the Boko Haram insurgency, which resulted in mass displacement of millions across the region. As a result, more than 2.4 million people are displaced and over 10 million people need assistance to meet their basic protection and humanitarian needs.

109. The various studies carried out show that there is no solution to the shrinking of Lake Chad except recharging the lake by transfer of water from outside the basin. Consequently, the Lake Chad Basin countries during the International Conference to Save Lake Chad held in Abuja, Nigeria in February 2018 approved a Roadmap with the Transaqua Project as the preferred option to save Lake Chad. The Transaqua Project is a 2,400 km-long waterway, crossing all west bank tributaries of the Congo River, to transfer water to recharge the Lake Chad.

110. Against this background, the 46th Session of the CFM, which was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019, requested OIC member states and relevant OIC development financing institutions, including IsDB Group and ISF, to support the Transaqua project. In addition, CFM called on OIC member states and relevant OIC
institutions to support the Lake Chad Basin countries’ efforts towards addressing humanitarian and developmental needs of displaced persons and communities in the Lake Chad Basin area.

111. In giving effect to this resolution, the General Secretariat has obtained from the Executive Secretariat of the Lake Chad Basin Commission a brief on the current status of the Transaqua project, including possibilities for partnership by interested international organisations. The said brief has been forwarded to the relevant OIC institutions for the purpose of identifying their envisaged contributions within an overall OIC response on this regional project.

112. Within the framework of OIC efforts to support the Lake Chad Basin countries, SESRIC will organize a Training Workshop on "Water Governance and Integrated Water Management" during the first quarter of 2020. This event is aimed at contributing to Lake Chad Basin countries efforts towards addressing humanitarian and developmental needs of displaced persons and communities in the Lake Chad Basin Area.

IX. OIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION POLICY

113. The availability of adequate infrastructure of regional interest and the efficient provision of related services are seen as crucial to the objective of achieving a greater degree of productive specialization and developing competitive advantages within the OIC region. In light of these considerations, infrastructure development and regional integration have become a key factor for fostering growth and reaching higher levels of development in the specific region. This is why OIC member states need to develop and put in place a framework that will foster connectivity among the countries of the specific region through increased physical infrastructure, connecting communication channels by means of transport, along with integrating the different types of energy and telecommunications networks.

114. It is against this background that 46th Session of CFM, while taking note the preparation and circulation to OIC member states of a draft OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy (OIC-IDRIP), requested the Secretary General to organize a series of validation workshops on OIC-IDRIP as a prelude to OIC Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting. It also decided to establish an OIC Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting to propose a Draft OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy, with the support and participation of the relevant OIC Institutions/Organs, including COMCEC, IsDB and SESRIC. Furthermore, it reiterated its request to the IsDB to conduct needs assessment of the OIC member states in the field of infrastructure development.

115. The OIC-IDRIP aims at supporting creation of cross-border projects aimed at promoting regional integration and it seeks to intervene in six priority sectors, namely: transport; energy; telecommunication and postal services; trade; industrial development; and
agricultural development. The vision of the Policy is to develop an OIC economy that is integrated, interconnected, internally competitive, inclusive, growth-oriented and sustainable. The major goals of the Policy is to promote development and rehabilitation of infrastructure, facilitation of joint studies, mobilization of resources and facilitation of enabling legislative environment for the proper execution of these projects.

116. Considering the need to implement the above resolution in a timely fashion, the General Secretariat has already requested the IsDB about the measures towards conducting the needs assessment of the OIC Member States in the field of infrastructure development. The assessment would serve as a background document for OIC Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting aimed at proposing a Draft OIC-IDRIP. After completion of needs assessment of the Member States in the field of infrastructure development, the General Secretariat would make necessary arrangements for convening of OIC Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting.

117. In view of the foregoing, the member states are encouraged to host one of the consultation and validation workshops on OIC-IDRIP during the coming year. This exercise would enable OIC member states to reflect duly their inputs in the OIC-IDRIP and increase its ownership by them. In addition, such consultation and validation workshops will serve as effective inputs into OIC Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting.

X. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO OIC MEMBER STATES AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN NON-OIC COUNTRIES

118. Development assistance remains an essential tool for growth and reduction of poverty in the needy OIC member states. To this end, some well-endowed OIC Member States have continued to contribute to financing of the various development projects in the needy OIC Member States and other developing countries in line with the ideals of partnership, mutual assistance and solidarity. Accordingly, this segment of the report summarizes the assistance provided by some OIC Member States to other OIC Member States as well as non-OIC countries in recent years.

(a) Development Assistance by Saudi Arabia

119. The Government of Saudi Arabia has continued, through the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), to finance development projects in a number of OIC member states and non-OIC countries through concessional loans. In 2017, SFD contributed financing to 30 development projects and programmes for a total amount of 3936 million Saudi riyals in 23 countries, consisting of 17 OIC member states (8 in Africa, 6 in Asia/Europe and 3 in MENA) and 6 non OIC-countries.

120. SFD’s assistance was directed to financing projects in a number of crucial sectors of the economy, including social infrastructure, transportation and communication, agriculture, energy and other sectors. The largest share of financing was allocated to the social
infrastructure (education, water supply and sewerage, housing and urban development, and health), transportation and communication sectors.

121. In this context, it is worth mentioning that SFD had, since its inception in 1975 and up to the end of 2017, allocated a total amount of 55047 million Saudi Riyals to finance 635 development projects and programmes for the benefit of 83 developing countries worldwide, majority of them being OIC member states.

(b) Development Assistance by United Arab Emirates

122. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) continues to play a leading role in the area of financing development in other countries. During 2017-2018, UAE provided assistance in the form of development support and humanitarian assistance to OIC member states in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa in the amount of US$ 3,31billion. The bulk of UAE assistance was provided in the form of grants, while some in the form of concessional loans.

123. The sectors to which UAE directed its assistance in African countries included education and training, water supply, health sector, food security, basic infrastructure, humanitarian and relief assistance. The UAE’s assistance to Asian countries included supporting national budgets, building power plants, education and training, construction and city development, trade regulatory policies, supporting religious organization and social welfare services.

124. The UAE assistance to Middle East countries included road transportation infrastructure, social welfare services, and agricultural land development. It further assisted in the reconstruction and development process in war-affected zones in Somalia, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Mali, among others. The UAE also provided support to a number of countries in South America, like Suriname and Guyana, in the areas of education, water supply, road development and the provision of basic food commodities and support for their national budgets.

(c) Assistance by other OIC Member States

125. During the year under review, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has contributed US$ 0.25 million for UNRWA Fund. It has also offered 100 scholarships for OIC least developed countries. The scholarships would be offered for Undergraduate, Masters and PhD level studies in Medical, Engineering, Physical and Natural Sciences disciplines. Furthermore, it provided training to Junior and Senior Diplomats from 28 Muslim countries in recent years.

126. On its part, the Arab Republic of Egypt has provided technical and humanitarian assistance during 2017-2018 to the following OIC and non-OIC countries: Burundi, Togo, Guinea, Conakry, Rwanda, Chad, Kazakhstan, Gabon, Somalia, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Southern Sudan, Zambia, Mali, Kenya, Djibouti, Yemen, Eretria, and Sudan.
(d) **COMCEC Project Cycle Management (PCM)**

127. Under the COMCEC Project Cycle Management (PCM), 61 projects were successfully implemented during 2013-2018 and more than 40 OIC countries have participated in the COMCEC Project Funding. These projects relate to strengthening the capacities of the beneficiary countries in such areas as agriculture, tourism, trade, transportation and poverty alleviation.

128. Through the COMCEC PCM, member states and OIC Institutions are mobilized to realize the principles and objectives of the COMCEC Strategy. The projects conducted under this mechanism were developed in the areas where the policy recommendations were formulated by the Working Groups (WGs) and adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Meetings. Thus, this mechanism provides a policy support instrument for the project owners and beneficiaries. It also gives the member states an opportunity to work together in order to overcome their common challenges.

**XI. CONCLUSION**

129. The commencement of IOFS Secretariat’s operations in March 2018 will add the required momentum to intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of agriculture and food security. This is more so considering the effect, which the expeditious implementation of IOFS 5-Year Plan of Action will have in addressing the pressing and serious challenges to agriculture and food security in OIC member states.

130. The upcoming OIC Ministerial Conferences on Agriculture and Food Security, Tourism, Labour and Transportation will further strengthen intra-OIC cooperation in these important sectors. The outcomes of these conferences are vital for further consolidating intra-OIC cooperation in such critical sectors as developing tourism; promoting productive employment and decent work for all; developing sustainable agriculture and enhancing food security, and improving transport and logistics connectivity within OIC region, among others. These new initiatives are aimed at consolidating on the gains realized during the implementation of the various regional developmental projects, including the Special Programme for the Development of Africa and the OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia.

131. Furthermore, the continuation and expansion of OIC trade and investments related activities remains an effective tool for increasing intra-OIC trade as well as facilitating the integration of OIC member states in the global economy. In the same vein, development assistance by well-endowed OIC member states to needy OIC member states contributes to their economic growth, thus becoming an important component of intra-OIC cooperation and solidarity.

132. It is, therefore, important for member states to make adequate use of OIC cooperation framework, timely accede to its many multilateral instruments and avail themselves of its various activities, aimed at promoting social and economic growth and sustainable development among OIC member states and their peoples.
133. In addition, convening of OIC High Level Public and Private Investment Conference and
the creation of a permanent OIC investment dispute settlement mechanism in line with
Article 17 of the OIC Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments
will also promote foreign directs investments and trade in the Member States of the OIC.

OIC General Secretariat
Department of Economic Affairs,
7 October 2019
**LIST OF MEMBER STATES WHO SIGNED/ RATIFIED THE DIFFERENT AGREEMENTS AND STATUTES ON ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Adopted as per Resolution No 18/E of the 8th ICFM Tripoli/Liya</td>
<td>Adopted as per Resolution No 712-E of the 12th ICFM Baghdad/Iraq</td>
<td>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 6th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey</td>
<td>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 21st COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey</td>
<td>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 23rd COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey</td>
<td>Adopted as per Resolution No 1613-E of the 15th ICFM Niamey/Niger</td>
<td>Adopted as per Resolution No 1715/E of the 19th ICFM Sana’s Yemen</td>
<td>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 14th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey</td>
<td>Adopted as per Resolution No 340-E of the 40th CPM Conkey/Guinea</td>
<td>Adopted as per Resolution No 243-E of the 43rd CPM Tashkent/Uzbekistan</td>
<td>18/19/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>8/10/2010 4/2/2018</td>
<td>8/10/2010 4/2/2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>20/05/1990 19/03/2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>20/06/2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>13/02/2010 13/02/2012</td>
<td>14/02/2012 14/08/2012</td>
<td>14/08/2012</td>
<td>14/08/2012 14/08/2012 14/08/2012 14/08/2012</td>
<td>14/08/2012 22/11/2013 11/02/2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>23/12/1985 19/05/1992</td>
<td>19/05/1992</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comoros</td>
<td>20/04/1978</td>
<td>16/01/1981 30/06/2012</td>
<td>7/10/2010 7/10/2010 30/06/2012 7/10/2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>21/04/1979</td>
<td>25/08/1982</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>23/01/1978</td>
<td>21/01/1988 21/01/2008</td>
<td>21/01/2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>-                                                        -</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>02/07/1978</td>
<td>9/07/1978</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>25/12/2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**NAMES OF MEMBER STATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suriname</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>04/11/1997</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>04/11/1997</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>06/02/2013</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>08/08/1978</td>
<td>14/11/2001</td>
<td>26/11/1987</td>
<td>02/02/1987</td>
<td>05/09/1993</td>
<td>14/11/2001</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4/11/2018</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>29/12/1977</td>
<td>12/06/1982</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28/10/1994</td>
<td>26/3/2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL:** | 49 | 32 | 38 | 29 | 40 | 31 | 31 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 25 | 17 | 24 | 19 | 23 | 37 | 34 | 12 | 6 | 1

1 October 2019