

Original : English

**REPORT
OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
Istanbul, 10 May 2004**

1. The Sessional Committee held its meeting prior to the 20th Follow-up Committee of COMCEC on 10th May 2004. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Nabika Diallo, Assistant Secretary General of OIC. The meeting was attended by the following;

- General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference
- COMCEC Coordination Office
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)
- The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange (ICCI)
- The Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- Islamic Shipowners' Association (OISA).

The meeting was also attended by a delegation from the Republic of Turkey.

2. The meeting adopted the following agenda items;

- 1- Review of the Proposed Cooperation Projects within the OIC Plan of Action.
- 2- Review of the Trade Negotiations within the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member Countries (TPS-OIC).
- 3- Review of the Preparations for the “Economic Summit at Ministerial Level” on the Occasion of the Anniversary of the 20th Session of the COMCEC.

4- Any Other Business.

The Agenda was reviewed and adopted as presented.

3. **Under Agenda item 1**, the COMCEC Coordination Office, presented a report on the consultative meeting held in Jeddah on 1 March 2004, regarding the status of projects within the OIC Plan of Action. Thereafter the OIC institutions, namely SESRTCIC, ICDT, ICCI and IDB informed the Committee of the steps taken so far by them, specifically for the projects sponsored by them or wherein they were indirectly involved. The Committee was informed that the General Secretariat of OIC and COMCEC Coordination Office had contacted the member countries but had not received any response. The Committee then decided that for all projects, which are country specific, the General Secretariat of OIC and COMCEC Coordination Office would write to the sponsoring countries to indicate if they are still interested in their project. Furthermore if the project proposes the setting up of any new establishment/association or any other similar institution under the OIC, they will be informed that as per the resolution of the ICFM no new institution can be set up. However if the project is a national project then the member country can go ahead with it.

4. It was agreed that this would be a last reminder and that they are expected to respond before the end of September, as a report has to be submitted to the twentieth session of COMCEC in November 2004.

5. The Committee also proposed that in the existing list of projects, a column for “Coordinator” should also be added.

6. The Committee considered for each of the projects as follows:

1. Projects under title Technical Cooperation from number 1 to 19.

For project number 2 on “Technical Cooperation in the Area of Heritage Preservation among OIC Member States”, the Committee was informed that Saudi Arabia had contacted IRCICA to be involved in the said project.

For project number 7 on “Technical Cooperation among Patent Offices in the OIC Member States”, Turkey gave a presentation on the steps taken for the implementation of this project and circulated a paper on it. For the other remaining project, the member countries will be contacted by the General Secretariat of the OIC and COMCEC Coordination Office as per the above decision, taken under agenda item 1.

2. Projects under Money, Finance and Capital Flows from 20 to 26.

- For project number 20 on “Establishment of an Islamic Insurance/ Reinsurance Corporation” the Committee directed the COMCEC to contact Turkey
- For project number 21 on “Islamic Finance Corporation under the Auspices of the IDB”, the Committee noted that the Islamic Corporation for Insurance and Export Credit had already been established.
- For project number 22 on “Multilateral Islamic Clearing Agency (Union)”, the Committee requested IDB to review the project whose feasibility study had already been prepared when it was on the agenda of the COMCEC, in coordination with Turkey, keeping in mind the Malaysian proposal, namely, Gold-Based Trade Payment Arrangements (GTPA) for the Promotion of Intra-OIC Trade Gold Dinar.
- For project number 24 on “Compilation by SESRTCIC, in collaboration with IDB/IRTI of a Directory of Muslim Experts in the field of money, Banking and finance”, the Committee requested coordination among COMCEC, IDB and Turkey.
- Project numbers 24 and 25 on “Compilation by SESRTCIC, in collaboration with IDB/IRTI of a Directory of Muslim Experts” and “Regular and Systematic Collection and dissemination of detailed data and information on the money, banking and finance...”, the related institutions namely IDB, SESRTCIC along with COMCEC Coordination Office and the Turkish authorities were requested to continue pursuing their efforts in the implementation of these projects.

- However, the Committee also was of the view to merge projects 24 and 26 on “Compilation by SESRTCIC, in collaboration with IDB/IRTI of a Directory of Muslim Experts ...” and “Compilation by SERSTCIC, in collaboration with the IDB/IRTI of a Directory on Banks and Financial Institutions in the member countries”, as the content of both, was similar.

3. Projects under Foreign Trade from 27 to 40.

- For project number 27 to 34 on “A Mechanism for Systematic Collection and Dissemination of Detailed Information on Tariff and Non-tariff Trade Barriers of the Member Countries” and “Preparation of a Detailed Study of Trade Regulations And Procedures of Member States”, the Committee requested ICDT to merge the projects as their content was similar and to continue with its programs related to this combined project.
- For project number 28 on “Establishment of Islamic Trading House(s)”, the Committee noted that the ICDT had already done some work thereon and would circulate a revised feasibility study on this project, to Turkey, and thereafter to the other Member Countries and related OIC institutions.
- For project number 29 “A Mechanism for Integration of the OIC Member Countries to the World Trade System”, the Committee noted that IDB, ICCI and ICDT are already working on the project and that IDB and ICDT are undertaking efforts for the project implementation.
- For project number 30 “A Study on the Determination of the Economic Comparative Advantages of the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee was informed of IDB’s efforts on the related subject matter. In addition ICDT, SESRTCIC and ICCI were requested to continue with their efforts in the preparation of the study in coordination with the member states. The Committee also proposed to amend the title of the project to become “A Study on the Determination of the Economic Comparative Advantages and Complementarities of the OIC Member Countries.”

- For project number 31 “Creation of an Islamic Export Market Development Fund”, the Committee noted that the IDB had already taken over this project in the form of its existing windows and programs (such as ITFO, EFS, IUF and IBP.) which could be strengthened, and the Member States could be requested to participate in such initiatives.
- For project 32 on “Collection and collation of statistical”, the Committee noted that ICDT was already performing this work and would continue to assume responsibility on this project.
- For project number 33 on “Development of a Joint Transportation Scheme for The Land-locked Member States”, the Committee requested SESRTCIC to continue to assume responsibility on this project.
- For project number 35 and 36 on “Trade facilitation service, to be provided” and “Import Management Facilities to be provided by the National Chambers of the Member Countries”, the Committee requested ICCI to merge these projects as they are similar.
- For projects number 37 and 38 on “Program for Training of Trainers in the Area of International Trade” and “Setting up of Regional Companies Specialized in Organization of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions”, the Committee requested ICDT to consult Burkina Faso. Regarding project 38, ICDT was requested to prepare a detailed study/report on this matter and circulate it among OIC institutions and member states.
- For project number 39 and 40 on “Setting up of Permanent Exhibition Halls” and “Organizing a Permanent Virtual Goods Exhibition on The INTERNET Web site of the ICDT”, the Committee requested ICDT to continue with its efforts in this context.

The Committee underlined the importance of nominating coordinators for all the projects from the OIC institutions. However it was agreed that this should be done, once the reply is received from the member countries regarding their interest in the project proposed by them.

The Committee also heard a presentation made by the representative of the Istanbul Stock Exchange. The representative highlighted the need for an active cooperation among the Islamic Stock Exchanges.

7. **Under Agenda item 2**, the representative of COMCEC gave a briefing about the first meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee held in Antalya from 6 to 9 April 2004. The Committee was informed that the meeting adopted a negotiation strategy for the TPSOIC and also adopted a work programme for the Round. The Committee was also briefed by ICDT regarding the joint efforts and work done by the Secretariat of the TNC.

The Committee emphasized the need to further expedite efforts of member countries to ratify the agreement.

8. **Under agenda item 3**, the Committee was briefed by the COMCEC Coordination Office regarding the preparation of the “Economic Summit at Ministerial Level” on the Occasion of the Anniversary of the 20th Session of the COMCEC. However the Committee was of the view that this item should be referred to the Twentieth Follow-up Committee of COMCEC.

9. The Committee concluded its session with thanks to the chair and to the participants for their participation.

ATTACHMENT

Table 1: Project Proposals/Ideas submitted to the EGMs

I-	TECHNICAL COOPERATION		
Serial No	Project Proposals/Ideas	Proposing State/ Institution	Interested Country
1.	Technical cooperation in the area of Software Engineering Among OIC Member States.	Jordan	
2.	Technical Cooperation in the Area of Heritage Preservation Among OIC Member States.	Jordan	
3.	Production of pulp and paper in Sudan	Sudan	
4.	Strengthening the innovation, Design and Prototype Manufacturing Center	Sudan	
5.	Shelter and Habitat in Sudan	Sudan	
6.	Photovoltaic Cells Production	Sudan	
7.	Technical Cooperation Among Patent Offices in the OIC Member States	Turkey	Kazakhstan
8.	Technical Cooperation in the area of Business Incubators Among OIC Member States.	Turkey	
9.	Cooperation in the area of Technical Development: Medium Range Regional Turbofan Airliner.	Turkey	Kazakhstan
10.	Provision of Technical Assistance for Establishment of Technology Development Foundation in the OIC Member States.	Turkey	
11.	Energy Research and Technology Development Center For Islamic Countries.	Turkey	Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan
12.	Space Agency for Islamic Countries.	Turkey	Kazakhstan
13.	Distance Educational Project.	Turkey	
14.	Technical Cooperation in the area of Environmental Protection: Proper use of coastal zone to prevent Accelerated beach/coast erosion.	Turkey	
15.	Metametrone and Metribuzine Process development for production of the 1,3,4 triazine 6 one deriv, which are used as fungicide in Iran.	Iran	Saudi Arabia
16.	Lonoxylail (totril) Process development for this valuable fungicide and its Dibromo analogue.	Iran	Saudi Arabia
17.	Carbamazepine Process development for production of Carbamazepine at 25 MT/year capacity.	Iran	Saudi Arabia
18.	Sut-SOFT, Software for modeling of Heat Transfer, Mass Transfer and Stress Analysis.	Iran	Saudi Arabia
19.	Field-Test establishment.	Iran	Saudi Arabia
II-	MONEY, FINANCE AND CAPITAL FLOWS		
20.	Establishment of an Islamic Insurance-Reinsurance Corporation.	Turkey	
21.	Islamic Finance Corporation under the Auspices of the IDB.	Turkey	
22.	Multilateral Islamic Clearing Agency (Union).	Turkey	
23.	Development of a cohesive multi-year program for Training and Seminars to be conducted in Financial and Monetary Fields.		
24.	Compilation by SESRTCIC, in collaboration with IDB/IRTI of a Directory of Muslim Experts in the field of money, Banking and finance.	Turkey	
25.	Regular and Systematic Collection and dissemination of detailed data and information on the money, banking and finance activities in the member countries. Establishment by SESRTCIC, in collaboration with the IDB, of a set of database on the relevant activities comprising such data and information.	Turkey	
26.	Compilation by SERSTCIC, in collaboration with the IDB/IRTI of a Directory on Banks and Financial Institutions in the member countries.	Turkey	
III-	FOREIGN TRADE		
27.	A Mechanism for Systematic Collection and Dissemination Of Detailed Information on Tariff and Non-tariff Trade Barriers of the Member countries.	Turkey.	Burkina Faso, Oman
28.	Establishment of Islamic Trading House(s).	Turkey	
29.	A Mechanism for Integration of the OIC Member Countries to the World Trade System.	Turkey	Burkina Faso
30.	A Study on the Determination of the Economic Comparative Advantages of the OIC Member countries.	Turkey	Oman, Tunisia
31.	Creation of an Islamic Export Market Development Fund.	SESRTCIC	
32.	Collection and Collation of Statistical Information Regarding the Import Needs and Export Potential of Member Countries.	SESRTCIC	
33.	Development of a Joint Transportation Scheme for The Land-locked Member States.	SESRTCIC	

34.	Preparation of a Detailed Study of Trade Regulations And Procedures of Member States.	SESRTCIC	
35.	Development of a Joint Transportation Scheme for The Land-locked Member States.	ICCI	
36.	Import Management Facilities to be Provided by the National Chambers of the Member Countries.	ICCI	
37.	Program for Training of Trainers in the Area of International Trade.	ICDT	Burkina Faso
38.	Setting up of Regional Companies Specialized in Organization of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions.	ICDT	Burkina Faso
39.	Setting up of Permanent Exhibition Halls.	ICDT	
40.	Organizing a Permanent Virtual Goods Exhibition on The INTERNET Web site of the ICDT.	ICDT	

