

Original: English

REPORT OF THE 22nd MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

(Ankara, 13 May 2013)

1. The 22nd Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on May 13th, 2013 in Ankara, on the sideline of the 29th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. M. Metin EKER, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office, 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
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
- Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
- Organization of the Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA)

3. The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items:

- i. Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy
 - Utilizing the COMCEC Project Financing
 - The Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy
- ii. Experiences of the OIC Institutions in Realizing Their Activities
- iii. Enhancing Coordination Among the OIC Institutions
- iv. Any Other Business

Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy

4. Regarding the first agenda item, the representatives from the COMCEC Coordination Office made presentations on the COMCEC Strategy and the new COMCEC project funding mechanism, namely Project Cycle Management (PCM) introduced by the COMCEC Strategy. In the presentations, the participants were informed about the substance as well as the implementation mechanism of the

Strategy. The detailed information regarding the processes and procedures for submitting projects under the PCM was given. Following the presentations, the participants raised various questions and discussed the possible contributions of the OIC Institutions to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. In this respect, the representatives of the OIC Institutions conveyed their appreciations to the COMCEC Coordination Office and stated that all the cooperation areas as well as the output areas defined by the Strategy were within the mandate of the OIC Institutions. In this framework, they expressed their readiness to contribute effectively to the implementation of the Strategy.

5. Regarding the possible ways and means of the contribution of the OIC Institutions, the representatives shared their views and comments. Following the deliberations, the Meeting highlighted two possible methods to that end. The first method is related to the Project Cycle Management under which the OIC Institutions can submit their multilateral cooperation projects in line with the principles of the Strategy to COMCEC Coordination office for funding. It was acknowledged that soft projects such as capacity building and technical cooperation projects could be a feasible approach for realizing the objectives of the Strategy. These projects could also be utilized for preparing the ground and conducting the preparatory work for bigger projects. The second method would be to design the activities of the OIC Institutions in accordance with the objectives and principles of the COMCEC Strategy. Within this framework, it was agreed that the OIC Institutions would submit their list of activities aligned with the objectives and expected outputs of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Coordination Office by September 1st, 2013.

Experiences of the OIC Institutions in Realizing Their Activities

6. Concerning the second agenda item, the representatives of the OIC Institutions shared their experiences including obstacles and good practices in realizing their activities. Inadequate financial resources, low level of participation by the member countries in the activities, participation of experts not related with subject matter, low level of response from the Member Countries and inadequacy in submitting projects in proper channels were underlined as the main challenges. To address these difficulties, several proposals were made, among others, to ensure Member States' ownership in activities through communicating with them in designing the activities, aligning the activities in line with the priorities of the respective member countries, building an efficient focal point database in each OIC Institutions. Moreover, the participants discussed the ways and means of raising awareness of the OIC Institutions in the

Member States. Highlighting the OIC Institutions and their activities in relevant OIC fora through special sessions or side events / activities was considered quite important.

Enhancing Coordination Among the OIC Institutions

7. Under the third agenda item, the representatives of the OIC Institutions elaborated on ways and means of facilitating communication and coordination among themselves. The participants emphasized that occasional duplication of activities had demonstrated the need for effective coordination and cooperation. It was stressed that Institutions of the OIC should invite and participate each other's relevant activities more frequently. Participation in each other's activities and sharing the studies among the OIC Institutions would provide opportunity to benefit more efficiently from their works and experience. The Meeting highlighted the importance of designing activities in a complementary manner and also developing joint activities. Besides, modular programs shall be promoted. These programs would focus on the same issue but relevant OIC institutions would cover different aspects of the theme in a complementary manner in line with their mandate and scope of work. It was also agreed that the familiarization programs would be organized for enhancing coordination and communication among the OIC Institutions.

8. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks.

