

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 24th MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(Ankara, 6 May 2014)**

1. The 24th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on May 6th, 2014 in Ankara, on the sidelines of the 30th Meeting of 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 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 (SMIC)
- Organization of the Islamic Ship-owners Association (OISA)

3. The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items:

- i. Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy
- ii. Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions
 - Challenges/Problems Faced by the OIC Institutions in Coordinating their Activities
 - Conducting Joint Activities
 - Raising Awareness of the OIC Institutions' Activities
- iii. Any Other Business

Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy

4. Under the first agenda item, the representatives of the COMCEC Coordination Office briefly informed the Committee of the progress regarding the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy through the Working Groups and the Project Cycle Management (PCM).

5. Highlighting the significance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the realization of the COMCEC Strategy, the Committee reviewed the implementation status of the list of activities of the relevant OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy based on the cooperation areas namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation. The Committee was informed by the relevant OIC Institutions of their activities organized from October 2013 to May 2014. It was noted that the activities have mainly been concentrated on capacity building and training activities, seminars and workshops. Hence, the Committee stressed the need for diversifying the

cooperation areas as well as the types of activities. In this respect, the Committee highlighted the importance of including of research-type activities in the list of activities.

6. The Committee requested the relevant OIC Institutions to convey their list of planned activities for 2015, to the COMCEC Coordination Office by early October 2014.

7. The Committee also requested the concerned OIC Institutions to update their list of activities which has already been submitted for 2014.

(The list of activities organized by the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy between October 2013 and April 2014 as well as the List of Activities to be Organized by the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy (May 2014- December 2014) are attached as Annex I.)

Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the OIC Institutions

8. Regarding the first sub-item, the Committee discussed the challenges that the OIC Institutions faced in coordinating their activities and explored the possible ways for overcoming these challenges. The Committee underlined the importance of enhancing cooperation and coordination among the OIC Institutions as well as the regional and international organizations. It was expressed that low level of participation by the Member Countries in the Meeting, limited financial resources, restrictive visa regimes, attendance of the meetings by participants other than those of the relevant fields are some of the common challenges experienced by the Institutions.

9. The Committee noted some of the restrictions of the OIC Institutions in coordinating their activities arising from the assignments given to them by the high level OIC Forums and their annual programs as well as from their limited budgets.

10. Regarding the second sub-item, Conducting Joint Activities, the Committee elaborated on the added value of the joint activities organized by the OIC Institutions and stressed the importance of conducting joint activities which provide a synergy and serve to efficient resource mobilization. The Committee took note of the proposal to develop a model project including all the relevant OIC Institutions working in the field of economic and commercial cooperation and requested the IDB Group to study the idea and develop a set of criteria until the subsequent Sessional Committee Meeting. Annex V to OIC/COMCEC-FC/30-14/REP

11. The Committee discussed the importance of utilizing the ICT tools such as videoconference and teleconference with a view to improving the existing communication and coordination among the OIC Institutions. It was also highlighted that online registration systems may be utilized in the big events where a large number of participants attend.

12. The Committee deliberated on raising awareness of the Member Countries on the OIC Institutions' activities through workshops, seminars, panels, field visits and roadshows. In this respect, the OIC General Secretariat, the Member Countries and the Institutions were recognized as the key players in raising awareness. The Committee reiterated its request to the

OIC General Secretariat to study the feasibility of organizing “roadshows” in the Member Countries and on the sideline of high level OIC Meetings.

Any Other Business

13. The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

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