

REPORT and RESOLUTIONS
OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC

Istanbul, 18 - 21 October 2001

COMCEC Coordination Office
Ankara, October 2001

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PART ONE

RESOLUTIONS OF THE OIC FORMING
THE BASIS AND GUIDING ACTIVITIES
OF THE COMCEC

I

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE THIRD ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE ESTABLISHING THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE OIC CHAIRED BY HEADS OF STATE

Resolution No. 13/3-P(IS)

The Third Islamic Summit Conference (Palestine and Al-Quds Session), meeting in Mecca Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 19th to 22nd Rabi-Al-Awal, 1401 H. (25-28 January, 1981);

Having listened to the proposals by His Majesty King HASSAN II, Chairman of Al-Quds Committee, that three committees will be established and chaired by the Kings and Presidents of the Islamic States,

Proceeding from a firm belief that joint Islamic action needs to be consolidated in the scientific and technological field, and in the economic and trade sphere,

Prompted by the desire to give information and culture a fresh impetus to help world public opinion understand the basic issues of the Islamic nations, particularly those of Al- Quds and Palestine, and to confront the tendentious campaign launched against Islam and Muslims,

DECIDES:

- I. To establish three Standing Committees, the first for scientific and technological cooperation, the second for economic and trade cooperation, and the third for information and cultural affairs;
- II. These Committees shall undertake to follow up implementation of the resolutions passed, or about to be passed, by the Islamic Conference in those fields; to study all possible means of strengthening cooperation among Muslim States in those fields, and to draw up programmes and submit proposals designed to increase the Islamic States' capacity in those fields;

III. Each Committee shall consist of the representatives of ten Islamic States, at ministerial level, and shall be chaired by the Head of State of an Islamic State;

IV. Members of these Committees shall be elected by the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference for a renewable term of three years;

V. A Committee shall hold a meeting, if invited to do so by its Chairman or by a majority of its members; its meeting shall be valid if attended by a majority.

II

**FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE FOURTH ISLAMIC
SUMMIT CONFERENCE ENTRUSTING THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
TO H.E. KENAN EVREN, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

Final Communique No. IS/4-84/E/DEC

"... The Conference decided to entrust H.E. Mr. Kenan EVREN, President of the Republic of Turkey, with the Chairmanship of the Permanent Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation..." (Page 18, para 40).

III

RESOLUTION NO. 31/9-E(IS)
ON
ACTIVITIES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION (COMCEC)

The Ninth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, Session of Peace and Development "Al-Aqsa Intifada" held in Doha, State of Qatar, from 16 to 17 Sha; a; 1421H (12 - 13 November 2000),

Recalling Resolution No. 27/8-E (IS) adopted by the Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Also recalling Resolution No. 2/6-E(IS) of the Sixth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal on 9-11 December 1991 on the activities of the COMCEC mandating it to formulate new Strategies for the enhancement of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States and to take appropriate action for its implementation;

Recalling Resolution No. 8/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994) which endorsed the Strategy and the Plan of Action;

Recalling Resolution No. 30/27-E adopted by the Twenty-seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling the resolution of the Ministerial level meetings in different areas of cooperation held under the auspices of the COMCEC.

Also recalling the Resolutions adopted at the sixteen previous sessions of the COMCEC initiating effective action in economic cooperation among Member States, particularly in the area of trade;

Further recalling the deliberations of the World Food Summit held in Rome from 13 to 17 November, 1996 and considering the crucial importance for the survival of humankind including the well-being of the people of the Islamic Ummah, of the principles and commitments embodied in Rome declaration on World Food Security and the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit.

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the General Secretariat, subsidiary organs, affiliated and specialized institutions of OIC, working in the field of economy and trade, to implement the Resolutions of the COMCEC;

Recognizing the importance for the Member States of the new economic configurations emerging at the global level particularly from the creation of regional economic groupings and signing of the Uruguay Round Agreements and creation of the World Trade Organization and its subsequent Agreements;

Appreciating that starting with its Eleventh Session, COMCEC serves as a platform where the Ministers of Economy could exchange views on current world economic issues and, that the topics "Implications of the Uruguay Round of trade Negotiations and the Establishment of the World Trade Organization on the external trade of OIC Member States", "Privatization Experiences in Member States", "Implications of Regional Economic Groupings particularly the European Union on the Economies of Member States", "Intra-OIC Trade and Investment and Economic Stabilisation and Structural Reforms in Member States" and "Human Resource Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation in the Member States of the OIC", "Strengthening of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Facing Globalisation and Liberalisation" were the themes for the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th 15th and 16th Sessions of the COMCEC, respectively.

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General,

1. **Stresses** the need for COMCEC to continue to pay utmost attention to coordination and cooperation among Member States with regard to the membership of new countries that wish to join the World Trade Organization, and to the clarification of positions on the new issues and agreements under consideration within the framework of the WTO, with a view to strengthening the negotiating position of these countries at the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations especially with respect to the built in agenda and to the new ones.

2. **Expresses satisfaction** that the Islamic Development Bank has successfully carried out the mandate given by COMCEC to organise Coordination Meetings for Member States to consult among themselves and better prepare for the WTO Ministerial Meetings held in Singapore from 9 to 13 December 1996, in Geneva from 18-20 May 1998 and in Seattle from 30 November to 03 December 1999 respectively with a view to assisting them to adopt a common stand regarding the issues raised in the Agenda of those meetings.

3. **Appreciates** the technical assistance programmes being designed by the Islamic Development Bank to assist Member States which are either members of the WTO or in the process of accession to the Organization, and the role of the Bank in calling for consultative meetings of Member States and the Seminars and Workshops it organizes for this purpose.

4. **Notes with appreciation** that the Strategy for Economic and Commercial Cooperation adopted by the COMCEC allows for cooperation among sub-groups of Member States and is based on the principles giving emphasis to private sector, economic liberalization, integration with the world economy, sanctity of the economic, political, legal and constitutional structures of the Member States and their international obligations.

5. **Also notes with appreciation** that the revised Plan of Action is a general and flexible policy document open for improvement during its implementation in

accordance with the provisions stipulated in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.

6. **Appreciates** the efforts of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry in organizing Private Sector Meetings as directed by the COMCEC for an effective implementation of the Plan of Action.

7. **Also appreciates** the efforts of the State of Qatar for organizing the Seventh Private Sector Meeting (15-18 October 2000) and to host the 8th Islamic Trade Fair on 15-20 October 2000.

8. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Guinea to host the 8th and 11th Private Sector Meetings in 2001 and 2004 respectively and the offer of the State of the UAE to host the 9th Private Sector Meeting in 2002, and calls on Member States to encourage their private sectors to actively participate in these meetings.

9. **Takes note** of the request made by the State of United Arab Emirates to replace Senegal as host of the 9th Islamic Trade Fair together with the 9th Private Sector Meeting in 2002 and invites the two parties, as agreed, to complete their consultations and notify COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT the results of such consultations.

10. **Further welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Guinea to host the 10th Islamic Trade Fair in 2004 and calls upon Member States to actively participate in these Islamic Trade Fairs and welcomes initiatives of Member States to hold these Trade Fairs in future, to the extent possible, concurrently with some high level meetings.

11. **Emphasizes** the need to urgently implement the revised Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States the OIC, in compliance with the principles and operational modalities of the Strategy and the procedures set forth in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.

12. **Requests** the Member States to take appropriate measures including necessary cooperation, coordination and consultation among themselves to make efforts with the required possible economic and technical support from the developed countries, international community and relevant international organizations and financial institutions to increase their food production capacity with a view to arriving at national food security as well as enhancing the purchasing power of their people.

13. **Invites** the Member States to host sectoral Expert Group Meetings in those priority areas of cooperation in the Plan of Action where no Expert Group Meeting has taken place so far.

14. **Welcomes** the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host two sectoral Expert Group Meetings in the area of "Transport and Communications" and "Food, Agriculture and Rural Development" of the Plan of Action.

15. **Notes with appreciation** the hosting of the sectoral Expert Group Meeting in the area of "Money, Finance and Capital Flows" by the government of the Republic of Turkey, on 1-3 September 1997 in Istanbul.

16. **Notes with appreciation** the hosting of a sectoral Expert Group Meeting on Foreign Trade, within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action by the government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 24-25 October 1997 in Karachi.

17. **Notes with appreciation** the hosting of the sectoral Expert Group Meeting in the area of Technological and Technical Cooperation by the government of the Republic of Turkey from May 6-8, 1998.

18. **Thanks** the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Third OIC Ministerial Conference on Posts and Telecommunications from 8-11 July 1996 and calls upon the Follow-up Committee to monitor implementation of the relevant resolutions and the Tehran Declaration.

19. **Thanks also** the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the First OIC Ministerial Conference on Tourism from 2-4 October, 2000 in Isfahan and welcomes the offer of Malaysia to host the Second OIC Ministerial Conference on Tourism.

20. **Invites** IDB to continue its active support in view of ensuring effective and urgent implementation of the revised Plan of Action.

21. **Welcomes** the hosting of Seminar-Workshop by the Republic of Senegal in cooperation with IDB to familiarize the African member states with the Plan of Action, and recommends that similar seminars be held in other regions and sub-regions of OIC.

22. **Notes with appreciation** the holding of an International Seminar on "Human Resources Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation in the Member States of the OIC" by the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT) in collaboration with SESRTCIC, ICDT, ICCI. IDB and the Government of Bangladesh in Dhaka from 11-13 April 1999, report of which constituted a major input to the exchange of views on the subject that took place during the 15th Session of the COMCEC.

23. **Notes with appreciation** the holding of an international conference on "Strengthening Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Facing Globalization and Liberalization" by SESRTCIC in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the United Arab Emirates, the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Islamic Development Bank in Abu Dhabi, from 21 to 22 May 2000. ICDT, ICCI and IIT also participated actively by presenting papers. The outcome of the conference constituted a major input to the exchange of views' session on the subject during the 16th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul on 23-26 October 2000.

24. **Recognizes** that the Exchange of Views organized during the annual sessions of the COMCEC would be utilized to coordinate the positions of the Member States vis-a-vis major world economic issues.

25. **Notes with appreciation** the offer of the government of the Republic of Sudan to host sectoral Expert Group Meeting on "Energy and Mining" and "Human Resources Development."
26. **Notes with appreciation** the offer of the Republic of Gabon to organise a sub-regional seminar for the OIC States of Central and East Africa on "the role of IDB in the promotion of the private sector" in cooperation with IDB and the other concerned institutions of the OIC.
27. **Welcomes** the offer of Burkina Faso to host a regional workshop on Industry for East, West and Central African OIC member states in cooperation with the IDB and other related OIC institutions.
28. **Welcomes** the offer of the State of Palestine to host a sectoral Expert Group Meeting on "Labour and Social Issues" and a Workshop on "Environment and Population."
29. **Notes with appreciation** the offer of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an Expert Group Meeting in the area of Health and Sanitary Issues to be followed by a Ministerial meeting on the same topic.
30. **Notes with appreciation** the decision taken at the 16th Session of COMCEC to the effect that an open-ended expert group meeting will be convened before the 17th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC to explore all possible ways means of accelerating the implementation of the Plan of Action, to be hosted by the Republic of Turkey.
31. **Welcomes** the offer of Indonesia to host an International Workshop on Employment and Manpower Exchange.
32. **Welcomes** the offer of Arab Republic of Egypt to host a OIC Ministerial Meeting to promote intra-OIC trade.

33. Notes with appreciation that the 17th Session of the COMCEC and the 17th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee will be held from 18-21 October, 2001 and 8-10 May, 2001 respectively in Istanbul and calls upon the Member States to effectively and actively participate in the session.

34. Requests the Secretary General to submit a report thereon to the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference.

PART TWO

LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS AND REPORT
OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

I

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENT CONSIDERED
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 18-21 October 2001)

Original: English

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 18-21 October 2001)

	<u>Document Code</u>
1. Draft Agenda of the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/A
2. Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat..	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(1)
3. Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries-2001 by SESRTCIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(2)
4. International Financial Architecture and Implications for the OIC Countries by SESRTCIC	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(3)
5. Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/17-01/REP
6. Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(9)
7. Report of the Expert Group meeting for Accelerating the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Economic and Commercial Cooperation.....	OIC/COMCEC/EGM-PA/01/REP
8. Report by IDB on Expansion of Intra-Trade Among OIC/IDB Member Countries.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(10)
9. Annual Report by ICDT on Inter-Islamic Trade.	OIC/COMCEC/17-01 /D(21)
10. Progress Report on IDB's Technical Assistance to Member Countries in Matters Related to WTO.	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(11)
11. Report by ICDT on Issues Relating to the Activities of the World Trade Organization.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(12)
12. Report by ICCI on the Eighth Private Sector Meeting for the Promotion of Trade and Joint Venture Investment Among Islamic Countries and Conakry Economic Declaration.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(19)

	<u>Document Code</u>
13. Report of the Workshop by ICDT on "The Effects of Non Tariff Barriers on Trade Expansion Between the OIC Member States".....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(18)
14. Report by the OIC General Secretariat on Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic States.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(20)
15. Developments in Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Policies in OIC Countries by SESRTCIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(6)
16. Additional Documents presented by SESRTCIC on "WTO Agreements and Implications for the OIC Countries", "Practical Steps and Possible Consequences of Establishing an Islamic Common Market" and "Possible Methods for Establishing the Islamic Stock Exchange and Clearing Union".....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(5)
17. The WTO Agreements on Non-Tariff Barriers and Implications for the OIC Member States by SESRTCIC	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(4)
18. Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(24)
19. Report of the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism of the OIC Member States by OIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(22)
20. Report on the Activities of the Islamic Chamber to the 17 th Session of COMCEC.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(7)
21. Paper Prepared by ICCI on the Role of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in "Alleviating Non-Tariff Barriers and Facilitating Trade".....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(8)
22. Trade Preferential Arrangements Between Developing Countries and WTO Rules by WTO.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(29)
23. Assessing South-South Regional Integration: Same Issues, Many Metrics by UNCTAD.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(25)
24. Internal Regulations of the Trade Fair of Islamic Countries by ICDT.....	OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(13)

Document Code

25. Vice-Chancellor's Report on the Activities of Islamic University of Technology.....OIC/COMCEC/1 7-01 D(15)
26. Hffects of Non-Tariff Barriers on the foreign Trade of the Member Stales of the OIC by IUT.....OIC/COMCEC / 1 7-01 D(14)
27. Report of the Follow-up Committee of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism.....OIC COMCEC/ 17-01/D(27)
28. Paper on the Activities of the Organization of the Islamic Shipowners Association.....OICCOMCEC/17-01 D(28)
29. Report by ICDT on the Ninth Islamic Trade FairOIC/COMCEC/7-01/D(17)
30. The Trade Preferential System Among the OIC Member Stales presented by ICDT.....OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(23)
31. Report on the Consultative Meeting of OIC Member Countries for the Preparation of the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference by IDB.....OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D(30)
32. Country Reports anchor written presentations on the "Effects of Non-Tariff Barriers on the Foreign Trade of the Member Countries".....OIC COMCFC 1 7-01
 - Albania
 - Azerbaijan
 - Bangladesh
 - Cameroon
 - Egypt
 - Ciutinea
 - Indonesia
 - Irak
 - Jordan
 - Kuwait
 - Mali
 - Morocco
 - Nigeria
 - S\ ria
 - Tunisia
 - Turkey
 - Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
 - Qatar

II

REPORT
OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR
ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

(Istanbul, 18-21 October 2001)

Original : English

**REPORT
OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION**

(İstanbul, 18-21 October 2001)

1. The Seventeenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) was held from 18-21 October 2001. The Session was preceded by the Meeting of Senior Officials on 18-19 October, held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Akin İZMİRLİOĞLU, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey, to consider items of the Draft Agenda and prepare Draft Resolutions.

2. The Session was attended by the representatives of the following Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC):

1. Republic of Albania
2. Peoples Democratic Republic of Algeria
3. Republic of Azerbaijan
4. State of Bahrain
5. People's Republic of Bangladesh
6. Negara Brunei Darussalam
7. Burkina Faso
8. Republic of Cameroon
9. Arab Republic of Egypt
10. Republic of Guinea
11. Republic of Indonesia
12. Islamic Republic of Iran
13. Republic of Iraq
14. Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

15. Republic of Lebanon
16. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
17. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
18. State of Kuwait
19. Kyrgyz Republic
20. Malaysia
21. Republic of Mali
22. Kingdom of Morocco
23. Mozambique
24. Federal Republic of Nigeria
25. Sultanate of Oman
26. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
27. State of Palestine
28. State of Qatar
29. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
30. Republic of Senegal
31. Republic of Sierra Leone
32. Republic of Sudan
33. Syrian Arab Republic
34. Republic of Tajikistan
35. Republic of Tunisia
36. Republic of Turkey
37. Republic of Turkmenistan
38. Republic of Uganda
39. State of the United Arab Emirates
40. Republic of Uzbekistan
41. Republic of Yemen

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kingdom of Thailand, participated in the Session as observers and the Republic of Macedonia as guest.

3. The Session was attended by the OIC General Secretariat, and the following subsidiary, affiliated and specialized OIC institutions:

1. Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)
2. Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT)
3. Islamic University of Technology (IUT)
4. Islamic Research Center for History, Culture and Art (IRCICA)
5. Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
6. Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment in Export Credit (ICIEC)
7. Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)
8. Organization of Shipowners Association (OISA)

4. The Session was also attended by the representatives of the following international organizations:

1. Economic Committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
2. Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
3. Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC)
4. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
5. World Trade Organization (WTO)
6. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

(A copy of the List of Participants of the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex 1.)

Opening Session

5. The Opening Ceremony of the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC was held under the chairmanship of H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC.

6. H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, in welcoming the delegates to Istanbul, expressed his thanks and appreciations to the Member States, the OIC General Secretariat and other OIC institutions for their continuing interest and constructive contributions to the work of the COMCEC. H.E. SEZER stated that globalization necessitated a fair distribution of opportunities as well as risks, indicated that the world was as yet far from this fair distribution. H.E. SEZER, touching upon the widening income gap between rich and poor countries of the world, stressed the importance of joint efforts to alleviate poverty worldwide. President SEZER stated that in an era of economic alliances, economic cooperation constitutes an excellent opportunity for the Member Countries. H.E. SEZER concluded his address by wishing success to the delegates.

(A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER is attached as Annex 2.)

7. H.E. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ, Secretary General of the OIC also addressed the Session. In his statement, H.E. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ expressed his profound thanks and appreciation to H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC for his wisdom in guiding the work of the COMCEC. He also thanked the Government of the Republic of Turkey for its active interest in promoting economic cooperation among the OIC Member States. H.E. BELKEZIZ stressed the importance of the recommendations of the Experts Group Meeting on Accelerating the Implementation of the Plan of Action, which would be considered by COMCEC and highlighted that promotion of political will was the key recommendation in this regard.

(A copy of the address of H.E. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ, Secretary General of the OIC is attached as Annex 3.)

8. The Heads of Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Azerbaijan and Mozambique made statements on behalf of the Arab, Asian and African OIC groups of Member States, respectively. In their statements, they expressed their thanks and appreciation to H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER for his wise guidance as the Chairman of the COMCEC. The Heads of Delegation referring to the importance of actual implementation of the resolutions of the COMCEC, stressed the need for further strengthening economic cooperation among the Member States. They also thanked the President, the Government and People of Turkey for their continued support to economic cooperation among OIC Member States as well as for the warm welcome and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

(The texts of the Statements made on behalf of the Arab, Asian and African Member States are attached as Annexes 4, 5 and 6 respectively.)

9. In his statement delivered at the opening ceremony, H.E. Ahmed Mohamed ALI, the President of the Islamic Development Bank, summed up the activities of the Islamic Development Bank and highlighted the progress achieved by the Bank in terms of the tasks assigned to it by the COMCEC.

(The text of the Statement of the President of IDB is attached as Annex 7.)

10. Following the Opening Ceremony, H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER received the Heads of Delegation.

Ministerial Working Session

11. The Ministerial Working Session of the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Devlet BAHÇELİ, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey.

12. The Ministers adopted the Draft Agenda of the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC and decided to take up Agenda Item 8 on the Exchange of Views on "The Effects of Non-Tariff Barriers on Foreign Trade of the Member Countries".

(The Agenda of the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex 8.)

13. H.E. Dr. Akın İZMİRLİOĞLU, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting, made a presentation summarizing the outcome of the deliberations of the Senior Officials on "The Effects of Non-Tariff Barriers on Foreign Trade of the Member Countries".

(The text of presentation of the Chairman of the Senior Officials is attached as Annex 9.)

14. Thereafter, the Heads of Delegation of the Republic of Turkey, State of Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Iraq, Republic of Guinea, State of Kuwait, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Tunisia, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of Nigeria, Republic of Mali, Republic of Indonesia, Arab Republic of Egypt and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus presented their country reports on "The Effects of Non-Tariff Barriers on Foreign Trade of the Member Countries".

(Country reports, submitted in writing, are available separately).

OIC/COMCEC/17-01/REP

15. The Ministers then adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/17-01/RES(1) and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/17-01/RES(2).

(Resolution OIC/COMCEC/17-01/RES(1) and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/17-01/RES(2) are attached as Annexes 10 and 11.)

16. The Ministers considered and approved the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting for Accelerating the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (EGM) contained in the Report (OIC/COMCEC/EGM-PA/01/REP).

(The Report of the EGM is attached as Annex 12.)

17. The Sessional Committee met on 19 October 2001 and was attended by the representative of the General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRTCIC, ICDT, ICCI, IUT, OISA and IDB. The Meeting concluded its report..

(The Report of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex 13.)

Closing Session

18. The Closing Session of the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC was held under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Devlet BAHÇELİ, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey.

19. A resume of Resolutions adopted at the Ministerial Session was given by H.E. Ambassador Qazi HŪMAYUN, Head of Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Rapporteur of the Meeting.

20. At a special ceremony, during the Closing Session, the Statute of the Islamic Council of Civil Aviation was signed by the State of Qatar, the Agreement on the Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments was signed by the Syrian Arab Republic and the Statute for the Standards and

Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries and the Statute of the Islamic Council of Civil Aviation were signed by Burkina Faso.

21. In his statement delivered at the Closing Session, H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ, Secretary General of OIC, stressed the significance of the outcome of the Seventeenth Session of COMCEC, particularly the approval of the recommendation on accelerating the implementation of the Plan of Action. Referring to the exchange of views held during the Session, he said that the various recommendations adopted by the Session on removal of non-tariff barriers would contribute towards expanding intra-OIC trade. He praised the keen interest and wise guidance of H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER and the Government of the Republic of Turkey in promoting economic cooperation among Member States. He also assured the meeting of the full cooperation of the OIC General Secretariat in the implementation of the decisions of COMCEC.

(The text of the Statement of the Secretary General of the OIC, is attached as Annex 14.)

22. In his statement made on behalf of all participating countries, H.E. Monnet Leon Emmanuel, Minister of Mining and Energy and Head of Delegation of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire expressed his deep appreciation for the significant results achieved at the Session and for the wise and able leadership and keen interest of President Ahmet Necdet SEZER in achieving the objectives of the OIC economic cooperation. He also extended profound thanks to H.E. Devlet BAHÇELİ, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, for his excellent manner in presiding over the Meeting. He also thanked the General Secretariat, COMCEC the Coordination Office and the subsidiary, affiliated and specialized institutions of the OIC, for their contributions to the successful conclusion of the Meeting.

23. In his closing statement, H.E. Dr. Devlet BAHÇELİ, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the delegations, the General Secretariat and the relevant OIC institutions, as well as to the representatives of the other international organizations for their valuable efforts and constructive contributions to the work of the Standing Committee and to the supporting staff and interpreters for their tireless efforts which contributed to the success of the Meeting. Highlighting the significance of promoting cooperation among the private sectors and expansion of trade, H.E. BAHÇELİ underlined the importance of a trade-oriented cooperation. H.E. BAHÇELİ indicating that expanding the export capacities of the member countries is vital for the intra-OC economic cooperation, stressed the significance of the decisions taken at the Session and wished delegates a safe journey home.

(The text of the closing statement of H.E. BAHÇELİ is attached as Annex 15.)

ANNEXES

- 1 -

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
OF THE
SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE
COMCEC

(Istanbul, 18-21 October 2001)

Original: English

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE
SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE
COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 18-21 October 2001)

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- MR. ILIR KODRA
Expert in Policy Trade Department, Ministry of Economic Co-operation and Trade

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- MR. MEHILA MESSAOUD
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REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

- H.E. FARHAD ALIYEV
Minister of Economic Development
- MR. ALTAI EFENDIYEV
Economic Advisor, Head of Economic Co-operation and Development Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- MR. ULVI SEYIDZADE
Director, Investments and International Economic Co-operation Department
Ministry of Economic Development

STATE OF BAHRAIN

- H.E. IBRAHIM ALI AL MAJED
Ambassador to Egypt

- MR. FERAS AL KHALIFA
Economist

PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

- H.E. NAZIMULLAH CHOWDHURY
Ambassador to Turkey

NEGARA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

- H.E. DATO ABDUL SAMAN KAHAR
Ambassador to Riyadh
- MR. SULAINI SAID
Second Secretary

BURKINA FASO

- H.E. OUMAR DIAWARA
Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia & Permanent Representative to the OIC
- MR. JEAN BAPTISTE KAMBIRE
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General Inspector, Ministry of Development and Industrial Cooperation
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Commercial Consul in the Commercial Office in Istanbul

- MR. AYMAN MOUCHARAFA
Consul, Egyptian Consulate in Istanbul
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Chief of Division, DNCC/MCIPME
- MR. BASSY CAMARA
Chief of Section OCI
- MR. ORHAN ARGÜN
Consul General

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Expert. Co-ordinator for Documentation
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Expert, Protocol
- MR. FATİH ÜNLÜ
Expert. Drafting
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- MR. TAYFUR YÜKSEL
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- MR. CAFER ERDOĞAN
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- MR. SEYİT AMBARKÜTÜK
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- 2 -

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF H.E.AHMET NECDET SEZER,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

Original: Turkish

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY H.E. AHMET NECDET SEZER,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

Honorable Ministers,
Honorable Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,

I greet all of you with my warmest feelings and welcome you to Istanbul, one of the important centers of the Islamic civilization. I am also pleased to be with you on the occasion of the COMCEC Session.

As the Chairman of this organization I feel a particular enthusiasm and happiness to host the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the brotherly Member States of the Islamic Conference as well as all the delegations and affiliated institutions, for their unfailing interest in the work of the COMCEC and their valuable contribution to the work of the Committees.

I would also like to welcome His Excellency Abdelauahed BELKEZIZ, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, who is attending a COMCEC Session for the first time and wish him success in his important mission.

Unfortunately, we hold this year's conference at a difficult period for both the world and the Islamic community. These difficult conditions demonstrate the necessity for our countries, who have come together in the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to further develop their solidarity and cooperation to higher levels.

The Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference held a beneficial meeting last week. It is very important that our Ministers condemned the acts of terrorism, took a position against violence and adopted an attitude of common

sense vis-à-vis terrorism at this meeting. We believe that the common ground on which the Islamic community is united will pave the way to further deepen the cooperation among us.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank my brother, Sheikh Hamid bin Halifah, Emir of Qatar for hosting this important conference.

Distinguished Delegates,

Terrorism, which aims at the lives of innocent people and constitute a crime against humanity, is an increasing threat to the peace and stability in the world.

The atrocious attacks perpetrated against the United States on 11 September 2001 demonstrated that terrorism has acquired a disruptive potential, unequalled in any era of history, in terms of both its technological means and the size of its targets. The recent attacks proved that no country, society or individual is immune from the threat of terrorism.

These attacks have also shown how necessary is for the world public opinion and the international community to adopt a clear-cut and resolute attitude against terrorism and develop a more effective cooperation.

Now is the right time to mobilize to set up a legal framework as the basis for an efficient cooperation against terrorism, for which Turkey has been calling for years and receiving, unfortunately, no sufficient support. The activities initiated in this context to strengthen cooperation against terrorism at various international organizations and fora, and to cooperate on an adequate legal platform, are very promising. Turkey will continue to play an active role in the international cooperation schemes and to contribute to the efforts aimed at bringing about a common understanding in this respect.

An important factor of the fight against terrorism at global level is to prevent the deepening of and eliminate in time, the gap between rich and poor nations. While taking benefit of the vast opportunities offered by globalization, any step which would make the rich richer and the poor poorer must be carefully avoided. Alleviation of

poverty, is one of the most urgent problems of our world, will certainly make a great contribution to the efforts of fighting against terrorism.

On the other hand, I would like to stress that we earnestly wish that the sufferings of the Afghan people will cease and that Afghanistan will have a regime which will provide it with development in stability and prosperity.

Terrorism has no religion, race, geography or ethnic identity. Regardless of their origin terrorist attacks must be countered with the same resolution. We take every occasion to emphasize that it would be a big mistake to identify the 11 September attacks with Islam. No matter who the perpetrators are the terrorist acts targeting the USA, are attacks on the common human values which constitute the essence of Islam too. We all must maintain, without any concession, this fight against international terrorism, in order to prevent any connection between these attacks and Islam.

It must be our mission, as the leaders of the Islamic communities, to bring a contribution to universal peace by mobilizing the values upon which the Islamic civilization is based on such as justice, tolerance and social solidarity, which would open new horizons for all nations.

We regard the COMCEC and the other OIC institutions as the fora which will enable such an opening.

Honorable Ministers,
Honorable Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,

Failure in establishing the long-desired peace and stability in the Middle East prevents the peoples of this region who owns rich natural resources from attaining the economic and social development they deserve.

We held our conference last year in an environment where hopes for peace in the Middle East were dimmed and conflicts giving concern to all of us were resumed. Unfortunately, during the year that elapsed, there has been no significant step towards peace, and many people lost their life in the region. May those who lost their life in these very tragic events find eternal peace in God.

It is our common wish that such events be not repeated, that common sense prevail and that our Palestinian brothers will soon achieve a fair and just agreement which will safeguard all their rights recognized by the international community, first and foremost the right to establish their own state.

Honorable Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,

Thanks to its activities of the last 17 years, COMCEC, which is responsible for the development of economic and commercial cooperation among our brotherly countries, has finalized and implemented numerous projects in the field of economic and commercial cooperation, and acquired extensive experience in the field of cooperation, thanks to the valuable contributions of the Member States and the OIC affiliated institutions.

In this age of constant change, the content and methods of international cooperation acquire different dimensions. I believe that the COMCEC, which has proven to be successful in the implementation of the specific projects, will achieve similar success in developing the physical, financial and legal infrastructure of cooperation.

The fact that the OIC, while constituting our 20 per cent of the world population and territory, with over 50 per cent share of the reserves of certain basic raw materials, has a mere 4 percent share of global production. Points to the need to focus on development in parallel to the cooperation among our brotherly countries. The studies undertaken so far has proven that efforts for economic cooperation among countries which have attained a certain level of development are more successful. I believe, therefore, that we need to develop additional mechanisms to support the development efforts of all Member States.

The intensive competition in world markets and the international climate which motivates even the most developed countries to form economic alliances makes an effective economic cooperation an important opportunity for our countries. I believe that we should take benefit of the concept of brotherhood and solidarity, intrinsic in the Islamic Faith and cooperation among our Member States as gain.

On the other hand, we are of the opinion that the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with the experience it has accumulated as one of the well-established international organizations of the world, must become a guiding force of international economy.

Globalization requires that opportunities as well as risks must be fairly distributed. However, looking at the indicators, we note that our world is as yet far from a fair distribution. While developed countries, thanks to their economic and technological superiority make greater use of the opportunities offered by globalization, this phenomenon brings the developing countries face to face with the serious problems of widening trade deficits, an increasingly deteriorating income distribution, and consequently, with social strife and increased brain drain. The gap between the per capita national income of the richest and poorest countries of the world is around 500 times, even according to the optimistic indicators. Adding to this picture the income differences within the countries, problems of income distribution appear in more striking dimensions.

International peace, harmony and stability will inevitably be adversely affected unless the growing chasm between the prosperity levels of various countries are bridged.

The population of the least developed and lowest income countries among the OIC Member States is approximately 67 per cent of the entire population of all the Member States of this Organization. Poverty and its consequent problems affect the brotherly countries. Therefore, our primary concern must be to fight against problems such as poverty, the vicious circle of external debt, underdevelopment, hunger and illiteracy.

In this context, while seeking for ways and means to draw greater benefits from the opportunities offered by globalization, we must also develop measures to avoid any possible threats to this process. We would be able to compete with greater security in this international race if our brotherly countries would share their accumulated experiences in this respect within the framework of the COMCEC. I am convinced, moreover, that our prestigious specialized institutions will, as usual enlighten us by their competent work.

Honorable Secretary General,
Distinguished Guests,

It is important to closely observe the developments in the World Trade Organization system, expected to play a prominent role in the integration of the economies of the member states and sustain the cooperation already started in this field. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Islamic Development Bank for providing technical assistance to the OIC Member States and believe that its valuable contribution will continue in the future.

Turkey believes that regional and international peace and stability can be sustained through cooperation and solidarity. In this context, Turkey has pioneered in the integration movements such as the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), and D-8 and played an important role in the revival of the Organization of Economic Cooperation. Turkey actively participates in organizations such as G-20.

The current meetings hosted by Turkey have been initiated in this spirit. Our main goal is also to spread prosperity and peace among the Islamic countries too, by laying the infrastructure for regional cooperation as regards the activities within the COMCEC structure. The COMCEC has undertaken important work to attain its main goals, however it needs to be more effective. There are certain delays in the implementation of the Action Plan, which constitutes the basic text of reference for the economic cooperation activities conducted in the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. This text must be reviewed, in the light of the current international and regional developments.

I note with satisfaction that a Meeting of the Experts Group was held in Istanbul last May to deal with the issue of accelerating the implementation of the Plan of Action for Economic Cooperation which forms the basis for the COMCEC activities, and that the difficulties encountered were examined and some recommendations made. I believe that you will carefully evaluate the recommendations of the Experts Group submitted by the COMCEC Follow-up Committee, which convened subsequently.

These recommendations include concrete steps, such as setting up the project committees ensuring the efficacy of activities, setting up a project financing system and bringing about a more effective participation of the private sector in the COMCEC

activities. Another remarkable aspect of the recommendations is the emphasis put on the need for a more resolute political will for economic and commercial cooperation on the part of the OIC Member States.

Political will with respect to the acceptance and ratification of certain cooperation agreements, prepared and opened to signature in the framework of the COMCEC over the past years, bears a particular and vital significance. For example, the Framework Agreement for a Trade Preferential System, though adopted at the 6th COMCEC Session in 1990, was signed by 22 Member States in the eleven years that elapsed since then, but has been ratified by only 8 countries. I hope that the number of the ratifying countries will soon reach 10 so that this significant Agreement will come into force.

It is well known that this agreement defines the framework and institutional dimension of the trade negotiations among member countries. It does not include any concrete concessions, but establishes the procedure for the negotiation of concessions. I expect the honorable delegates to make the necessary effort to have this Agreement effectively enforced in their countries.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

A world economy in recession, decrease in foreign trade and economic crises in some countries have created a new and worrisky situation because of the climate of unrest and unsuitability caused by the recent terrorist acts. We must therefore take urgent steps to expand economic relations and increase trade among our countries.

Today, world trade is still beset by under numerous restrictions, in spite of the important reductions in customs tariffs resulting from the World Trade Organization Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Such restrictions, implemented under various names such as quotas, antidumping, technical arrangement, and standards, have adverse effects on the trade and development performances of developing countries.

I would like to state that, we deem it quite significant and appropriate that the topic of the exchange of views meeting to be held concurrently with the COMCEC Session this year is "The Implications of Non-Tariff Barriers for the Foreign Trade of

the Member States". Starting from the premise that an important step on the road to the development trade is to eliminate non-tariff barriers of a technical or administrative nature, I believe that the COMCEC will make significant contributions in this respect.

The steps taken on the way to economic integration and expansion in the framework of the European Union will have inevitable consequences on our countries forming the Organization of the Islamic Conference. After completing its expansion process during the next decade, the European Union will become a more important economic actor of global dimensions.

I believe that it would be of advantage for member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to closely observe the EU experience, and to recreate the conditions appropriate for their economies and industries in order to increase their share of international trade. International experience demonstrates that regional integration movements enhance the efficacy and competitive edge of the firms and sectors.

A final point I would like to make is that it is necessary that our private sector, which is the motivating force of our national economies, should take a more active part in COMCEC activities and develop cooperation among themselves.

As decided at our Session last year, the federations of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the OIC Member States must be encouraged to develop closer cooperation with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and participate in the programs aimed at developing trade and investments among Islamic countries.

I conclude my remarks hoping that you will spend productive and pleasant days in Istanbul, wishing you success in your work, which I am confident will yield beneficial results in further developing economic cooperation among our countries.

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ADDRESS OF H.E. DR. ABDELOUAHED 8ELKEZIZ ,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

STATEMENT BY K E. DR. ABDELLOL'AHED BELKEZIZ, SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE 17TH SESSION OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
(COMCEC)

(Istanbul, 18-21 October, 2001)

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Turkey
and the Chairman of the COMCEC,

Excellencies the Ministers,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

It is indeed a great privilege and pleasure for me to be able to attend this important session of COMCEC for the first time making it particularly significant for me. On this occasion (would like extend my warm greetings and sincere fraternal sentiments to you all.

May I also express my profound gratitude to H.E. Mr. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC for his gracious presence here today. His presence is a testimony to his abiding interest in the development of economic cooperation among the OIC Member States. I am certain that the supervision and chairmanship of His Excellency of COMCEC is pushing the Committee forward towards the realization of its objectives of strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States. I also pay tribute to your illustrious predecessors who had discharged their responsibilities of chairing COMCEC with wisdom and sagacity.

I also thank the government of the Republic of Turkey for the warm reception and generous hospitality extended to all the delegates and myself since our arrival in this historic and beautiful city.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express our sense of outrage at the acts of terrorism committed against targets in New York and Washington. We have condemned this dastardly act of terrorism and we condemn terrorism in all its forms. I also recall in particular the suffering of the Palestinian people who are exposed to killing and destruction caused by aggressive activities of the Israeli authorities.

We appeal to the international community to compel the Israeli government to seek peace through resumption of dialogue with the Palestinian authority. This Session of COMCEC is being held in the aftermath of the 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Bamako in June this year, which adopted a number of important resolutions on economic matters. Bearing in mind that COMCEC is responsible for the implementation of all the resolutions and decisions on economic matters, this session affords us with yet another opportunity to evaluate the on-going efforts aimed at intensifying intra-OIC economic and commercial cooperation.

I would like to highlight a number of points in this respect. First of all, I would like to draw your attention to the slow pace of progress in the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States, which continues to be a matter of concern for the Member States. An experts group meeting was held in Istanbul in May this year immediately prior to the last meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC to deliberate on the possible ways and means, of accelerating the implementation of the Plan of Action. The meeting

came up with a number of valuable recommendations. The most outstanding of which was the view that "promotion of political commitment" of the Member States to implement what has been agreed constitutes the basic guarantee to achieve progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

I assign particular significance to this recommendation. The last meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC considered these recommendations and decided to submit them to this session for its consideration. I would hope that the Member States will undertake necessary action in this regard.

Expansion of intra-OIC trade is another important area where decisive action is urgently required. Intra-OIC trade continues to remain stagnated around well below 10 per cent of the total global trade of the Member States.

Although much has been said on the importance of expansion of intra-OIC trade, there has been very little progress. Member States have also not been that much successful in enlarging their share in the global trade. I must say here, however, that the Member States have adopted a number of plans and projects aimed at strengthening commercial cooperation. The essence of these steps envisaged measures aimed at trade liberalization, setting up the base as well as legal framework for collaboration in intra-OIC trade, investments and joint ventures, and strengthening of the private sector cooperation. I must mention here the commendable and sustained role played by the Islamic Development Bank in this regard.

While speaking on expansion of intra-OIC trade, it must also be mentioned that the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Among OIC Member States, which has been signed by a large number of Member States, is yet to be in force for lack of the required number of ratifications. I urge upon the Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify this Agreement so that rounds of trade negotiations could start as soon as possible paving the way for development of intra-OIC trade.

I would like to highlight here the important role of the private sector in the promotion of intra-OIC trade and economic cooperation. This aspect has been emphasized in the recent resolutions of the Islamic Summits and Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers. In the context of globalisation and liberalization, which has unleashed forces of intense competition, one cannot deny the importance of the role of the private sector. It is, therefore, imperative that opportune conditions will have to be created for the private sector to play its complete role. In this connection, I would like to stress the importance of ensuring speedy implementation of decisions and recommendations of the successive Private Sector Meetings held so far by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry in cooperation with the respective Chambers of the host countries. The Monitoring Mechanism established by the 15th Session of COMCEC for the follow up of implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Private Sector Meetings should play an important and effective role in this respect.

Finally, I would like to make an important point. Since the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference in Tehran, Member States have been reiterating the importance of establishing an Islamic Common Market as their ultimate goal to which they aspire. Under the current international economic system, one cannot ignore the position of strength that the OIC Member States will acquire through such an economic integration effort. But so far this goal has remained only to be a mere good intention. I would recall here that the Experts Group Meeting to study the Implications of Setting up of an Islamic Common Market, which was held in Doha in October last year made a number of valuable recommendations. One of these suggested that the COMCEC should play a pioneering role in coordinating the activities aimed at achieving this grand objective. Member States should, I believe, take up this important point for an appropriate decision.

These issues and other related ones will, I am sure, undergo thorough and sincere deliberations at this Session, which will lead to important conclusions. I would like to express in this connection my happiness over the useful intellectual contributions made by the relevant OIC institutions in order to assist the deliberations by COMCEC.

Annex 3 to OIC/COMCEC/17-01/REF

Before concluding, let me assure the distinguished delegates of the continuous and full cooperation of the OIC General Secretariat and all OIC institutions to enable COMCEC to fulfil its tasks in the most favourable conditions.

I wish the 17th Session of the COMCEC great success.

Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

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STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. MUHAMMED AL-EMADI,
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE
OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

Original: Arabic

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. MUHAMMED AL-EMADI,
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND
FOREIGN TRADE OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

H.E. the President of the Republic of Turkey,
H.E. the Vice Prime-Minister,
H.E. the OIC Secretary General,
Brothers and Sisters,

Assalamu alaikum warahmatullah warabarakatuhu

On behalf of my brothers, the heads and members of the Arab delegations participating in this session and in my own name, I would like to convey to H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), our deep gratitude and sincere appreciation for having honoured us by inaugurating the work of this Seventeenth Session of our Committee with his valuable opening address which truly expresses the hopes and aspirations of each and everyone of us.

In my own name and on behalf of my brothers, I have the pleasure of expressing thanks to the friendly government of Turkey for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us since our arrival . We also wish to express our admiration for your country's remarkable and continued progress in the various fields.

Allow me to extend to Your Excellency, Mr. President, the best wishes and amicable feelings of H.E. Dr. Bashar Al-ASSAD, The President of the Syrian Arab Republic who has the highest regard and admiration for you, your people and your country.

These true and reciprocal feelings of amity are reflected in the work of the joint Syrian-Turkish Committee which has made the best of the blessings endowed upon us

by the Almighty be it our common borders, family relations and cultural ties existing between us as well as our common history in the interest of the development of our trade relations to further strengthen the ties of friendship between our peoples.

On the occasion of Turkey's National Day, allow me on behalf of the Arab Group to convey my heartfelt congratulations wishing your country continued progress and prosperity.

Your Excellency, Mr. President,
Brothers and sisters,

Our Arab countries, which I have the honour of speaking on their behalf, are proud of belonging to OIC and reaffirm their determination to achieve, together with other sister Islamic countries, the noble objectives laid down by our leaders for this organization with a view to consolidating our solidarity, strengthening our cooperation, supporting our struggle, liberating our occupied territories and contributing to the establishment of peace, security, justice and a free and honourable life for our peoples.

Your Excellency, Mr. President,
Brothers and Sisters,

All our countries have condemned and denounced the acts of terror of last September and mourned with the victims of these acts, thus reaffirming our support for the values of love and peace upheld by all divine religions, foremost among which is our religion, Islam. Moreover, we are called upon to ensure that Israel' fully abides by right, justice and peace and the resumption of negotiations with Palestine and Syria in implementation of UN resolutions and in compliance with Madrid's Peace Accords, namely land for peace, the establishment of the State of Palestine with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital and total withdrawal from the occupied Golan territories and the remaining occupied territories in Lebanon to the 6 June 1967 borders.

The eradication of terrorism and the achievement of this objective will lead to a new and brighter era for our region, one that will ensure the advancement of our Ummah.

Our Arab States have taken significant steps towards strengthening mutual cooperation in trade through the greater Arab free Trade Zone, in investment, through the Arab Agreement for Investment and other bilateral agreements, and in taxation, through agreements to prevent dual taxation. They have also increased their scientific, technical and cultural cooperation.

Similarly, other Member States in our organization have developed closer regional cooperation.

Our mutual cooperation at the more comprehensive level within COMCEC as H.E. The President of the Republic and Chairman of our Committee said in his message to the Heads of State and Governments is becoming more essential to face world economic changes and new trends brought about by globalization. Therefore, although we agree with you, Mr. President, COMCEC as a common forum for solidarity and cooperation should carry out the tasks entrusted to it more effectively as regards joint projects; consultations on matters relevant to the international financial system through the committees and meetings of the International Monetary Fund, mutual support of our stands at the World Trade Organization, particularly with regard to those countries, like Syria for example, that have recently requested accession to WTO, call upon the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade to hold meetings under the auspices of the Islamic Development Bank and its funding programme, in addition to Islamic fairs.

We should all endorse proposals to remove non-tariff barriers impeding Islamic trade. A great number of our Arab states have liberalized their trade adopted an open-door policy and reduced customs duties on goods imported from Arab States as well as in goods exported to them.

They also welcome Islamic investments and provide assistance, loans and financial contributions to many investment projects in Islamic states.

The Ummah's development strategy has defined ways to confront the challenges of globalization, namely the implementation of economic reform programmes and the establishment and enhancement of legal, economic, financial and social institutions that constitute the bases on which market economy rests. Furthermore, international criteria should be applied if we do not wish to be excluded from world markets or become negative entities on them. We should be more capable

of attracting investments to our countries, develop our export potential and invest in our human, scientific and technical resources.

We cannot face the challenges of globalization except through mutual cooperation and cooperation with those countries that have preceded us along those lines. International cooperation is not only a necessity but a duty as well; it is a characteristic of our present times. However, the terms of cooperation between us and the industrial world should be continuously revised to meet the satisfaction of one and all.

The COMCEC agenda covers important topics and refers to valuable reports submitted by our institutions, first and foremost among which is the Islamic Development Bank. The faithful custodian of our objectives.

Our brothers -the senior officials- have over the past two days worked relentlessly to study, discuss and clarify the topics submitted and reached resolutions aimed at extending and enhancing mutual cooperation and we are very grateful to them.

In conclusion, I would like to thank, once more, the friendly Republic of Turkey which OIC has entrusted with the task of developing economic and trade cooperation among Islamic countries, and which H.E. President Ahmet Necdet SEZER so ably represents I also thank the Vice Prime-Minister, the Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank and the Heads of OIC affiliated institutions and centers. I would also like to express my appreciation and highest regard in particular to the Member State hosting the General Secretariat and its institutions.

I would thanks and amity to my brothers, the heads and members of the Arab delegations who have honoured me by speaking on their behalf.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the state of Kuwait for its election as Vice-Chairman representing the Arab region, hoping that it will continue to contribute to the message of amity, cooperation and peace among our states.

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STATEMENT BY H.E. FARHAD ALIYEV,
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

Original: English

**STATEMENT BY H.E. FARHAD ALIYEV,
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

His Excellency, President of Turkey

Dear Mr. Ahmet Necdet Sezer,

His Excellency, General Secretary of Islamic Conference Organization

Mr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz,

Dear Heads of Representative Groups,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have an honor to greet and express our thankfulness to you, to Your Excellency and to Great Turkish people in this ancient Istanbul city on behalf of Asian group for your hospitality and kind reception extended to us.

From this rostrum I would like to convey with great pleasure the warm regards from His Excellency, Mr. Heydar Aliyev - President of Azerbaijan Republic to all participants to this meetings.

Your Excellency,

17th meeting of the Permanent Committee of Islamic Conference Organization on Trade Cooperation and decisions will be made according to its results have special importance for further development of economic cooperation between member countries of Islamic Countries Organizations entering to the 21st century with confidence.

The security issues are turned to the basic point in multilateral and bilateral relations of countries today. We consider that all countries whether alone or together should give their contribution to the international security system during discussions and through signed contracts.

At the same time, it is important to implement together and jointly agreed policy in international arena to secure economic safety and economic interests of countries.

Therefore, the agreement reached by the OPEK member countries on general regulation of crude oil prices that has great importance on economic development of regional countries is highly appreciated.

As a result of intensive efforts made by His Excellency, Mr. Heydar Aliyev- President of Azerbaijan Republic on implementation of TRASECA project for restoration of ancient Silk Road, implementation of 21 contracts on development of offshore oil and gas fields on Azerbaijan sector of Caspian basin and on-shore oil and gas fields of Azerbaijan, construction of Baku-Jeyhan main export pipeline and Baku-Erzurum export gas pipeline have important contribution to regional development through involvement of Asian countries.

It is very important to stress the role of Islamic Development Bank and its joint actions with our country in implementation of a number of projects, especially in construction of trans-national oil and gas pipelines, construction of roads contributing to development of economy and trade in the regional countries.

We consider that, in the new century, under pressure of globalization process, problems of countries should be settled in the framework of transnational programs such as economic cooperation, human development and environmental safety.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Islamic Conference Organization considering sensible remarks in the work of the conference will undertake necessary measures in the spirit of cooperation.

gradually reduce non-tariff barriers for development of trade relations, ensure political and economical development adhering to historical and religious traditions.

At the end, I would like to express my highest gratitude and admiration to H.E. Mr.Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of Turkey for perfect organization of the meeting.

Thank you for your attention.

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STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. SALVADOR NAMBURETE,
VICE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

Original: English

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. SALVADOR NAMBURETE,
VICE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER,
President of the Republic of Turkey
and Chairman of the COMCEC;

H.E. Dr. Devlet BAHÇELİ,
Minister of State and Deputy Prime-Minister
of the Republic of Turkey;

H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ,
Secretary General of OIC;

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentleman,

It is my great honour and pleasure to address this august house today on behalf of the African group.

Allow me at the outset to express my gratitude and thanks to the Government and People of the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Istanbul. Allow me in the same vein, to praise the Organisation of the COMCEC and Turkey's outstanding leadership of this most important OIC Standing Committee.

I would like to congratulate the members of the new Bureau, namely, Nigeria, Kuwait, Iran and Pakistan for their well deserved election. It is my conviction that

their dedication and focused dynamism will lead our Organisation to further success in the years to come.

The 17th Session of COMCEC takes place at a moment in which the entire world is still trying to recover from the shock caused by terrorist attacks on the United States of America. We would like to join our voice to all those who have condemned terrorism as a means of solving our political differences.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the commendable work done by COMCEC in promoting commercial and economic co-operation among OIC Member States, we note with serious concern that a wide range of important resolutions adopted by this Committee has not been implemented. I believe that time has come to concretise these resolutions to hasten intra-OIC economic co-operation and re-position the COMCEC to achieve its mandated objectives.

The selection of the theme " *The Effects of Non-Tariff Barriers on Foreign Trade of the Member Countries*" for the exchange views in the current session, could not have come at a better time, for it provides an excellent opportunity to explore all available avenues to promote trade and economic relations among our nations. Boosting trade among OIC Members and enhancing economic co-operation constitute a key goal of the COMCEC. Consequently, to achieve this, tariff and non-tariff barriers would need to be removed to encourage intra-OIC trade.

There is no doubt that Mozambique and all other African members of OIC stand to benefit from intra-OIC trade. But we do believe that this could be more beneficial if a number of prevailing trade barriers were removed and if we were able to fully use the trade facilitating mechanisms that the OIC institutions provide.

Mozambique is in the process of reforming and simplifying the legal and regulatory framework and procedures governing foreign trade. On the one hand, this is being undertaken in fulfillment of WTO requirements vis a vis multilateral trade rules and disciplines, and on the other hand, to prepare ourselves for the implementation of SADC Trade Protocol.

In this context, we have recently introduced the new method for Customs Valuation, and a new and harmonised Tariff Book has been launched. Our highest tariff rates have been reduced from 35% to 30% and by January 2002 they will be further dropped to 25%. In addition, it is worth noting that no import licensing or export control are being exercised in our country.

Mr. Chairman,

Before I conclude, let me take this opportunity to express, once again, on behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Mozambique, and indeed on my own behalf, my sincere thanks and gratitude to the OIC, COMCEC, and all Member State for the assistance and support provided to us during the floods and other natural disasters that hit our country over the past two years.

I wish the meeting successful deliberations. My delegation stands ready to offering its unconditional co-operation.

Thank you!

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STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. AHMAD MOHAMED ALI
PRESIDENT OF
THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

Original: Arabic

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. AHMAD MOHAMED ALI
PRESIDENT OF
THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

Bismillah Arrahman Arraham

May Prayers and Peace be upon our prophet Mohammed, and his companions.

Your Excellency, Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC.

Your Excellency, Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, Secretary General of the OIC.

Distinguished Heads and Members of Delegation,
Brothers and Sisters,

Assalumu Alaikum Warahmattullah Wabarakatu

It is a great pleasure for me to address this august assembly on behalf of your institution, the Islamic Development Bank, to express sincere appreciation and deep gratitude to the President, government and people of Turkey for the warm welcome that is always accorded to us, the generous hospitality extended to the participating delegations, and the excellent arrangements made to ensure the success of the meeting. The continued efforts of your government in this field emanate from your support and consolidation of the joint Islamic action in order to enhance and encourage cooperation among OIC Member States. The effective participation of Member States and organizations in this Committee is truly praiseworthy I would like to seize this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to the Secretariat of your Committee for inviting the IDB to take part in this Meeting and enable it to contribute

to the achievement of the lofty objectives to which our glorious Ummah has always well sought to achieve, as it has always catered for the well being of mankind.

Mr. President,

The wise directives and clear-sighted ideas contained in the welcoming address that you kindly delivered at this session have enlightened the course for discussion of all items of our Agenda. It will undoubtedly become one of its most important documents orienting our discussions and reflected in the results and recommendations to be adopted by this important meeting .

I would also like to commend the valuable statement made by our dear brother, H.E. Dr. Abdelauahed Belkeziz, the OIC Secretary General for the judicious ideas it contained, his comprehensive review of the reality of joint Islamic action and the course of cooperation among Member States. Your institution, the IDB feels pride in being part of that course and a support to it in these crucial circumstances undergone by our Member States, being faced by a growing number of challenges in this century. Your institution unfailingly strives, within its capacities, to extend its support to the development process of our Member States.

Mr. President,

Brothers and Sisters,

This Session of your Committee is being held amidst world developments and events, ensuing in an adverse impact on the economies of our Member States thus adding to the responsibilities of your Committee. You therefore have to adopt specific recommendations to meet the needs and urgent demands of our Member States in these difficult times that our Ummah is undergoing .

The issues covered by the Agenda of this Meeting are amongst the most likely topics to encourage, consolidation, enhance and activate joint economic action. Moreover, they will promote ways and means whereby to successfully implement the OIC Plan of Action for Economic and Trade cooperation among Member States, a Plan endorsed by the Islamic Summit Conference. IDB has always stood ready to participate in and contribute to the implementation of this Plan. Consequently IDB has taken part in all sectoral meetings held within the framework of the implementation

mechanism of the Plan of Action, and contributed its support to some of them. The Bank has also attached special importance to joint projects seeking to enlarge the scope of their benefits to promote cooperation among Member States, in fulfillment of the purpose for which it was established.

In this connection, IDB took part in the Expert Group Meeting for Accelerating the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Economic and Commercial Cooperation held in Istanbul on 6-7 May 2001, which was attended by Representatives of Member States and of the OIC affiliated institutions and organizations. Several reports on issues under consideration were submitted in cooperation and coordination with other organizations. The IDB, as it has always done before, strives to play the role entrusted to it in the light of your Committee's directives. As regards the conclusions of your present Meeting, IDB will earnestly endeavor to translate them into concrete terms in favour of the well being of the peoples of our Ummah.

As I have previously mentioned, the agenda of the present meeting covers a number of important topics, primarily those related to WTO. Despite the gains derived from the multi-party trade system, the latter nevertheless sets major obligations and burdens on developing countries and on the least developed, including OIC Member States. 36 of the Bank's member are WTO Member States and 10 have observer status and are in the process of becoming members.

Mr. President,
Brothers and sisters,

The agenda of the present meeting contains issues of special importance to IDB. Your institution, IDB, always seeks to carry out your recommendations; such as creating a platform for the exchange of view and ensuring consultations among Member States to coordinate stands on topics to be submitted at WTO Ministerial Meetings. To this end, the Bank has organized preparatory meetings before the three WTO ministerial meetings held in Singapore, Geneva and Seattle. As regards the forthcoming ministerial meeting to be held in Doha, the Bank has held a consultative meeting for all its Member States, at its Headquarters in Jeddah on 14-15 October 2001, with a view to enabling coordination and consultation on all issues to be considered, exchange view and come out with a common outlook at the main agenda items of the Doha meeting. Discussions focused on WTO agreements and negotiations

on agriculture, services and other matters scheduled for consideration at the Doha meeting.

The following are the main points raised at that meetings :

1. Give priority to solving the difficulties encountered by OIC Member States in honouring their obligations under the agreements and resolutions of the Uruguay Round.
2. Ensure priority in future to the development dimension in the WTO Plan of Action.
3. Emphasize the imperative need to integrate developing countries, including less developed countries, in particular OIC Member states into the international financial system, to put an end to the marginalization that is their present condition.
4. Attach importance to the interests of developing countries in the ongoing WTO negotiations in the field of agriculture, with a view to open the markets of developed nations to their agricultural exports, without any tariff, seasonal or quantitative barriers, taking account of food security and rural developments in these countries.
5. Bear in mind the imperative need, in the context of the ongoing negotiations in the services field, to include services of interest to developing countries, in particular those of OIC Member States, such as the movement of individuals and the fields of tourism, transport and communication.
6. Refrain from adding further burdens on countries seeking accession to WTO. in addition to the obligations to which developing countries were committed under the Uruguay Round.
7. Complete the study of the issues raised in Singapore issues at WTO. namely investment, the competitiveness and transparency policy in government purchases and trade facilities before starting negotiations on said issues.

8. Refrain from imposing any new topic in the present WTO Plan of Action, before entirely and sincerely solving all the problems being encountered by WTO Member States.
9. Take into account, the interests and stands of the private sector as regards issues under negotiations at the World Trade Organization.
10. Take into account the positive development items in the agenda of the WTO Plan of Action in the coming periodic, in particular the relationship between trade, debts and financing and that between trade, transfer of technology and integrate such issues into the future Plan of Action.
11. Emphasize the importance for the Islamic Development Bank to have observer status at WTO, and the need for support in this regard by Member States.

All Member States will receive the report on that meeting.

The Bank will endeavour, God willing, to achieve further results in this connection. It should be recalled that the Bank has initiated a programme of technical assistance to Member States as regards WTO matters, such as advisory services, the organization of work courses, seminars and sessions to promote an awareness of the Uruguay Round Agreement. It has hitherto organized 32 seminars and training courses, or participated in their financing, in addition to sectoral studies or issues of common interest. In this context, the Bank has prepared five studies on agriculture, the marketing of services, investment, the commercial aspects relevant to copyrights and electronic commerce. These studies are available to all Member States in the true languages to benefit therefrom. The Bank participates as observer in the Trade and Environment and Trade and development Committee, both WTO committees.

Mr. President,
Brothers and Sisters,

The Bank has, from the outset, sought to implement the Eighth Summit Resolution namely to prepare the Ummah for the 21st century which calls for raising the level of intra-OIC trade. The Bank annually disbursed from its own resources \$US one billion in 1421 and 1422H to finance intra-OIC trade. Moreover, the IDB Council

of Executive Directors approved both the Two-stage Murabaha and the collective Murabaha programmes to mobilize further resources from them market, an annual amount of about \$US one billion. In 1421H, the Bank approved the disbursement, through its various windows, of \$US 1.7 million to finance trade.

The Bank has in fact started to mobilize resources through both the Two-stage Murabaha and the collective Murabaha programmes. The total amount approved through them in 1421H is of the order of \$US 320 million, 140 million of which were financed by collective Murabaha. Furthermore, the Bank has simplified financing formalities and facilitated its conditions to enhance efficiency and benefits; it has devised alternatives for financing guarantees and provided further resources for such financing. However, I wish to point out that, for the second year, the Bank has failed to attain its set objective, as intra-OIC trade is still below the targeted level, as has been pointed out by the OIC Secretary General. Moreover, the financial facilities provided by IDB to support intra-OIC trade was not totally exploited, although exploitation rose by 35% over 1420H. It is will known that to secure the targeted increase in intra-OIC trade, there is need for a pooling of serious efforts from all relevant quarters, in particular from those operating in the commercial field: trade institutions, banks, and national departments, including government support. I wish in this regard to add my voice to that of H.E. the Secretary General and call upon all relevant organs, whether from the public or private sector, to assist and support the Bank in this connection by encouraging and exerting further efforts to promote intra-OIC trade.

Mr. President,
Brothers and Sisters,

In the context of its efforts aimed at encouraging intra-OIC trade, and on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its establishment, the Bank organized the first Islamic Trade Fair, in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 9-14 June 2001, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Emir Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz, Crown Prince. Prime Minister and Head of the National Guard, in cooperation with the Commercial and Industrial Chamber. Some 40 OIC Member States participated and, throughout the duration of the Fair, important events took place such as seminars, bilateral talks, etc.

Mr. President,
Brothers and Sisters,

In response to the resolution of your Committee, at its previous session, namely to declare 2001 the year to promote and develop small and medium size enterprises, (SME), IDB adopted it as the topic for its 26th meeting, an annual meeting, with the national development financing institutions, to be held, this week, God willing, in Algiers.

Since its establishment, the Bank was fully aware of its responsibilities towards the development of SME and approved in 1397H (1977) its first financing line for SME in favour of the Malaysian Limited Bank for Development and Infrastructure (Bimbangoon Bank). Since then, the Bank has provided financing lines to national financing institutions of Member States in order to encourage the promotion of the private sector, through the financing of SME.

In order to ensure the utilization of its lines of financing, the Bank fully empowered a number of national institutions to approve SME. This experiment proved its success. The Bank is considering enlarging the scope of this empowerment to other national institutions for development financing, after assessing their performance.

Mr. President,
Brothers and Sisters,

Your institution, the Islamic Development Bank, is gratified and honoured by its continued and unfailing cooperation with your esteemed committee, and shall sincerely endeavour, God willing, to contribute to the achievement of your noble targeted objectives.

In conclusion, I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to, once again, express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Your Excellency, to their Excellencies the Ministers of Member States for the continued support provided to the Islamic Development Bank so that it remains the symbol of solidarity among our Member States.

My the Almighty bless this meeting with success.

Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh.

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AGENDA
OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 18-21 October 2001)

Original: English

AGENDA
OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 18-21 October 2001)

1. Opening Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Renewal of the Members of the Bureau
4. Presentation of Reports on Some Agenda Items
 - 4.1. Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat
 - 4.2. World Economic Developments with Special Reference to OIC Member Countries (SESRTCIC)
 - 4.3. Supporting the Reform of the International Financial Architecture (SESRTCIC)
 - 4.4. Report of the Follow-up Committee
 - 4.5. Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action (Recommendations of the Follow-up Committee on the Outcome of the Experts Group Meeting for Accelerating the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action)
5. Report by **IDB** and ICDT on the Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade
6. Matters related to World Trade Organization Activities
 - a) Report by IDB
 - b) Report by ICDT
7. Report by ICCI on the Eighth Private Sector Meeting for the Promotion of Trade and Joint Venture Investment among OIC Member Countries
8. Exchange of Views on the "Effects of Non-Tariff Barriers on the Foreign Trade of the Member Countries"
9. Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries
10. Report of the Sessional Committee
11. Date of the Eighteenth Session of the COMCEC
12. Any Other Business
13. Adoption of the Resolutions of the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC
14. Closing Session

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TEXT OF PRESENTATION BY H.E. DR. AKIN İZMİRLİOĞLU
UNDERSECRETARY OF THE STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE
SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING,
ON THE OUTCOME OF THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
ON "THE EFFECTS OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS
ON FOREIGN TRADE
OF MEMBER COUNTRIES"

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

Original: English

**TEXT OF PRESENTATION DR. AKIN İZMİRLİOĞLU
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE PLANING ORGANIZATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND CHAIRMAN
OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS ON THE OUTCOME
OF THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON "THE EFFECTS
OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS ON FOREIGN TRADE
OF MEMBER COUNTRIES"**

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

As the Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting, I will submit to you a summary of the discussions we had on the subject of "The Effects of Non-Tariff Barriers on the Foreign Trade of Member Countries".

While deliberating on the subject, the Senior officials have considered in detail, the observations and recommendations contained in the Report of the Workshop on "Non-Tariff Barriers on Trade Expansion Between the OIC Member States" held from to 12-14 June in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco. This Workshop was hosted by the Government of Kingdom of Morocco and organized by Casablanca Center in collaboration with other related OIC Institutions.

The Report of the Workshop is made available to the honourable delegates.

During their discussions on the subject, the senior officials have touched upon a number of issues regarding the negative and detrimental effects of non-tariff barriers on the foreign trade of member countries and explored possible ways and means to alleviate them.

Regarding the subject, Senior Officials have made several recommendations and observations. Now I would like to submit to the august house a resume of these recommendations and points of agreement:

Member States are urged to ratify expeditiously the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States, which stipulates the non-recourse to non-tariff measures for economic protection purposes.

Member States are urged to abolish non-tariff barriers that are still impeding intra-OIC trade and not complying with the relevant international agreements in this field.

Measures should be taken for facilitating the issue of visas to businessmen and agents involved in marketing and transport.

Researches and studies should be carried out by the Islamic Chamber in order to identify and analyse the existing Non-Trade Barriers and determine their impact on intra-OIC trade.

Accurate and comprehensive information on difficulties encountered during export operations to the OIC markets, including Non-Tariff Barriers should be compiled by Casablanca Center.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies the Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

In this vein, we have also agreed:

To seek to adjust as appropriate international standards in the fields of customs procedures, quality standards and sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards stipulated in the WTO Agreements,

Annex 9 to OIC/COMCEC/17-01/REP

To simplify the procedures by the customs authorities of the OIC Member States relating to import taxes and duties levied on final consumption products, or on re-export goods and on goods in transit,

To accord uniform treatment to imported goods from all Member States with regard the various charges paid for services rendered, and take necessary measures to remove all these charges.

To urge Member States to adopt the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System.

To encourage Member States to apply the rules of Origins in a transparent manner and simplify related procedures.

To promote mutual recognition by concerned national authorities of quality standards and conformity certifications with standards and of certificates of origin issued by the OIC Member States.

To encourage the OIC Member States to computerize their customs procedures,

To promote the use and exchange of expertise as far as the Exchange of Computerized Data (EDIFACT) system is concerned,

To urge Member States to seek to avoid dumping measures between the OIC Member States,

To give due importance to coordination and exchange of expertise between concerned parties in OIC Member States in order to master issues relating to dumping practices, countervailing duties and safeguard measures,

To seek to simplify packing, labelling and recycling requirements,

Annex 9 to OIC/COMCEC/17-01 /REP

To facilitate the transfer of environment-friendly technologies in order to enhance the competitiveness of developing countries while protecting environment.

To reaffirm the position adopted by the 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, as shared by the majority of WTO members, regarding the rejection of introducing non-trade issues, such as labour and environment standards, into the WTO agenda.

To emphasize that concerned OIC institutions must give utmost importance to technical assistance and training including training of trainers in order to ensure capacity building at national level in the field of foreign trade, especially in respect of the following:

- * Customs procedures and trade facilitation
- * Anti-dumping measures and safeguard measures
- * Non-tariff measures, particularly those relating to technological, health and environmental issues.
- * Electronic commerce.

The points of agreement which came out of the discussions, some of which I have just submitted to you, are included in the Draft Resolution number one which is already made available to the honourable delegates in three languages.

This completes my presentation of the summary of the deliberation on the subject of this year's exchange of views we held at the level of Senior Officials.

Thank you.

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RESOLUTION (1)
OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 18-21 October 2001)

Original: English

**RESOLUTION (1)
OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 18-21 October 2001)

The Seventeenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held in Istanbul from 18 to 21 October 2001;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences and the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), approved by the Tenth Session of the COMCEC and endorsed by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

Taking into consideration the resolutions adopted at the previous Sessions of the COMCEC and the recommendations made at the Seventeenth Meeting of its Follow-up Committee;

Reaffirming the commitment to remove all obstacles to closer economic and commercial cooperation among OIC Member States;

Taking into consideration the Resolution adopted at the Tenth Session of the COMCEC calling for holding exchange of views, at the annual COMCEC sessions, on important world economic developments concerning Member States;

Taking cognizance of the need to follow up the outcome of the exchange of views sessions and coordinate the positions of Member States in relevant international fora in the areas covered at these sessions;

Noting with appreciation the holding of the workshop on "the Effects on Non-Tariff Barriers on Trade Expansion between the OIC Member States", hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and organized by the Islamic Center for Development of Trade in collaboration with the other related OIC institutions from 12 to 14 June 2001 in Casablanca, the results of which constituted a major input for (he exchange of views conducted during the Session;

Noting the progress reports submitted by the OIC General Secretariat. Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICO) and the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) on the agenda items;

Reports of the General Secretariat

A. *Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat*

1. **Expresses appreciation** for the Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat (OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D1) on the progress achieved by the Member States and OIC institutions in the field of economic and commercial cooperation;
2. **Notes with satisfaction** that the Export Financing Scheme and the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investments and Export Credit, established by the Islamic Development Bank, in pursuance of a decision of the First Session of COMCEC are functioning successfully, and **urges** Member States who have not yet done so, to join them as early as possible,
3. **Also notes with satisfaction** that IDB is operating the OIC Information Systems Network (OICIS-NET) and **invites** Member States to make the necessary arrangements to get maximum benefit out of it;
4. **Appreciates** that the ICDT has established the Trade Information Network for Islamic Countries (TINIC) which is accessible either through the Internet or through OICIS-NET, and **recommends** to the Member States to make full use of it;

5. **Urges** the Member States that have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify at an early date the various OIC agreements and statutes in the field of economic cooperation; with a view to providing the necessary framework for such cooperation;
6. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for having hosted in Isfahan, the Meeting of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, from 2 to 4 October 2000, as well as the meeting of the Follow-up Committee in Tehran, from 27 to 28 August 2001;
7. **Welcomes** the recommendation of the First Ministerial Meeting of Tourism requesting the Islamic Chamber to set up an Islamic Council of Tourism in the Islamic Chamber, and to organize a meeting of private sector on tourism;
8. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for having hosted the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism in Kuala Lumpur from 10 to 13 October 2001;
9. Appreciates the efforts made by the OIC institutions working in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, namely, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICO), and Organization of Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA), and **appeals** to Member States to give the needed support and assistance to these institutions so that they may continue to perform their functions effectively;

B. *World Economic Developments with Special Reference to OIC Member States*

10. **Expresses thanks and appreciation** to SESRTCIC for preparing, in accordance with the decision of the 12th Session of the COMCEC, annual economic report on the OIC countries (OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D2) containing recent information on economic and related developments concerning the Member States in the context of international economic developments;

11. Regarding world economic developments, **notes** that;
- i. Signs of weakening economic activity in late 2000 and 2001 in major industrial economies, particularly in the US significantly weakened prospects for global growth in 2001.
 - ii. Although the OIC Member States constitute a substantial part of the developing world, their growth rate is still below the average attained by the developing countries.
 - iii. The overall picture indicates that the OIC Members, unlike many other developing countries, could not, in general, benefit enough from the strengthening of world economic activity in 1999-2000.
 - iv. There is a need to devise ways and means to minimize the adverse effects of globalization on the economies of OIC countries as well as to enable them to harness opportunities provided by globalization.
 - v. The OIC Member Countries should enhance their efforts to set up joint investment projects to achieve and ensure closer economic cooperation among themselves.
12. Entrusts SESRTCIC to continue to monitor world economic and trade developments and their implications for the OIC Member States and report to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other fora;

C. Reform of the International Financial Architecture

13. Expresses **thanks and appreciation** to SESRTCIC for preparing, in accordance with the resolution of the 27th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, the evaluation Report on supporting the Reform of International Financial Architecture with reference to the OIC Member States (OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D3);

14. Concerning international financial architecture, **notes** that;

- i. The experience during and aftermath of the Asian Crisis, showed that the Asian Financial Crisis was also caused by weaknesses prevailing in the current structure of the international financial system.
- ii. Measures need to be taken to strengthen the international financial system, through enhancing transparency and disclosure, improving international standards and developing new instruments for early prevention and resolution of the financial crises.
- iii. A monitoring *and consultation* mechanism relating to flows of all kinds of foreign capital transactions may be considered by the central banks of the OIC Member States

iv. The OIC Member States should be enabled to participate effectively in discussions on reforming and strengthening the international financial architecture. Central banks and the monetary authorities of the OIC Member States may meet regularly to formulate their positions in this regard.

15. Entrusts SESRTCIC to continue to follow-up and study developments on the issue and their implications for the Member States, and submit evaluation reports to the annual session of the COMCEC, and other concerned OIC fora;

D. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the OIC Member States

16. **Expresses** concern over the slow progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action, and urges the Member States to take appropriate action with a view to expediting its implementation;

17. **Expresses thanks and appreciation** to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Experts Group Meeting on Accelerating the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Economic and Commercial Cooperation which was held in Istanbul, on 6-7 May 2001;

18. Approves the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Accelerating the Implementation of the Plan of Action and stresses their importance (OIC/COMCEC/EGM-PA/01/REP);

19. **Requests** the Member States that had already offered to host sectoral expert group meetings to expedite the convening of the said meetings;

20. **Renews also** its appeal to the Member States who were the proponents of the projects to expedite the formation of the project committees as envisaged in the Plan of Action, with a view to implementing the projects proposed during the sectoral experts group meetings;

21. **Welcomes** the offers of the Member States to host the following meetings in connection with activities under the auspices of the COMCEC;

- i. The offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host sectoral experts group meetings in the areas of "Transport and Communications" and "Food, Agricultural and Rural Development" of the Plan of Action.
- ii. The offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an experts group meeting in the area of "Health and Sanitary Issues".
- iii. The offer of Sudan to host sectoral experts group meetings on "Energy and Mining" and "Human Resources Development".
- iv. The offer of Gabon to organise a sub-regional seminar for the OIC Member States of Central and East Africa on "The role of IDB in the promotion of the private sector".
- v. The offer of Indonesia to host in Jakarta an international workshop on "Employment and Manpower Exchange".
- vi. The offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the first round of negotiations to be held after the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System enters into force.

- vii. The offer of the Republic of Tunisia to host an expert group meeting on "Promoting the Activities of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises" in the field of production and exports.
22. **Invites** Member States to host, where appropriate, sectoral or inter-sectoral experts group meetings in areas of cooperation listed in the Plan of Action;
23. **Calls upon** IDB to continue to extend the necessary assistance to Member States and **appreciates** the assistance already offered by IDB;
24. **Appreciates** the report containing Review of Implementation of the Plan of Action submitted by the OIC General Secretariat (OIC/COMCEC/17-01/PLAN) and requests the OIC General Secretariat to continue to submit to the Annual Sessions of the COMCEC a periodical review of the implementation of the Plan of Action;
25. **Expresses its thanks and appreciation** to the ICDT for organizing under the auspices of the COMCEC, in Istanbul on 19th October 2001, a sensitization seminar on "Importance of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among Islamic Countries";

Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade

26. **Appreciates** the reports submitted by IDB and ICDT on the expansion of intra-OIC trade (OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D10) and (OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D21);
27. Appreciates the decision made by IDB to allocate US Dollars 1.03 billion in 1421H (2000/2001) from its own resources, to be used as a catalyst to raise an additional US Dollars 970 million through syndication and the Two Step Murabaha Financing mechanisms for the purpose of financing of intra trade among OIC/IDB member countries;
28. **Appreciates** the approvals aggregating US Dollars 1.72 billion made by the IDB in 1421H (2000/2001) under its four trade financing schemes and windows;
29. Urges member countries to institute policy measures such as the removal of barriers to trade, promotion of bilateral payment arrangements, ratification of OIC Trade Preferential System Arrangement and active promotion of direct trade, for instance, through their national procurement policies;

30. **Urges** the appointed focal points of trade to play a more active role in promoting the trade financing programme of the IDB and **requests** member countries, who have not done so, to expedite the nomination of focal points of trade;
31. **Requests** member countries to encourage the appointed National Agents for the Export Financing Scheme (EFS) to play a more active role in assisting IDB in promoting its trade financing facilities, in general, and the EFS, in particular;
32. **Urges** financial institutions, including insurance companies, in member countries to support IDB's efforts, among others, by according more favourable terms to transactions that promote direct trade among member countries;
33. **Thanks** member countries who have actively assisted in identifying viable trade operations for financing by the **IDB** and **urges** other member countries, who have not done so, to actively support **IDB** in its efforts to increase intra trade financing;
34. **Requests IDB** to consider provision of technical assistance for capacity building of the focal points in Member States;
35. **Requests** Member States to provide ICDT with data relating to trade and investment statistics and regulations.
36. **Entrusts IDB** and ICDT to monitor the expansion of intra-OIC trade and report it to the COMCEC.

Matters Relating to WTO Activities

37. **Expresses thanks and appreciation** to IDB and ICDT for preparing, in accordance with the decision of the 14th Session of the COMCEC, monitoring reports on the World Trade Organization (WTO) matters (OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D11) and (OIC/COMCEC/ 17-01/D12);
38. **Urges** the Member States that have not yet done so to take necessary steps for their accession to WTO;

39. Regarding matters relating to the WTO, **notes** that;
- i. The OIC members should coordinate their efforts with other developing countries to underline the urgent need for bringing about desirable reforms, within the international trading system so as to make these reforms equally beneficial for the developed and developing countries.
 - ii. Future agenda or work program of the WTO should focus on a process of "Review, Repair and Reform" aimed at transforming the WTO into a development-oriented Organization.
 - iii. The WTO should take necessary measures to ensure transparency, full participation of developing countries at all stages of negotiations and equitable representation of the developing countries including OIC Member States at the WTO Secretariat.
 - iv. Special and differential treatment in favour of the developing countries as envisaged in the various WTO agreements should be clarified and be implemented.
 - v. The imbalances in several WTO Agreements which have major implications for development policies and / or export interests of developing countries, should be corrected.
 - vi. The OIC Member States should make efforts to establish effective consultative mechanisms amongst their governments and private sector representatives to determine common policies to be pursued during the trade talks.
40. Appreciates IDB efforts in organizing consultative meetings in order to prepare the Member Countries to exchange their views and coordinate positions on major issues in the context of WTO ministerial conferences as well as future negotiations, in addition to IDB's other technical assistance activities aimed primarily at capacity building such as preparation of sectoral studies on WTO agreements, conducting seminars, workshops, trade policy courses and specific technical assistance to Member Countries;

41. **Calls** upon IDB to pursue its program of technical assistance to the OIC Member States seeking accession to **WTO**, and to continue extending assistance to the OIC Member States which are already Members of WTO, in order to enable them to participate more effectively in the world trading system;
42. **Calls** on IDB, ICDT and other related institutions to continue their assistance to the Member States in the context of future multilateral trade negotiations;
43. **Calls** on IDB and ICDT to pool and coordinate their efforts to reinforce the human and institutional capacities of OIC Member States, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on equitable and fair basis;
44. **Decides** to invite WTO and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) representatives to the 18th sessions of the COMCEC as guests;
45. **Entrusts** IDB and ICDT to monitor matters relating to WTO activities and report them to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other concerned fora;

Report by ICCI on the Eighth Private Sector Meeting for Promotion of Trade and Joint Venture Investment among the OIC Member Countries

46. **Appreciates** the efforts made by ICCI to organise annual Private Sector Meetings, prior to the annual COMCEC sessions and calls for their continuation;
47. Expresses **thanks and appreciation** to the Republic of Guinea for hosting, and to ICCI for organising the Eighth Private Sector Meeting, in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Agriculture of Guinea and with the assistance of IDB, from 9 to 11 October 2001, in Conakry, Republic of Guinea;
48. **Takes note with appreciation** of the report submitted by ICCI on the Eighth Private Sector Meeting (OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D19) which shows a growing interest on the part of the private sector representatives in these meetings. This indicates the growing importance attached by the private sector to these meetings, as the number of states participating has increased and has increased as well the number of business transactions and joint projects concluded. This will have a positive impact on intra-OIC trade. The committee calls upon the Islamic Chamber to provide in the future detailed information on such transactions and projects.

49. **Takes note with appreciation** of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Eighth Private Sector Meeting which focused on steps to be taken to strengthen the role of the private sector in economic cooperation among the Member States; and **appeals** to the Member States to give due consideration to these recommendations, and also **calls upon** ICCI to follow-up and implement the content of Resolution para number 41 of the 15th Session of the COMCEC by following-up and monitoring progress in this regard;

50. **Calls upon** the IDB to undertake efforts in cooperation with ICCI to inform the private sector in the Member Countries, the availability of IDB's lines of financing for trade, investment and its mechanism;

51. **Encourages** the federations and national chambers of commerce and industry of the Member States to develop a framework for closer cooperation with the Islamic Chamber and contribute to its programs aimed at enhancing trade and investments among the Islamic countries;

52. **Appreciates** the offer made by the State of United Arab Emirates and Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry to host the 9th Private Sector Meeting from 21 to 23 December 2002 and **calls on** Member States to encourage their private sectors to actively participate in the Meeting;

Islamic Trade Fairs

53. **Takes note** of the draft Regulation of the Islamic Islamic Trade Fair submitted by ICDT and **recommends** to the OIC Member States to communicate their views on this matter to the ICDT, no later than three months after the notification of the draft Regulation to the Member States; ICDT will convene an Expert Group Meeting for this purpose with a view to finalizing these regulations;

54. **Takes note** of the Follow-up Report submitted by ICDT on the organization of the forthcoming 9th Islamic Trade Fair to be held in the State of United Arab Emirates from 21 to 26 December 2002, on the theme of "Free Trade and Sustainable Development" and **urges** the OIC Member States to actively participate in this fair;

Exchange of Views on "the Effects **of Non-Tariff Barriers on Foreign Trade** of the Member Countries"

55. Expresses appreciation to ICDT for the preparation and submission of the report and recommendations of the Workshop on "Non-Tariff Barriers on Trade Expansion Between the OIC Member States" (OIC/COMCEC/17-01/D18) hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and organised by the Islamic Center for Development of Trade in collaboration with the other related OIC institutions, with the contributions of high government officials, prominent scholars and experts from universities and research centres, as well as from OIC and other international institutions, and **expresses** appreciation for papers submitted by some Member States, ICDT, SESRTCIC, IDB, ICCI, IUT and other international Organizations namely UNCTAD and WTO on various aspects of the subject;

56. **Takes note with appreciation** of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Workshop, which are elaborated and amended as under for the observation of the Member Countries as well as other partners in international trading system;

General Recommendations

- i. To urge Member States to ratify expeditiously the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States, which stipulates the non-recourse to non-tariff measures for economic protection purposes. The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade has been entrusted with establishing direct contacts with Member States with a view to making them aware of the importance of acceding to this agreement.
- ii. To urge Member States to abolish non-tariff barriers (NTBs) that are still impeding intra-OIC trade and not complying with the relevant international agreements in this field.
- iii. To facilitate the issue of visas to businessmen and agents involved in marketing and transport.

- iv. To entrust the ICCI in cooperation with the National Federations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry with carrying out researches and studies in order to identify and analyse the existing NTBs and determine their impact on intra-OIC trade.
- v. To create an unit on NTBs within ICDT.
- vi. To request the professional associations and Chambers of Commerce of Member States to communicate on a regular basis to ICDT accurate and comprehensive information on difficulties encountered during export operations to the OIC markets, including NTBs.
- vii. To request Member States to communicate to ICDT all information on trade, economic and financial policies in order to enhance the efficiency of The Trade Information Network of Islamic Countries (TINIC) at the following address: www.icdt.ore.
- viii. To strengthen existing cooperation between ICDT, WTO and UNCTAD with a view to developing information exchange on NTBs.

Standards

- ix. To Urge Member States to develop jointly with private economic operators standards and procedures relating to the admission of goods in OIC Member States.
- x. To seek to adjust as appropriate international standards in the fields of customs procedures, quality standards and sanitary and phytosanitary standards stipulated in the WTO Agreements.
- xi. To endeavour to increase transparency of trade related technical standards and sanitary and phytosanitary standards between Member States.

- xii. To reinforce efficiency by simplifying, to the extent possible, technical requirements and standards relating to packing and packaging and to the period of validity of foodstuffs and avoid burdensome and exaggerated procedures.
- xiii. To seek mutual recognition of national trade related technical standards and sanitary and phytosanitary measures among OIC Member States.

Customs Procedures and Rules of Origin

- xiv. To reinforce efficiency by seeking to simplify the procedures by the customs authorities of the OIC Member States relating to import taxes and duties levied on final consumption products, or on re-export goods and on goods in transit.
- xv. To accord uniform treatment to imported goods from all Member States with regard the various charges paid for services rendered, and take necessary measures to remove all these charges.
- xvi. To take necessary steps to gather product control and testing authorities and locate them close to customs check points at the frontiers.
- xvii. To entrust ICDDT, in cooperation with the OIC specialised and subsidiary organs, and affiliated institutions with analysing the customs procedures in the OIC Member States with a view to coordinating and simplifying them and submitting to the COMCEC periodical reports.
- xviii. To urge Member States to adopt the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System.
- xix. To encourage Member States to apply the rules of Origins in a transparent manner and simplify related procedures.
- xx. To promote mutual recognition by concerned national authorities of quality standards and conformity certifications with standards and of certificates of origin issued by the OIC Member States.

- xxi. To encourage the OIC Member States to computerize their customs procedures and consider steps necessary for the creation of a single desk for customs clearance and adoption of random commodity control.
- xxii. To promote the use and exchange of expertise as far as the Exchange of Computerized Data (EDIFACT) system is concerned.

Anti Dumping, Subsidies and Countervailing Duties

- xxiii. To urge Member States to seek to avoid dumping measures between the OIC Member States.
- xxiv. To give due importance to coordination and exchange of expertise between concerned parties in OIC Member States in order to master issues relating to dumping practices, countervailing duties and safeguard measures.

Trade, Environment and Labour Standards

- xxv. To seek to simplify packing, labelling and recycling requirements in order to prevent them from becoming barriers to the access of goods of Member States to foreign markets.
- xxvi. To facilitate the transfer of environment- friendly technologies in order to enhance the competitiveness of developing countries while protecting environment.
- xxvii. To reaffirm the position adopted by the 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers as shared by the majority of WTO members, regarding rejection of introducing non-trade issues, such as labour and environment standards, into the WTO agenda as this would negatively affect the possibility of creating a free and just trading environment and undermine the competitiveness of exports of Member States.

Technical Assistance and Training

xxviii. To emphasize that concerned **OIC** institutions must give utmost importance to technical assistance and training, including training for trainers, in order to ensure capacity building at national level in the field of foreign trade, especially in respect of the following :

- Customs procedures and trade facilitation
- Anti-dumping measures and safeguard measures
- Non-tariff measures, particularly those relating to technological, health and environmental issues.
- Electronic commerce.

Organizational Matters

57. Elects State of Kuwait, Islamic Republic of Iran and Federal Republic of Nigeria as Vice-Chairman of the Bureau of the COMCEC to represent the Arab, Asian and African Regions, respectively, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Rapporteur, to assume their posts as of the 18th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC; as a result of the election, the composition of the Follow-up Committee is as follows;

Republic of Turkey	Chairman (Permanent)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Vice Chairman (Permanent)
State of Palestine	Vice Chairman (Permanent)
State of Qatar	Vice Chairman (Current Chairman of the Summit)
State of Kuwait	Vice Chairman (Representing the Arab Region)
Islamic Republic of Iran	Vice Chairman (Representing the Asian Region)
Federal Republic of Nigeria	Vice Chairman (Representing the African Region)
Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Rapporteur
Syrian Arab Republic	Member of the Previous Bureau
Burkina Faso	Member of the Previous Bureau

58. Decides that the Eighteenth Session of the COMCEC be held from 22 to 25 October 2002, and the Eighteenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee be convened from 10 to 11 May 2002, respectively in Istanbul;

59. Decides that "Private Sector Investment in the Member Countries and the Role of IDB" be the theme for the exchange of views at the Eighteenth Session of the COMCEC, and requests IDB to organise a workshop on this topic in collaboration with related OIC institutions, namely, SESRTCIC, ICCI, ICDT, IUT and other international Organizations, prior to the Eighteenth COMCEC and submit its report to the Session;

60. Welcomes the offer made by the Republic of Turkey to host the workshop on the Private Sector Investment in Member Countries and the Role of **IDB**;

61. **Invites** Member States to send to the OIC General Secretariat, sufficiently in advance of the Eighteenth Session of the COMCEC, country reports reflecting their experiences on the subject matter for the exchange of views;

62. **Requests** the Follow-up Committee, at its Eighteenth Meeting, to draw up the draft agenda of the Eighteenth Session of the COMCEC and recommend alternative themes on which exchange of views would take place during the subsequent COMCEC sessions;

63. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to communicate to Member States the dates of the Eighteenth Session of the COMCEC and the Eighteenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee;

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RESOLUTION (2)
ON MATTERS RELATED TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
TO SOME COUNTRIES

(Istanbul, 18-21 October 2001)

Original: English

**RESOLUTION (2)
ON MATTERS RELATED TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
TO SOME COUNTRIES**

(Istanbul, 18-21 October 2001)

The Seventeenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC); held in Istanbul, 18-21 October 2001;

A. Economic Measures in Support of Palestine

Recalling the resolutions adopted by Islamic Summits in support of the Palestinian people,

Recalling also the previous resolutions adopted earlier by the Standing Committee at Ministerial Meetings and at meetings of other committees,

Recalling Further the resolutions adopted by the 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in support of Palestine,

Noting with great interest the role played by the Palestine National Authority in the Palestinian Self-rule regions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with a view to improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people and building up the national economy,

1. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Commends** the efforts made by the Palestine National Authority in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions in order to reconstruct what occupation had destroyed, as well as the efforts exerted to build up and consolidate the Palestinian national economy.

3. Expresses great appreciation for the assistance provided by some Member States to the Palestinian people in order to build up the national economy in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions in the West Bank and the Gaza-Strip.
4. Urges the speedy granting of the required and approved assistance by the concerned Member States and OIC bodies, with a view to helping the Palestine National Authority and the Palestinian people in the building up of the national economy and the consolidation of their national institutions.
5. Reaffirms the previous resolutions advocating the provision of all forms of support and assistance as well as economic, technical, material and moral assistance in support of the Palestinian people and the Palestine National Authority and Urges that preferential treatment be accorded to Palestinian products as regards importation and exemption of taxes and customs duties.
6. Urges businessmen and investors of Member States to contribute to the implementation of economic, industrial, agricultural and housing projects in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions, with a view to building up the national economy and enabling the Palestine National Authority and its national institutions to implement their development programmes, during the coming transitional period, in the various economic, social and health fields.
7. Appeals to Member States, in view of the obstacles raised by Israel in the face of the Palestinian labour force, to provide work opportunities to this Palestinian labour force, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic status of the Palestinian people and putting an end to unemployment.
8. Urges the Member States to conclude bilateral agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organization and its National Authority in the economic, commercial and social field, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic status of the Palestinian people on their national soil.

9. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to pursue his efforts aimed at implementing the previous resolutions adopted in support of the State of Palestine and submit a progress report there on to the next COMCEC Session.

B. The Economic Consequences of the Recent Developments in the Palestinian Territories Occupied by Israel

1. **Condemns** the recent, Israeli aggressions reflected in the occupation of Palestinian territories in defiance of signed international agreements, all forms of aggression, the violation of Islamic and Christian holy places, that severely damage the infrastructure and Palestinian human and economic resources. Calls for the immediate and total withdrawal and an end to aggression which will reactivate Palestinian economy.

2. **Decides** to invite all Member States and OIC institutions to take all prompt measures to extend immediate assistance to establish a sound and independent Palestinian national economy.

C. Assistance to Lebanon

Noting with grave concern and deep distress the repeated Israeli aggressions against Lebanon and its civilian population, the wounding of innocent citizens, and the shelling of the infrastructure causing sufferings and great damage,

Reaffirming that Lebanon is entitled to compensation for the human casualties, the material damage and considerable economic loss it sustained as a result of repeated Israeli aggressions and constant threats ensuing in the mass displacement of the innocent civilian population, living at present under precarious conditions and creating stifling social pressure,

Realizing the extent of Lebanon's urgent need for financing the reconstruction process, repairing the infrastructure and restoring the economic and social sectors,

1. **Strongly Condemns** Israel for its continuous occupation of parts of South Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley and denounces the ongoing Israeli aggressions against its territory and people;
2. **Condemns** the recent Israeli aggressions that targeted civilians, the infrastructure and the economic establishments in Lebanon, followed by grave and outrageous Israeli threats;
3. **Expresses its deep appreciation** for the assistance provided by some Member States and concerned organs of the OIC;
4. **Reaffirms** the previous resolutions requesting financial, economic and humanitarian assistance to Lebanon;
5. **Reiterates** the appeal made by the 22nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers of the OIC, held in Casablanca (Morocco) on 8-9/ Canoun 1/94, calling upon the International Community to generously contribute to the International Fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon;
6. **Appeals again** to OIC Member States and all regional and international organizations to provide all forms of urgent assistance to Lebanon, financial and in kind, so that it may reconstruct what Israeli aggressions have destroyed and strengthen the steadfastness of the Lebanese citizens in the regions still occupied by Israel,
7. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow-up the matter and report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

D. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Albania

Recalling relevant resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conference, 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 16th Session of the COMCEC

1. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.

2. Expresses its strong support to the people of Albania beset by major economic difficulties at the present phase of their transition towards a market economy.
3. Urges OIC Member States, Islamic Institutions and International Organizations to grant generous economic assistance to Albania so that the Government of Albania may successfully implement its development programme.
4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

E. Economic Measures in Support of Uganda

Recalling relevant resolutions of the 9th Islamic Summit, 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 16th Session of the COMCEC.

1. Invites Member States, Islamic institutions and international organizations to grant urgent financial and economic assistance to Uganda so that it may cope with the refugee problems and other related consequences as well as implement its economic, social and cultural programmes.
2. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

F. Economic Measures in Support of Afghanistan

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 9th Islamic Summit, 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 16th session of the COMCEC;

Recalling further the final communique of the 9th extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Doha on 10th October 2001;

Noting the extra-ordinarily grave situation prevailing in Afghanistan:

1. **Recognizes** that Afghanistan is on the verge of a great human tragedy and the impending humanitarian catastrophe calls for immediate, emergency relief measures;
2. **Urges** the Member States and Islamic institutions to extend urgent and substantial assistance to the people of Afghanistan;
3. **Commends** those Member States that have already provided assistance to the people of Afghanistan;
4. **Expresses its gratitude and appreciation** to the OIC member states for their generous contribution to the newly formed OIC Fund for the welfare of Afghan refugees pouring into the neighbouring countries.
5. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC session.

G. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Somalia

Expresses its deep appreciation for the creation of a fund for the Afghan people by the 9th extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

1. **Expresses appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Urges** OIC Member States, to provide material and other assistance on an emergency basis to Somalia.

3. **Commends** those Member States that have already provided aid and assistance to the people of Somalia.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

H. Economic Assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic

Recalling relevant Resolution 9th Islamic Summit Conference, 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 16th Session of the COMCEC.

Expressing its understanding of the situation which has arisen in the Kyrgyz Republic after attainment of independence and sovereignty;

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties of the transitional period to the free market economy;

1. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Appeals** to all Muslims and Islamic financial institutions to be generous and to contribute to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Kyrgyz Republic either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organisations so as to enable Kyrgyz Republic to fulfil its economic programme.
3. **Appeals also** to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Kyrgyz Republic.
4. **Requests** the secretary general to follow up this matter and to report to the next COMCEC Session.

I. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Recalling resolutions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conference and Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers expressing support and assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan;

Referring to the Relevant UN Security Council Resolutions;

1. **Strongly condemns** continuous aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan resulting in the occupation of the fifth of its territory and in one million of refugees and displaced Azeri people.
2. **Reaffirms** its support of the sovereignty and territorial the integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and full solidarity of the Member States of the OIC with the government and people of Azerbaijan at this grave and very critical time of the country's history.
3. **Recognizes** the need to reinforce concrete solidarity of the OIC Member States with the government and people of Azerbaijan.
4. **Welcomes and appreciates** the assistance extended by the OIC member states and relevant bodies, United Nations institutions and international organizations.
5. **Appeals** to the Member States and Islamic institutions to make available to the Government of Azerbaijan the much needed economic and humanitarian assistance with a view to alleviating the sufferings of the Azeri people.
6. **Calls upon** the international organizations to continue to grant humanitarian, financial and economic assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

7. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow-up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

J. Economic Measures in Support of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Guided by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference emphasizing the common goals and destiny of the peoples of the Islamic Ummah and their commitment to the consolidation of international peace and security.

Recalling the previous resolutions adopted by the OIC expressing its Members' full solidarity with the Government and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina who were victims of the brutal aggression by the Serbs.

Taking also into account the resolutions adopted by the Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, held in Istanbul and Jeddah and followed by the Special Ministerial Meeting held in Islamabad as well as the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, Ninth Islamic Summit Conference and 16th Session of the COMCEC.

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the Assistance Mobilization Group for Bosnia-Herzegovina, formed in 1995 during the Kuala Lumpur meeting of the OIC Contact Group Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense towards providing humanitarian and economic assistance for concrete rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

1. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by Member States and OIC relevant bodies. It also stresses the importance of the continuation of the activities undertaken by the OIC Assistance Mobilization Group and noted with appreciation the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry's special programme to assist the private sector of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. **Commends** the contributions of the OIC Member States at the Donors Conference for the Rehabilitation of Bosnia which was held in Brussels in April 1996.
3. **Appeals** to Member States, Islamic institutions and other donors to make generous donations as well as provide financial aid to enable the early implementation of the IDB programme aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to the Government and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the reconstruction of the country.
4. **Expresses its appreciation** for the assistance provided by the OIC Member States and for the commendable efforts of those Islamic and other international humanitarian bodies in providing relief and assistance to the victims of the aggression in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
5. **Urges** the International Community to take efficient measures to ensure the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
6. **Demands that the sovereignty,** territorial integrity and the political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina be safeguarded and protected along its internationally recognized borders, and support the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is open for the participation of the Bosnian Serbs and which represents a solid basis for a just and lasting solution by being a catalyst for restoring confidence among its peoples.
7. **Requests** the OIC Member States, at the same time members of the Peace Implementation Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its Coordination Committee to seek directing the biggest part of international assistance for reconstruction of Bosnia to the regions inhabited by Muslims of Bosnia.
8. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

K. Assistance to the Republic of Guinea

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 9th Islamic Summit Conference, 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 16th Session of the COMCEC.

Considering the role played by the Republic of Guinea, within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to establish peace and ensure stability in some Member States, victims of armed conflicts.

Considering that the presence of a huge number of refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone constitutes an unbearable burden for the economy of the Republic of Guinea,

Gravely concerned by the repeated aggressions against the Republic of Guinea on its borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone, ensuing in loss of human lives, serious material damage and extensive displacement of the population within Guinea,

Considering the Declaration issued on 13 September 2000 by the UN Security Council, condemning these aggressions,

Considering the Final Communique of 13 September 2000 of the Coordination Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference condemning these aggressions and expressing its solidarity with the Republic of Guinea,

Considering the need for the Republic of Guinea to reconstruct its country, ensure the survival of the displaced population and the return of the refugees to their respective countries,

1. **Expresses** its support to and solidarity with the people and Government of Guinea;

2. **Invites** the International Community and the OIC Member States to provide the Republic of Guinea with a substantial financial and material assistance so that it may cope with the difficulties caused by the aggressions waged against it and the presence of hundreds of thousands of refugees on its territories, the majority of whom are Muslims;
3. **Appeals** to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its assistance, either as subventions or loans at favourable conditions, to the Republic of Guinea so that it may create the social infrastructures needed for the displaced population and the refugees, and overcome the deterioration of the environment brought about by this massive human presence,
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the matter and report thereon to the following COMCEC Session.

L. Assistance to the Republic of Sierra Leone

Recalling the pertinent Resolutions adopted by the Ninth Islamic Summit the 28th ICFM and the 16th COMCEC.

1. **Appeals** to the member states and Islamic institutions of the organization of Islamic Conference of which Sierra Leone has always been an active member to urgently extend substantial financial and material assistance to the war ravaged country whose people have experienced the most brutal acts of violence, so as to enable its people to rebuild the infrastructure and to undertake the much needed rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement of returnees and displaced inhabitants of about 1,5 million.
2. **Requests** the Secretary-General to use his good offices to accelerate the approval process of projects already identified for Sierra Leone.
3. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

M. Assistance to the Kashmiri People

Noting that the Kashmiri people continue to suffer a serious repression and the consequent economic hardship:

1. **Recognizes** the need for immediate economic assistance to alleviate the suffering of the innocent displaced Kashmiris;
2. **Appeals** to all the Member States and Islamic institutions to grant immediate assistance;
3. **Also appeals** to all OIC Members States and the Islamic Institutions to grant scholarships to the Kashmiri students in different universities and educational institutions in the OIC countries;
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow-up the matter and report to the next COMCEC session.

N. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Yemen

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 9th Islamic Summit Conference, 28th ICFM and 16th COMCEC.

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties faced by the Republic of Yemen, which arose from the burden of reunification and the big losses caused by the aborted secession attempt in June 1994 as well as the devastating flood which swept the Republic of Yemen in 1996.

Appreciating the efforts made and success achieved by the Government of Yemen in implementing the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform.

Taking into consideration the heavy burden borne by the Yemeni Government to provide shelter for groups of refugees from neighboring African countries;

Recalling that Yemen is one of the least developed countries;

1. **Expresses** its appreciation for the efforts of Yemeni Government in overcoming its economic difficulties and the implementation of the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform and the success achieved in that regard.
2. **Also Expresses** its appreciation for the assistance extended by some of the Member States and by the relevant organs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.
3. **Renews its call** to the Member States and all regional and international organizations to extend all kinds of economic assistance to the Yemeni Government to support its efforts aimed at implementing the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform and at wiping out the ravages suffered by Yemen as a result of the floods as well as alleviating the heavy burden of sheltering large number of refugees from neighbouring African countries.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

O. Economic Assistance to Tajikistan

Recalling Relevant Resolutions Ninth Islamic Summit Conference, 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 16th Session of the COMCEC.

Taking into account the objectives and principles of the OIC Charter as well as members' commitment to consolidate international peace and security;

Deeply concerned at the critical situation which Tajikistan has faced after 6 years of bloody civil war, which resulted in the death, injury and displacement of thousands of people as well as destruction of its economic and social infrastructures;

Noting the return of about 200 thousands Tajik refugees to their homeland which necessitates a great financial and technical support;

Recalling the report of the World Food Programme which estimates that 25 Per cent of Tajikistan's population is in dire need of food aid;

Noting with concern the marked spread of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and diarrhea, victims of which are especially infants, children and women;

1. Expresses deep appreciation to the assistance extended by some Member States.
2. Appeals to all members and Islamic financial institutions to make their generous contributions to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Tajikistan either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organisations so as to enable Tajikistan to fulfil its rehabilitation programmes.
3. Urges the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Tajikistan.
4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

P. Economic Assistance to Guinea Bissau

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 9th Islamic Summit Conference, 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 16th Session of the COMCEC.

Noting the political and social disorders that have recently erupted in Guinea Bissau and their consequences on the economic activities of the country, namely the loss of the agricultural and export products marketing campaign, the mass displacement of the population and the physical destruction of the basic socio-economic infrastructure, such as schools, dispensaries, hospitals, markets, residential areas, etc.

1. **Urges** Member States and the International Community to provide Guinea Bissau with urgent aid so as to facilitate the reinsertion of its peoples in active life.
2. **Appeals** to Member States and to OIC institutions to participate in the rehabilitation and economic revival programme of Guinea Bissau.
3. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

Q. Economic Assistance to Countries Affected by Drought and Natural Disasters

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 9th Islamic Summit Conference, 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 16th Session of the COMCEC.

Noting with concern the grave situation caused by natural disasters, drought and desertification, and the ensuing damaging effects on economic and social conditions specially in the sectors of agriculture and food, economic and social infrastructures as well as public services and utilities;

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by some Member States and the Islamic Development Bank which have extended and continue to extend

technical and financial assistance as well as aid to Member States stricken by drought and natural disasters;

Fully aware that afflicted Member States, most of them belonging to the category of the Least-Developed, cannot by themselves, bear the growing burden of anti-drought and anti-desertification campaign and the implementation of major related projects;

1. **Expresses its gratitude** to Member States, which have provided and are still providing assistance and food aid to the Member States affected by drought and natural disasters.
2. **Expresses also its gratitude** to IDB for its continuing assistance to Member States afflicted by drought and natural disasters and encourages the Bank to continue its assistance in this domain.
3. **Appeals** to the International Community also to extend assistance to Member States struck by drought and natural disasters.
4. **Calls upon** the Member States and OIC Institutions to extend urgent assistance to OIC countries of Inter-governmental Authority for Development and the Campaign Against Drought (IGAAD) and Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to enable them to overcome the difficult situation which has been threatening them for too long.
5. **Notes with appreciation** the meeting of Donor Countries and national and Regional Financial Institutions convened by Kuwait at IDB Headquarters in June, 1998 to consider the appropriate mechanisms for financing the new programmes.
6. **Welcomes** the contribution of 30 million US\$ made by the State of Kuwait in the form of soft development loans as well as the 20 million US\$ contributed by the Islamic Development Bank for the new programme.

7. **Also notes with appreciation** that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has embarked upon the implementation of its new programme for the control of drought and desertification in the African Sahel countries.
8. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

**R. Assistance to Sahelian African States Afflicted by
Desertification, Drought and Locust Invasion**

Having taken cognizance of resolution (27/7-IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit on Islamic Solidarity with the Peoples of the Sahel;

Taking into account the need for the urgent implementation of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme for the Sahel, which could be compromised if not implemented as soon as possible.

Recalling resolutions of the 9th Islamic Summit Conference, 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 16th Session of the COMCEC.

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Appeals** to all Member States and Islamic Institutes for an urgent special assistance to cope with a poor cereal crop in the CILSS Countries as a result of weak rainfalls.
3. **Expresses** its appreciation of the efforts made by the OIC General Secretariat, CILSS and the IDB in the elaboration and finalization of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme for the Sahel.
4. **Reaffirms** the necessity of giving priority to the rapid implementation of the Special OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme for the Sahel.

5. **Appeals** urgently to Member States to contribute generously and substantially to the funding of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme in favour of the Sahel Populations so as to crystalize the OIC Member States solidarity with these populations, alleviate their sufferings and ensure sustained development for the Sahel region.
6. **Notes** with appreciation the meeting of Donor Countries and national and Regional Financial Institutions convened by Kuwait in June 1998 to consider the appropriate mechanisms for financing the new programme.
7. **Welcomes** the 30 million US \$ contribution made by Kuwait in the form of soft development loans as well as the 20 million US \$ provided by the Islamic Development Bank for the new programme.
8. **Notes also** with appreciation that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has embarked upon the implementation of its new programme for the control of drought and desertification in the African Sahel countries.
9. **Urges** member states to announce their contributions to the new programme in favour of the African Sahel countries.
10. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

S. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Mozambique

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 9th Islamic Summit Conference, 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 16th Session of the COMCEC.

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation to assistance extended by OIC Member States to the victims of floods in Mozambique;
2. **Appeals** to Islamic Development Bank, all Islamic Institutions and the international community in general to render their material and financial

support in order to ensure the reconstruction of socio-economic infrastructures and rehabilitation of the affected people in Mozambique;

3. **Emphasizes** the need to promote and encourage the role of the private sector particularly within the context of development of Small and Medium Enterprises;
4. **Urges** the developed countries to write off the external debt of Mozambique in the light of its current critical socio-economic situation;
5. **Urges** the international community to increase its assistance to Mine-clearance Programmes, taking into account the far reaching effects of the floods;
6. **Urges** the international community to render assistance for setting up national, sub-regional, regional and international disaster prevention, preparedness and management mechanisms, including early warning systems;
7. **Commends** the efforts of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries to address the devastating effects of the floods and thanks international community for the support, solidarity and humanitarian assistance rendered to Mozambique;
8. **Calls Upon** all Member States to continue their support to the implementation of the programme of reconstruction of Mozambique;
9. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow-up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

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REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING
FOR ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE OIC PLAN OF ACTION FOR ECONOMIC
AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION

(Istanbul, 6-7 May 2001)

Original: English

REPORT

EXPERT GROUP MEETING FOR ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIC PLAN OF ACTION FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION

(Istanbul, 6-7 May 2001)

1. The Expert Group Meeting for Accelerating the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Economic and Commercial Co-operation was held in İstanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 6 and 7 May 2001.

2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC):

1. Republic of Azerbaijan
2. Burkina Faso
3. Arab Republic of Egypt
4. Republic of Guinea
5. Republic of Indonesia
6. Islamic Republic of Iran
7. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
8. Republic of Kazakhstan
9. State of Kuwait
10. Malaysia
11. Republic of Mali
12. Kingdom of Morocco
13. Mozambique
14. Republic of Nigeria
15. Sultanate of Oman

16. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
17. State of Palestine
18. State of Qatar
19. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
20. Republic of Senegal
21. Republic of Sudan
22. Republic of Tunisia
23. Republic of Turkey
24. State of the United Arab Emirates

3. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of the General Secretariat and the following subsidiary organs, specialised and affiliated institutions of the OIC:

1. The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)
2. The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
3. The Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT)
4. The Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
5. The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICO)
6. Organization of Islamic Shipowners Association (OIS A)

4. UNIDO Center for Regional Cooperation in Ankara, also attended the meeting as observer.

(A copy of the list of participants is attached as Annex I.)

Opening Session

5. The meeting was opened and chaired by H.E. Ambassador Yaşar YAKIŞ, Head of the Turkish Delegation. Thereafter, a message of H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ, the OIC Secretary General was read out by H.E. Ambassador Nabika DIALLO, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC.

(A copy of the text of the message of H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ is attached as Annex II.)

Election of the Bureau

6. Under Agenda item 2, the Meeting elected the Bureau as follows:

Chairman	:	Republic of Turkey
Vice-Chairman	:	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Vice-Chairman	:	State of Palestine
Vice-Chairman	:	Republic of Indonesia
Vice-Chairman	:	Burkina Faso
Rapporteur	:	Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Adoption of the Agenda

7. Under Agenda item 3, following the adoption of the Agenda of the Meeting, an open-ended Drafting Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of the Rapporteur, H.E. Ambassador Qazi HÜMAYUN, Head of the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

(A copy of the Agenda as adopted by the Meeting is attached as Annex III.)

Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat on the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Economic and Commercial Cooperation

8. Under Agenda item 4, H.E. Ambassador A.H.M. MONIRUZZAMAN, Director of Economic Affairs, presented the Background Report of the General Secretariat. The report provided a historical background information on the subject under consideration by the Meeting and reviewed the status of sectoral expert group meetings convened to implement the OIC Plan of Action. After assessing the expert group meetings held so far, the report made some suggestions for accelerating the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action.

9. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the concise information provided in the report to facilitate the deliberations of the Meeting.

(A copy of the text of the Background Report of the General Secretariat is attached as Annex IV.)

Problems Facing the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action and Possible Ways and Means for Accelerating its Implementation

10. Under Agenda item 5, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) submitted a working paper on the *Problems Facing the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action and Possible Ways and Means for Accelerating its Implementation* which was prepared with contributions from the relevant OIC institutions. The report highlighted the various problems facing the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action such as political, financial, human resources, organizational constraints and formulated some possible solutions for accelerating its implementation. A paper by IIT was also submitted to the Meeting in this regard.

11. During deliberations on this item, the Meeting appreciated the efforts made by the Centre for the preparation of the working paper on the subject. Member States also expressed their views with respect to the reasons for the slow progress in implementing the OIC Plan of Action and their proposals for accelerating its implementation. The Meeting also took note with appreciation of the paper by IIT.

(Copies of the Working Paper submitted by SESRTCIC and IIT are attached as Annexes V and VI.)

Measures for Promoting and Expanding Intra-OIC Trade:

12. Under Agenda item 6, ICDT, IDB and OISA submitted working papers on the issues of Trade Promotion, Trade Financing and Transportation, respectively.

13. The Meeting appreciated the efforts made by ICDT, IDB and OISA for the preparation of their respective papers and contributions to the subject.

(Copies of the Working Papers submitted by ICDT, IDB and OISA are attached as Annexes VII, VIII and IX, respectively.)

Modalities of Active Involvement of the Private Sector in the Activities of the COMCEC

14. Under Agenda Item 7, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) submitted a paper on modalities of active involvement of the Private Sector in the activities of the COMCEC, along with contributions from IDB.

15. The paper focused on how the private sector could play an active role in the activities of COMCEC so as to be an essential factor in stimulating economic development. The proposals covered the promotion of awareness within the private sector and involvement in the issues being dealt with by COMCEC. The paper also addressed the need to develop SMEs in industry and services, production of information technology, private investment and training. After lengthy discussion the Meeting took note with appreciation of the paper submitted by ICCI.

16. The Meeting also took note with appreciation, of the statement made by the Director of UNIDO Centre for Regional Cooperation in Ankara, indicating UNIDO's readiness to join forces with OIC in promoting the development of SMEs in OIC member countries, within the framework of existing cooperation Agreements between the two organizations.

(A copy of the Working Paper submitted by ICCI is attached as Annex X.)

Speeding up the Communication and Flow of Information among Member Countries

17. Under Agenda item 8, ICDT submitted a paper to the Meeting on Speeding up the Communication and Flow of Information among Member Countries which was prepared in collaboration with the relevant OIC institutions. The paper highlighted the need to develop the sector of Information Technology through close cooperation between the ICDT and other concerned OIC institutions. SESRTCIC also presented a paper on the same topic and suggested proposals for speeding up the communication and flow of

information among Member Countries. The Meeting took note with appreciation of the papers submitted.

18. The Egyptian delegation also presented a paper to the meeting taking note with appreciation of the paper, the Meeting decided that the paper be annexed to the Report of the Meeting.

(Copies of the Working Papers submitted by ICDT, SESRTCIC and the Arab Republic of Egypt are attached as Annexes XI, XII and XIII.)

19. Following a detailed discussion on the various agenda items, the Expert group meeting agreed to a set of recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action and decided to forward them to the Seventeenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC. The recommendations are as follows:

- (1) The meeting viewed that promotion of political commitment was the primary requirement to achieve progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action and recommended that closer collaborative efforts be intensified among the current Chairman of the Islamic Summit, the Chairman of the COMCEC and the Secretary General of the OIC with a view to obtaining the required political commitment among member countries. In this connection, the meeting also highlighted the importance of intensifying efforts on the political front with a view to having the OIC Agreements signed and ratified expeditiously.
- (2) In order to heighten the level of interest of the Member States and translate this interest into an effective participation there is a need to highlight some common objectives as the Plan's main targets such as:
 - i) Food security
 - ii) Alleviation of poverty
 - iii) Rural development
 - iv) Infrastructural development
 - v) Production and trade development
 - vi) Employment creation
 - vii) Human resource development (Education, Training, Health, etc.)

- (3) The implementation of the OIC Plan of Action may be accelerated by assigning priorities to the sectors and/or areas of cooperation and, at the same time, by introducing a time-frame with reasonable quantifiable targets.
- (4) Focal Points may be set up for each priority area of the Plan of Action, one in each Member State and one consisting of a relevant OIC institution. The two Focal Points would work jointly to implement the projects which were identified in consultation with Member States (fully involving both public and private sectors). A Focal Point Unit may also be set up within the COMCEC Coordination Office to coordinate all Focal Point activities for the various Expert Group Meetings.
- (5) From the initial stage of pre-feasibility/feasibility study of any cooperation project in any sector/area, particularly under technology and technical cooperation, OIC organ(s)/institution(s) having appropriate expertise and physical facilities should be involved as focal point(s) so that this organ(s)/institution(s) can provide, among others, the required technological inputs to facilitate smooth implementation of the project.
- (6) IDB may continue to provide financial assistance to the host countries for the timely convening of the EGMs, as it has been doing in the past.
- (7) Project proposals should be received by the Member States at least one month before the meeting for their full consideration.
- (8) COMCEC may frequently review, evaluate and follow up the work of the Project Committees.
- (9) Member States should give priority to joint projects that can generate the interest of other Member States and be undertaken by groups of Member States at regional, sub-regional or inter-regional levels.
- (10) There is need for preliminary consultations between the Member States proposing the project and the Member State wishing to participate in it before

submission to the EGM as it would enhance the chances of me project acceptance.

- (11) A degree of technical and professional expertise is needed in the preparation of pre-feasibility documents of regionally-attractive projects. These documents should indicate the technical viability of the project as well as the benefits that partner states could expect to derive from them.
- (12) A standard form of project profile may be developed by the COMCEC Coordination Office, adopted by the relevant OIC fora and circulated by the OIC General Secretariat This form should be circulated at an early date by the proposing Member States.
- (13) There is a need to have a financial framework, detailing the ways and means and the institutional set up through which project proposals are to be financed within meir existing mandate, policy and procedure. To this end, the relevant OIC institutions could be mandated to study, appraise and provide the necessary financial and technical support to the proposed cooperation projects.
- (14) The nature and extent of financial obligations, which an interested Member State will be expected to fulfill, should be indicated in the feasibility studies and profile documents for any proposed project. These documents should also identify the possible sources of funds to be contributed by the other participating Member States.
- (15) In order to infuse dynamism into cooperation efforts among the OIC countries, the private sector should be given a more effective role in OIC economic cooperation and should be included at all stages of the implementation process of the OIC Plan of Action. Accordingly, the project proposals may be, if feasible, determined in consultation with the private sector and circulated directly to the various private sector institutions through the ICO.
- (16) A working group comprising the Bureau of COMCEC, the OIC General Secretariat and IDB, with ICCI as the focal point, may be set up to assume the

responsibility of the monitoring mechanism to implement the recommendations of the Private Sector Meetings.

- (17) A marketing network for the SMEs may be developed by ICCI with the assistance of UNIDO and ICDT. Through such a network, SMEs in the Member Countries would enlarge their market through creating partnership and supply chains amongst themselves. These partnerships and supply chains would include provision of raw materials and co-production of spare parts, semi-manufactured goods and other items.
- (18) For development of joint venture investment in industry and service, the sponsors of potential projects may be invited six months before the annual Private Sector Meeting to attend that Meeting. A joint IDB-ICCI Committee may scrutinize these projects and decide how to properly guide the sponsors in the preparation of feasibility studies of these projects and evaluation of the performance of management for the proposed joint venture projects. Afterwards, due information may be provided to the sponsors for re-structuring their proposals for discussion at the ICCI Private Sector Meeting. Thereafter, these projects may be submitted to IDB for consideration of financial and technical assistance.
- (19) The ICCI may maintain contact with the IDB for information about facilities for trade financing schemes and the various windows available at the Bank.
- (20) The OIC specialized institutions could make a major contribution by enhancing the institutional capabilities of Member States. The IDB and other OIC institutions should step up the commendable efforts they have been deploying in this area through technical assistance and technical cooperation programs.
- (21) The OIC institutions should enhance their efforts to further cooperation with Regional Organizations. The concerned OIC family of institutions need to reinforce their cooperative efforts with the relevant regional organizations in the form of research, meetings, workshops and seminars on topics related to reinforcing economic cooperation among member countries.

- (22) There is need to further enhance the existing level of coordination among the respective programs and activities of the various OIC related institutions in order to avoid duplication of tasks. In order to enhance the existing collaboration among these institutions, avoid duplication, monitor the progress of the programs assigned to each institution and share and learn from their respective experiences, consultative meetings should be held on a regular basis concurrently with the annual sessions of the COMCEC and Islamic Commission for Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs.
- (23) Possible steps could be taken for trade facilitation among the Member States such as simplifying custom procedures, documentation and harmonization of standards by the exchange of trade related information through the existing OIC information network systems.
- (24) There is need to take the necessary measures in order to assist in the smooth transportation of goods among the Member States.
- (25) In order to facilitate shipping services among Member States, the Islamic Chamber (ICO) was called upon to cooperate with the OISA in proposing effective mechanism to this end.
- (26) Member Countries are encouraged to utilize the services of the cooperative information system set up by the OISA at its headquarter in Jeddah to render services to the shipping companies in the member countries.
- (27) Given the importance of electronic facilities in the exchange of information and trade promotion, Member States may extend support for the operation of the Trade Information Network (TINIC) data base in terms of regular and sustained flow of statistical, economic and other related information that would contribute to the promotion of intra-OIC trade.
- (28) Efforts should be made to speed up the signing and ratification of the Framework Agreement for Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC) to enable ICDT to organize trade negotiations among the Member States for exchange of

preferences and consider removal of non-tariff barriers which would contribute significantly to developing intra-OIC trade.

- (29) Given the objective of establishing an Islamic common market ICDT, in collaboration with IDB, SESRTCIC and ICCI may organize seminars emphasizing the advantage for all Member States to make use of the TPS-OIC Agreement which provides a legal framework for the establishment of a free-trade zone for the OIC Member States.
- (30) ICDT/Host country organizers may prepare a legal framework to regulate the convening of Islamic Trade Fairs and its organization (Rules of Procedure) and defining relevant procedures and mandate (Tender Document) in order to ensure their continuity and success with the objective of its registration as an International Fair with the International Fairs and Exhibitions Union.
- (31) The meeting recommended that ICDT, IDB and IIT collaborate in the implementation of a program aimed at acquiring the new techniques, norms and regulations in the field of international trade for the benefit of the Member States.

Closing of the Meeting

20. At its closing session, the Meeting adopted its report and recommendations together with its Annexes and requested the OIC General Secretariat to submit it to the Seventeenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC and to circulate it to Member States

21. Finally, the Meeting expressed its thanks and appreciation to the people and the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Expert Group Meeting as well as the hospitality they extended to the participants.

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REPORT
ON THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING
(Istanbul, 19 October 2001)

Original : English

**REPORT
ON THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

(Istanbul, 19 October 2001)

On the sidelines of the 17th Session of COMCEC and as per agenda Item 10, the Sessional Committee Meeting was held on 19th October 2001 in Istanbul.

The General Secretariat of OIC and the following OIC Institutions attended the meeting:

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)

The Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT)

The Islamic University of Technology (IUT)

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce And Industry (ICCI)

Organization of Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA).

and the representatives of the COMCEC Coordination Office also attended the meeting. List of participants is attached.

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Nabika Diallo, Assistant Secretary General of OIC.

The report of the First Consultative Meeting on Enhancing Cooperation between **the IDB and OIC Institutions** which was held on 11th February 2001, was considered as the basis of the discussions.

A background on the purpose and objective of the Sessional Committee was presented by the representative of the COMCEC Coordination Office.

After in-depth discussions, the Committee took the following recommendations.

1. Taking into consideration the utility of such meetings, it was agreed to hold two meetings annually on a regular basis. One to be held on the sidelines of the meeting of the Islamic Commission on Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs in Jeddah and the second one on the sidelines of the annual session of COMCEC in Istanbul. The agenda will be prepared by IDB and COMCEC Coordination Office respectively, in Consultation with the related OIC Institutions.
2. The IDB and COMCEC Coordination Office will prepare concise draft agenda, and circulate it among the Institutions sufficiently in advance and thereafter the final draft agenda will be sent to the concerned institutions at least, one month before the actual date of the meeting.
3. The committee agreed to have the following items as permanent agenda items:
 - i. Periodic evaluation of cooperation including MOU's signed among the concerned institutions
 - ii. Review of the measures to be taken to promote intra-OIC trade
 - iii. Current theme of the exchange of views session of COMCEC
4. The OIC Institutions working in the field of economy and trade need to intensify information exchange and to coordinate their respective annual programmes, so as to bring more operational efficiency and avoid duplication in this regard.
5. OIC Institutions also need to coordinate their respective training and technical cooperation programmes, and to promote their joint training activities.
6. In order to market the programme and services of the OIC Institutions, it was proposed that during the COMCEC Sessions, whenever possible, the

OIC Institutions could be given an opportunity to present their activities to the Member States.

7. It was agreed that during the forthcoming Islamic Commission on Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, scheduled to be held in Jeddah from 19-23 January 2002, the preparations for the workshop on "Private Sector Investment and the Role of IDB", will be discussed and the topics of the papers to be prepared by the OIC Institutions.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

- H.E. Ambassador NABIKA THIRENO DIALLO
Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs

- H.E. Ambassador A.H.M.MONIRUZ7.AMAN
Director of Economic Affairs

THE STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRTCIC)

- H.E. Ambassador ERDİNÇ ERDÜN
Director General

- MR. OKER GÜRLER
Director. Research Department

THE ISLAMIC CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)

- MR. AEEAL RACEIDI
Director General

- MR. EL HASSANE HZAINÉ
Director of Studies and Training Department

THE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (IUT)

- PROF. DR. M. ANWAR HOSSAIN
Vice-Chancellor

THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

- MR. ABDWEA/IX AE - KEEAIBI
Director. Co-operation Office

- MR. NIK NAJIB HUSAIN
Acting Division Chief
Trade, Finance and Promotion Department

- MR. AHMED ABDUL WASIE
Operation Officer

THE ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ICCI)

- MS. ATTIYA NAWAZISH ALI
Manager, Trade Promotion

ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION (OISA)

- MR. FEDA UR RAHMAN JAMIL
Finance Manager

COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

- MR. AHMET CAFOĞLU
Head of COMCEC Coordination Office

- MR. FERRUH TIĞLI
Head of Department

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STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. ABDELOUAHED BELKEZIZ,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE CLOSING SESSION

(Istanbul, 21 October 2001)

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. ABDELOAHED BELKEZIZ,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC
CONFERENCE AT THE CLOSING SESSION**

(Istanbul, 20 October 2001)

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim.

Your Excellency, Dr. Devlet Bahçeli,
Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the
Republic of Turkey,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

As we come to the close of the 17th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), let us express one profound gratitude to Allah Subtanahu Wa ta'la for the successful conclusion of our work over the last four days, two days at the Senior Official level and two days at the Ministerial level. We have sought to cover all vital areas of our common concern in the field of economic and commercial cooperation among the Member State. We have deliberated, in particular, on ways and mean of accelerating the implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States. I believe the decisions taken at this session of COMCEC on the various issues will make a positive contribution to the on going work of COMCEC.

The present session had the primary task of examining the recommendations of the expert group meeting on ways and means of accelerating the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States as forwarded for the consideration by this session by the 17th meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC. By approving the recommendations of the experts group meeting and stressing their importance, the COMCEC has provided the

necessary impetus to the follow-up action in terms of implementing the Plan of Action that lie ahead. I would now urge upon the Member States to undertake in all earnestness the various practical steps recommended by the experts group meeting. I would like to highlight here that the underlying primary requirements the political commitment of the Member States, which forms the basic pillar of the recommendations.

Expansion of the intra-OIC trade has been a critical area where decisive action is urgently required. In this respect, the exchange of views session held during the session on non-tariff barriers on trade expansion among the Member States has been timely and worthwhile, which brought into focus a number of important recommendations for possible implementation by the Member States. The outcome of the exchange of views will no doubt enable us to undertake further necessary steps in expanding intra-OIC trade to an appreciable level.

In keeping with the recommendations emerged out of the exchange of views session as well as those of the experts group meeting, the COMCEC has once again stressed the importance of signing and ratifying the various OIC agreements and statutes in the field of economic and commercial cooperation in providing the much needed framework of such cooperation among the Member States. It goes without saying that sooner we achieve general acceptance of these agreement and statutes the better it is for the Islamic Ummah in bringing together the Member States its certain from of economic integration which remain our cherished goal. I would, therefore, join in the appeal made by COMCEC to those Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the various OIC agreements and statutes. Evidently, this is of utmost importance if we are to progress towards greater economic cooperation among the Member States.

It is equally important that this session has substantially addressed the issue of the role of the private sector in the economic cooperation among the Member States. In this respect, COMCEC has rightly issued an appeal to the Member States to give due consideration the recommendations of the Private Sector Meetings held under the auspices of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The active involvement of the private sector should remain a key element in our effort to develop strategies for cooperation among the Member States. I am confident that their important matter will receive containing attention of the Member States.

There is one final point that I would like to stress rather emphatically. It is my conviction that the success of this session, or any other session of COMCEC for that matter, depends largely on the depth of the commitment of the Member States in translating the various programmes and activities aimed at implementing the Plan of Action into concrete actions in terms of their effective participation in those programmes and activities. I am determined to work towards that end with the support of the Member States.

The Bureau of COMCEC has been reconstituted at this session with the election of the Federal Republic of Nigeria the State of Kuwait and the Islamic Republic of Iran as the vice-chairmen to represent the African, Arab and Asian regions respectively, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the Rapporteur. I warmly congratulate them for their election.

Before concluding, I would like to express my gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC for the wisdom and sagacity with which he has been guiding the work of COMCEC.

To end, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to their Excellencies the Ministers and other heads and members of the delegation, who have honoured this meeting with their presence. Last but not the least, I would like to thank the COMCEC Coordination Office, the interpreters, translators and all those who have actively contributed to making the 17th Session of the COMCEC a success.

Let me assure you, once again, of the continued support and cooperation of the OIC General Secretariat in the implementation of the decisions of COMCEC.

Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu.

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STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. DEVLET BAHÇELİ,
MINISTER OF STATE AND DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 21 October 2001)

Original: Turkish

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. DEVLET BAHÇELİ,
MINISTER OF STATE AND DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

(İstanbul, 21 October 2001)

Honourable Ministers,
Honourable Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Esteemed Guests,

I would like to start my address by expressing my satisfaction for the successful conclusion of another Session of the COMCEC.

The COMCEC, which has been functioning for 17 years as the forum responsible for economic cooperation among the OIC Member States, has constituted an important platform for economic cooperation in the meantime.

Projects so far concluded and finalized, such as the Export Financing Scheme, the Islamic Corporation for Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee, Trade Information Network, the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System, Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute and the Islamic Clearing Union Model Agreement, as well as the private sector meetings and exchange of views sessions prove that the COMCEC fulfills an important function for the Member States.

I would like to state that a permanent and productive cooperation requires constant re-evaluation and in this context, the global trends must be reflected correctly in to the nature of our cooperation.

I would like to take this occasion to underline that the importance of the private sector for both national economies and international economic and commercial cooperation is increasingly enhanced in recent years. As an example, the share of the

private sector in the formation of domestic capital has risen from 74.7% in 1981 to 76.9% in 1997. It is estimated that this percentage is around 60% in the Islamic countries.

As a first step for increasing this figure, the efforts towards development of the private sector in our respective countries must be intensified. As the second step, we must contrive to set up new schemes to assist the private sector, from new financing instruments to expand the business sphere of our businessmen to facilitating customs procedures and transportation.

Another remarkable aspect of global trends is the general increase in international trade. According to the indicators, the average rate of increase of the trade of goods in the world is much higher than the rate of increase of world production.

This points to the development of a trade oriented concept of cooperation, emphasis must be given to expanding the export capacities of the countries by developing commercial cooperation among the Member States.

In this context and in line with the target of expanding the export capacities, in the process of increasing the exports of the Member States to both the OIC countries and to third countries, restructuring technology, implementing strategic marketing measures, reducing input costs, adopting international norms and standards and require restructuring in related areas become, particularly important.

Honourable Members,
Distinguished Delegates,

We have discussed, once again, at this session of the COMCI-J, important issues concerning the development of the economic and commercial cooperation among our brotherly countries

The recommendations submitted by the experts group meeting on accelerating the Implementation of the Plan of Action have been considered during this session. Out of these all valuable recommendations, the promotion of the political will, to

increase the role of the private sector, to establish a financing mechanism for projects, to set up a marketing network among SMEs are particularly remarkable.

I trust that these recommendations will contribute to the acceleration of the Implementation of the Plan of Action and will give a new impetus to economic cooperation.

The recent developments in the world economy as well as the issue of the reform of the international financial system have been taken up during our meeting. I believe that our decision to actively contribute to the reform of the international financial system is highly appropriate.

Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,

The successful utilization of the \$1 billion additional Fund allocated by the Islamic Development Bank in the framework of the efforts aimed at the expansion of trade among our countries is a source of great satisfaction. Moreover, we are pleased to note that the amount of the Fund used in one year for trade financing has reached \$1.7 billion. I firmly believe that, with the improvement of the financing conditions of the Islamic Development Bank, this fund will be used more intensively.

The latest developments in the framework of the World Trade Organization have also been reviewed at this session. I think that within this framework, our wish demanding the transformation of the World Trade Organization into a development-oriented Organization is extremely valid. Ministerial Conference to be held in Doha, Qatar next month will constitute an excellent occasion for our solidarity within this Organization.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The private sector continues to contribute to the COMCEC activities and to the cooperation among our countries. In this context, the Eight Private Sector Meeting was held in Guinea last week. Such organizations which attract the interest of many firms constitute an appropriate platform of cooperation for our businessmen.

Within this context, I would like to indicate that we welcome with pleasure the establishment of Private Sector Development Unit within the Islamic Development Bank. One of the basic role of this unit should be the development of the entrepreneurial spirit providing financing to the private sector at favourable conditions, and the mobilization of the technological development of the member countries.

The exchange of views on the effect of non-tariff barriers on the foreign trade of Member Countries has been very useful. It is necessary to make intensive joint effort in the concerned fora, in order to be safeguarded from the damage caused by non-tariff barriers which can be at least as detrimental as tariff-barriers in the process of the development of international trade.

Common action that will be adopted in accordance with the decisions we have reached will contribute greatly to the struggle against non-tariff barriers on the global scale.

I would like to express that we have to take necessary measures for adapting to the non-tariff barriers that are applied in accordance with international regulations as soon as possible.

The decision to designate "Private Sector Investments in Member Countries and the Role of the Islamic Development Bank" as theme of the exchange of views session to be held during the next COMCEC session, is pertinent.

Distinguished Ministers,
Honorable Delegates,

In conclusion. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the delegations, to the Genera] Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and to the affiliated institutions of the OIC for their valuable contribution to the success of the session.

I would also like to thank our friends taking part in the organisation of the Session, the supporting staff and the interpreters for their devoted work.

Hoping to see you again at the Eighteenth Session of the COMCEC next year with my best wishes of success, I wish you all a safe journey.

