

**REPORT and RESOLUTIONS
OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

Istanbul, 22 - 25 November 2005

COMCEC Coordination Office
Ankara, November 2005

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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:

1. 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;
2. 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;

3. 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;
4. Members of these Committees shall be elected by the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference for a renewable term of three years;
5. 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. 30/10-E (IS) ON
ACTIVITIES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION (COMCEC)

The Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of Knowledge and Morality for the Progress of Ummah) held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 20-21 Shaban 1424H (16-17 October 2003),

Recalling Resolution No. 31/9-E (IS) adopted by the Ninth 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. 30/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling the resolutions of the Ministerial level meetings in different areas of cooperation held under the auspices of the COMCEC;

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

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;

Noting 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 liberalisation, integration with the world economy, sanctity of the economic, political, legal and constitutional structures of the Member States and their international obligations.

Also noting 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.

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, 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 of the Member States 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 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". "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" "The Effects of Non-tariff Barriers on Foreign Trade of the Member Countries" and "Private Sector Investment in the Member States and the Role of IDB" were the themes for the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th Session-of 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, in Seattle from 30 November to 03 December 1999, in Doha from 9-14 November, 2001 and in Cancun, Mexico from 10-14 September 2003 respectively with a view to assisting them to adopt a common stand regarding the issues raised in the Agenda of those meetings.

3. **Thanks** the ICDT and IDB for organising an expert group meeting before the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference for the benefit of the Member States.

4. **Thanks** the IDB for organizing a brainstorming meeting for Geneva-based missions on 1-2 May 2003 and a consultative meeting on 27-28 July 2003 for capital-based officials in preparation for the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference.

5. **Appreciates** also the technical assistance programmes of 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 organizing for consultative meetings of Member States and the Seminars and Workshops it organizes for this purpose.

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. **Underlines** the crucial importance of the active participation of the private sector in economic cooperation among the Member States and appreciating the cooperation and productive support of IDB for all the events of ICO, calls upon ICCI to pursue its efforts to further involve the private sector in the economic cooperation among Member States.

8. **Appreciates** the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding the 10th Private Sector Meeting on 4-6 October 2003 in Tehran in collaboration with ICCI and the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines.

9. **Notes** with appreciation that the Regulations for the Islamic Trade Fair which was prepared by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, had been adopted by the Eighteenth Session of the COMCEC.

10. **Expresses** its gratitude to the United Arab Emirates for hosting the Islamic Trade Fair in Sharjah from 21 to 26 December 2002 on the theme: Free Trade and Sustainable development, and expresses its appreciation for the commendable efforts made by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sharjah for the success of the fair.

11. **Also welcomes** the offer of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce to host the 11th Private Sector Meeting in 2004 and the offer of Senegal to host the 13th Private Sector Meeting in 2006. The offer to host the 12th Private Sector Meeting into 2005 is awaited.

12. **Further welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Guinea to host the 10th Islamic Trade Fair in 2004 and calls upon the Member States to actively participate in the event.

13. **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.

14. Stresses the importance of the recommendations of the Experts Group Meeting for Accelerating the Implementation of the Plan of Action and requests that measures be taken by the Member States to accelerate the implementation of these recommendations through appropriate mechanisms to be proposed by the COMCEC Coordination Office in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat and the OIC institutions.

15. **Takes notes** of approval by the COMCEC of the Draft Project Profile Form prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office in pursuance of the relevant

recommendation of the Experts Group Meeting on Accelerating the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action and requests the Member States to make use of it whenever they wish to submit project proposals within the framework of the OIC Plan of Action.

16. **Takes notes** with appreciation also of the study by the COMCEC Coordination Office, in cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat, SESRTCIC, ICDT, IUT, IDB, ICCI and OISA in their capacity as focal points, elaborating on the content and the terms of their possible assignment, in pursuance of the relevant recommendation of the Experts Group Meeting assigning mandate to the relevant OIC institutions to study, apprise and provide the necessary financial and technical support to the cooperation projects to be proposed, which will be finalized for submission to the 19th Session of COMCEC.

17. **Requests** the Member States to communicate their views on the supplementary Mechanism for implementation of the OIC Plan of Action which was proposed and circulated by the COMCEC Coordination Office at their earliest convenience so that it can be submitted to the 19th Session of COMCEC.

18. **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.

19. **Invites** the Member States to host sectoral Expert Group Meetings in priority areas of cooperation in the Plan of Action.

20. **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.

21. **Thanks** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism on 6-9 October 2002 in Riyadh.

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

23. **Thanks** the Republic of Senegal for the hosting of Seminar-Workshop 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.

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. **Welcomes** 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. **Thanks** the Republic of Gabon for having organised 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. **Thanks** Burkina Faso for hosting 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 Islamic Republic of Iran to host sectoral Expert Group Meeting in the area of Health and Sanitary Issues to be followed by a Ministerial meeting on the same topic.

29. **Thanks** the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Experts Group of Meeting on Accelerating the implementation of the Plan of Action, which was held on 6-7 May 2001 in Istanbul.

30. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic Tunisia to host an experts group meeting on "Promoting the Activities of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises" in the field of production and exports.

31. Notes with satisfaction that the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System entered into force upon its ratification by more than ten Member States as required under the Agreement, and welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the first round of negotiations to be held under the Framework Agreement.

32. **Thanks** the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting of an Experts Group Meeting to prepare the Launching of the First Trade Negotiations Round within the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System Among the OIC Member States held in Casablanca on 24-26 June, 2003 and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and the COMCEC Coordination Office for organizing it and preparing the necessary documents in this regard.

33. **Calls** upon the concerned Member States to actively take part in the first round of trade negotiation under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System.

34. **Welcomes** the proposal made by the WTO during the meeting of policy dialogue between the WTO and the representatives of six major regional development banks, including IDB, which was held at the WTO Headquarters in Geneva, on 3 May 2003, that the regional development banks convene policy dialogues of trade and finance ministers at the regional level, to which the WTO and the World Bank may also be invited.

35. **Also welcomes** the resolutions of the 18th Session of the COMCEC which expresses the view that the above policy dialogue meeting of the OIC ministers responsible for trade and finance could be convened in conjunction with the sessions of the COMCEC.

36. **Welcomes** the offer of Indonesia to host an International Workshop on Employment and Manpower Exchange.

37. **Welcomes** the offer of Arab Republic of Egypt to host an OIC Ministerial Meeting to promote intra-OIC trade.

38. **Thanks** IDB for organizing a Workshop on "Private Sector Investment in the Member States and the Role of IDB" on 14-16 September 2002 in Istanbul

in collaboration with related OIC institutions; and also thanks the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Workshop.

39. **Welcomes** the decision taken by the 18th Session of the COMCEC that "Impact of Electronic Commerce and the use of Information Technology in the Promotion and Development of Intra-OIC Trade" be the theme for the exchange of views at the 19th Session of the COMCEC.

40. **Thanks** the Republic of Tunisia for hosting the workshop on "Impact of Electronic Commerce and the Use of Information Technology in the Promotion and Development of Intra-OIC Trade" on 10-12 June, 2003 in Tunis in collaboration with SESRTCIC, ICDT, IUT and other relevant OIC institutions as a preparation for the exchange of views session to be held during the 19th session of COMCEC.

41. **Notes with appreciation** that the 19th Session of the COMCEC will be held from 20-23 October, 2003 in Istanbul under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey and calls upon the Member States to effectively and actively participate in the meeting.

42. **Takes notes** of the initiative of ICCI on forming a working group comprised of the General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office, IDB, ICCI, SESRTCIC and ICDT, as the focal point assuming the responsibilities of the monitoring mechanism to implement the recommendations of the private sector meetings.

43. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference.

PART TWO

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

I

LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 22-25 November 2005)

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 22-25 November 2005)

	<u>Document Code</u>
1. Agenda of the Twenty-first Session of the COMCEC ...	OIC/COMCEC/21 -05/A
2. Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat	OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(1)
3. Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries by SESRTCIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(2)
4. Report by SESRTCIC on Developments in the International Financial Architecture.....	OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(3)
5. Report of the Twenty-first Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/21-05/REP
6. Report by the OIC General Secretariat on the Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States.....	OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(4)
7. Joint Report by SESRTCIC and ICDT on the Developments in the Promotion of Cooperation Among Stock Exchanges of the OIC Member Countries.....	OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(5)
8. Report by IDB on the Expansion of Intra-Trade Among OIC Member Countries.....	OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(6)
9. ICDT's Annual Report on Trade Between the Member States of OIC 2005.....	OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(7)
10. Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee.....	OIC/COMCEC/21 -05/ TNC/04-05/REP
11. Report of the Special Session of the Trade Negotiating Committee.....	OIC/COMCEC/21-05ATNC.REP
12. Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS).....	OIC/COMCEC/21-05/PRETAS
13. Report on IDB Group's WTO Related Technical Assistance to the OIC Member Countries by IDB.....	OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(8)

Document Code

14. Report on the Issues Relating to the Activities of the WTO by ICDT.....OIC/COMCEC/21 -05/D(9)
15. Report by ICCI on the Private Sector Meetings among the OIC Member Countries.....OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(10)
16. Brief Report by ICCI on the Activities of the ICCL_OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(11)
17. Report and Recommendations of the OIC Trade Forum and Trade Exhibition by MalaysiaOIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(12)
18. Malaysian Halal Standard by MalaysiaOIC/COMCEC/21 -05/D(13)
19. Declaration of the Inaugural World Islamic Economic ForumOIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(14)
20. Reports by ICDT on Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries ... OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(15)
21. Report of the Workshop on "The Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation Among the OIC Member States" by ICDT.....OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(16)
22. Evaluation and Follow-up of the Outcomes of the OIC Economic Conference by COMCEC Coordination Office.....OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(17)
23. Capacity Building for Poverty Alleviation in Least Developed and Low-income OIC Member States by OIC General SecretariatOIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(18)
24. Final Communiqué of the Third Senior Official Meeting of the Steering Committee on Capacity Building Programme for the OIC Countries.....OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(19)
25. Report by the OIC General Secretariat on Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic States OIC/COMCEC/21 -05/D(20)
26. Report of the Sessional Committee____OIC/COMCEC/21-05/Sc.Rep
27. Final Communiqué of the OIC Economic Conference ... OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(21)
28. Report of the Sectoral Expert Groups Meeting on the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action in the Area of Tourism.....OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(22)
29. Report of the Fourth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers by OIC General SecretariatOIC/COMCEC/21 -05/D(23)

Document Code

30. Report of the Round Table Meeting on Promotion of Cooperation Among Stock Exchanges of the Organization of Islamic Conference of Member States OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(24)
31. Pre-Feasibility Study on Determining the Need for Regional Air Craft by TAI.....OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(25)
32. Project Proposal on the Establishment of Energy Technology Network Among OIC Members by Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Turkey OIC/COMCEC/21 -05/D(27)
33. Low-Cost Imaging Based Mapping System Development for Monitoring of Natural and Anthropogenic Changes in OIC Member Countries' Coasts by TÜBİTAK.....OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(28)
34. Project Proposal by Turkey on Technical Cooperation Between Patent Offices in the OIC Member Countries by Turkish Patent Institute.....OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(29)
35. SATCM and LEORBS Projects by TURKS AT.....OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(30)
36. Country Reports and/or Written Presentations on the "Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member Countries".....OIC/COMCEC/21-05/CR(....)
 - Jordan
 - State of Kuwait
 - Sultanate of Oman
 - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 - Republic of Tunisia
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Iran
 - Kazakhstan
 - Cameron
 - Bosnia-Herzegovina

II

REPORT
OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

(Istanbul, 22-25 November 2005)

Original: English

**REPORT
OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC
(Istanbul, 22-25 November 2005)**

1. The Twenty-first Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) was held in Istanbul, from 22 to 25 November 2005.

2. The Meeting of Senior Officials of COMCEC that preceded the Session on 22-23 November 2005 was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Ahmet TIKTIK, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey, to consider items of the Draft Agenda and prepare Draft Resolutions for consideration by the Ministerial Session.

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

1. Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan
2. Republic of Albania
3. Peoples Democratic Republic of Algeria
4. Republic of Azerbaijan
5. Kingdom of Bahrain
6. People's Republic of Bangladesh
7. Brunei Darussalam
8. Republic of Cameroon
9. Union of Comoros
10. Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
11. Arab Republic of Egypt
12. Republic of Gambia
13. Republic of Guinea
14. Republic of Indonesia
15. Islamic Republic of Iran
16. Republic of Iraq

17. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
18. Republic of Kazakhstan
19. State of Kuwait
20. Kyrgyz Republic
21. Republic of Lebanon
22. Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
23. Malaysia
24. Republic of Maldives
25. Republic of Mali
26. Kingdom of Morocco
27. Republic of Mozambique
28. Federal Republic of Nigeria
29. Sultanate of Oman
30. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
31. Palestinian National Authority
32. State of Qatar
33. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
34. Republic of Senegal
35. Republic of Sierra Leone
36. Democratic Republic of Somalia
37. Republic of Sudan
38. Republic of Suriname
39. Syrian Arab Republic
40. Republic of Tajikistan
41. Republic of Tunisia
42. Republic of Turkey
43. Republic of Turkmenistan
44. Republic of Uganda
45. State of the United Arab Emirates
46. Republic of Uzbekistan
47. Republic of Yemen

4. Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Thailand participated in the Session as observers and the Republic of Macedonia as guest.

5. The OIC General Secretariat and the following subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated OIC institutions attended the Session:

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 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICO)
7. Islamic Shipowner Association (OISA)

6. Representatives of the following international organizations attended the Session as well:

1. Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
2. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
3. Developing Eight (D-8)
4. Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC)
5. Federation of Islamic Countries' Contractors (FICC)
6. Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)

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

Opening Session

7. The Opening Ceremony of the Twenty-first Session of COMCEC was held on 24 November 2005 under the chairmanship of H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC.

8. In his inaugural statement, H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, in welcoming the delegates, expressed his pleasure for being once again with the representatives of the Member States of the OIC at the 21st Session of

COMCEC. H.E. SEZER drew attention to the fact that the Organization of Islamic Conference was the second biggest political organization worldwide in terms of population and geographical size just next to the United Nations. President SEZER expressed his satisfaction that the First Round of the Trade Negotiations had successfully been concluded and the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPSOIC finalized for signing by the Member States. He also pointed out the role of tourism in promoting the economic welfare of the OIC Member States. Regarding the recent earthquake in Pakistan, H.E. President SEZER, extended his condolences to the Pakistani people and called upon the Member States and international community to continue to support Pakistan by increasing their aid efforts. He concluded his statement by wishing success and fruitful results for the 21st Session of the COMCEC.

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

9. H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, Secretary General of OIC made a statement at the Opening Session. He expressed his deep appreciation to H.E. Mr. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC, for his kind support and keen interest in the activities of the COMCEC. He extended his condolences to the Pakistani people for the recent earthquake and urged the OIC Member States to show solidarity with Pakistan and its people affected by the earthquake. He also expressed his hope that this Session would significantly contribute to the economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC countries.

(A copy of the address of H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, Secretary General of the OIC is attached as Annex 3).

10. The Heads of Delegations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Cameroon, and the Republic of Azerbaijan made statements on behalf of the Arab, African, and Asian groups of Member States, respectively. Extending their thanks to the Republic of Turkey for its hospitality extended on the occasion of the 21st Session of the COMCEC, they stressed the importance of the signing and ratifying the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme that was adopted by the Special Session of the Trade Negotiating Committee and thereafter by the 21st Session of the COMCEC. They also stressed the role of

the COMCEC in the development of the African Member States of the OIC. They stated that the OIC Community has enough financial and economic resources, which if mobilized through increasing cooperation among them, could well increase the level of living standards within the Community.

11. H.E. Ahmed Mohammed ALI, the President of the Islamic Development Bank, also addressed the Opening Session. H.E. ALI gave a summary of developments related to the various activities of the IDB. He stated that fruitful cooperation between COMCEC and IDB has continued. The President informed the audience that IDB has maintained its long-term credit rating of AAA and short-term of A -1 +, according to Standard & Poor's, for the third consecutive year.

(The text of the Statement of the President of IDB is attached as Annex 4).

12. H.E. Shaikh Saleh Bin Abdullah KAMEL, the President of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICO), also made a statement, in which he analyzed the obstacles before the development of the Islamic Countries and offered some practical solutions to them. H.E. Shaikh Saleh Kamel shared his vision of how to develop economic cooperation among the Islamic Countries with the participants of the Session of the COMCEC, and he called upon the OIC Community to act promptly towards this end because waiting meant losing.

(The text of the speech of the President of ICCI is attached as Annex 5).

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

Ministerial Working Session

14. The Ministerial Working Session of the Twenty-First COMCEC was held on 24 November 2005, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Assoc. Prof. Abdiillatif ŞENER, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey.

15. The Session expressed deep condolences at the demise of King Fahad Ibn Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud, one of the preeminent leaders of the Islamic World and Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, and wished mercy for him from Allah Almighty.

16. The Session adopted the Draft Agenda of the Twenty-First Session of the COMCEC.

(The Agenda of the Session is attached as Annex 6).

17. A signing ceremony was held. The Heads of Delegations of Arab Republic of Egypt, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Turkey signed the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS).

18. The COMCEC took note of the request by the representative of the Republic of Cameroon that his country be given the LDC status within the framework of the TPS-OIC.

19. The representative of Egypt briefed the Session on the activities undertaken by his government in relation to cooperation with OIC countries on poverty alleviation, and also informed that his country was having consultations with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) organize a Plenary Meeting on the Second Generation of Poverty Reduction Strategies, to in Cairo, in the spring of 2006.

20. An Exchange of Views on "Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation among the OIC Member States" was held under agenda item 9. H.E. Dr. Ahmet TIKTIK, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting, made a brief presentation regarding the outcome of the deliberations of the senior officials on "Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation among the OIC Member States".

(The text of presentation of H.E. TIKTIK is attached as Annex 7).

21. In the Exchange of Views Session, the Heads of Delegations of the United Arab Emirates, the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Iraq, the Republic of Tunisia, the Republic of Guinea, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Arab

Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Cameroon, the Sultanate of Oman, the Republic of Lebanon, the Republic of Turkey, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and Islamic Republic of Iran made presentations on the developments of the tourism sector in their respective countries.

(Country reports on the subject submitted in writing are available separately).

22. The Session thanked the Republic of Turkey for having successfully organized the First Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States in conjunction with the 21st Session of COMCEC.

23. The Session then adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/21-05/RES(1) and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/21-05/RES(2).

(Resolution OIC/COMCEC/21-05/RES(1) and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/21-05/RES(2) are attached as Annexes 8 and 9, within the context of the Resolution (1);

- Recommendations of the Workshop on "Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation among the OIC Member States" is attached as Annex 10).

24. The Session also adopted the Report OIC/COMCEC/21-05/Sc.Rep. of the 7th Sessional Committee, which was held on 21 November, 2005.

(The Report OIC/COMCEC/21-05/Sc.Rep. of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex 11).

The Special Session of the Trade Negotiating Committee

25. The Trade Negotiating Committee set up under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member Countries of the OIC (TPS-OIC) held a special session on the sidelines of the 21st Session of the COMCEC, in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 November 2005.

26. The Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS), was finalized by the Trade Negotiating Committee and submitted to the 21st Session of the COMCEC for adoption.

(The Report of the Special Session of the Trade Negotiating Committee and the text of the PRETAS are attached as Annex 12 and Annex 13 respectively).

Closing Session

27. The Closing Session of the Twenty-First Session of the COMCEC was held on 25 November 2005 under the chairmanship of H.E. Assoc. Prof. Abdüllatif ŞENER, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey.

28. H.E. Syed Iftikhar Hussain SHAH, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Turkey and Rapporteur of the Meeting, presented the Resolutions adopted at the Ministerial Session. In his presentation H.E. SHAH summarized the proceedings of the Drafting Committee highlighting some of the points of agreement.

29. H.E. Mr. Oker GÜRLER, Director of Economic Affairs Department of OIC General Secretariat, read out the message of H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İHANOGLU, the Secretary General of OIC. In his message H.E. İHS ANOGLU, expressed his deep appreciation for the adoption of the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS). In this connection, he also invited all Member States to sign and ratify the Framework Agreement on TPS-OIC and PRETAS, who have not yet done so.

(The text of the Message by H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, is attached as Annex 14).

30. H.E. Mr. Muhammed AZAM, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Commerce of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan made a statement on behalf of all participating Member States, in which he thanked H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, the President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Assoc. Prof. Abdüllatif ŞENER, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey, the

OIC General Secretariat, and all the concerned parties contributing to the work of the Session.

31. H.E. Assoc. Prof. Abdüllatif ŞENER, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey, also made a statement at the Closing Session. H.E. Assoc. Prof. ŞENER. He concluded his statement by expressing his feelings of deep gratitude to all delegations which had contributed to the success of the 21st Session of the COMCEC.

(The text of the Closing Statement of H.E. ŞENER is attached as Annex 15).

32. At the signing ceremony held during the Closing Session, the representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain signed the Framework Agreement on TPS-OIC, and the representative of the Republic of Tunisia signed the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC.

ANNEXES

ANNEX

1

Original: English

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
OF THE TWENTY FIRST SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 22 - 25 November 2005)

A. MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC

TRANSITIONAL ISLAMIC STATE OF AFGHANISTAN

-H.E. Dr. MOHAMMAD AMIN FARHANG
Minister of Economy

-H.E. SAYEED MAKHDOOM RAHEEN
Minister of Information, Tourism and Cultural

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

-Mr. ALMA GJERAZI
Head of Department at the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

-H.E. EL HACHEMI DJAABOUB
Minister of Trade

-H.E. SMAIL ALLAOUA
Ambassador of Algeria to Turkey

-Mr. CHERIF ZAAF
General Director for Foreign Trade,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

-Mr. KHEIREDDINE RAMOUL
Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. LARBI LATROCH
Consul General, Istanbul

-Mr. EL HADJ MEKHOULFI
Ministry of Trade

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

-H.E. EBULFEZ QARAYEV
Minister of Youth, Sport and Tourism

-Mr. AYDIN ISMIYEV
Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

-H.E. SHAIKH AHMED BIN MOHAMMED AL-KHALIFA
Minister of Finance

-Mr. MAHMOOD HASHIM AL KOOHEJI
Asst. Undersecretary for Economic Affairs
Ministry of Finance

-Mr. MOHAMMED GHASSAN SHAIKHO
Director of International Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

-SHAIKH FERAS BIN ABDULRAHMAN AL KHALIFA
Senior Economist
Ministry of Finance

-Mr. ABDUL HAKIM BU HIJJI
First Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

-Mr. MOHAMMED AMIN HULAIWAH
Director, Minister's Office
Ministry of Finance

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

-H.E. MAJOR GENERAL REZAQUL HAIDER
Ambassador of Bangladesh to Turkey

-Mr. ELIS AHMED
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

-Dr. MOSTAFA ABID KHAN
Deputy Chief, Bangladesh Tariff Commission

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

-Mr. PEHIN DATO HUSIN BIN AHMAD
Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Jordan

-Mr. HAKASHAH BIN ABD SAMAD
Second Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

-H.E. LUC MAGLOIRE MBARGA ATANGANA
Minister of Commerce

-Mr. BOUBAAOUSSINE
Deputy Director for the Commercial Exchanges,
Ministry of Trade

-Mr. ABANCHIME LIMANGANA
Chief of the Sen/ice for the Specialized Institutions of OIC,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Ms. MBAJON MARTHE CHANTAL
Charge of mission, President's Office

-Ms. MALATEN HELEN
Attache

UNION OF COMOROES

-Ms. FATIMA BADRANI ABDALLAH
Charge Economic Integration

REPUBLIC OF COTE DWOIRE

-H.E. AmD. AMIDOL) DIARRA
Dneclor General of Asici IVloyen-Oneni Döpart<T<ant,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

-H.E. HAMZA SALLAH
Ambassador of Cote d'ivoire to Riyadh

-Mr. LANCINE SANOGO
Director of Economic and Commercial Development Organization,
Ministry of Commerce

-Mr. KOUASSI AUGUSTE DANIEL KOUAKAN
Expert, Asia Moyen-Orient Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

-H.E. Dr. MAHMOUD MOHIE EL DIN
Minister of Investment

-Mr. ELHUSENIY MUHAMMAD AFWAT
Acting Minister of Tourism

-H.E. OMAR METWALLY
Ambassador of Egypt to Turkey

-H.E. ASHRAF ABOUL SEOUD
Consul General, Istanbul

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Charge d'Affaires of Gambia Embassy in Riyadh

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-Mr. EMIR ARGUN
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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

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President of Cultural Heritage and Tourism Authority
- Mr. SAYED ALIREZA SAJADPOUR
Asst. President of Cultural Heritage and Tourism Authority
- Mr. HOSSEIN HATEFI FARMED
Advisor of President of Cultural Heritage and Tourism Authority
- Mr. BALI TEYMOURI
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- Ms. MINA RAHANI ESFAHANI
Expert, Cultural Heritage and Tourism Authority
- Mr. MEHRDAD MUHAMMEDI
Expert, Protocol Relations

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-Mr. KHANSA CHASEB MOHSEN
Secretary, Ministry of Trade

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Ministry of Commerce and Industry
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- Mr. ABDUL AZIZ BIN SALIH AL-GHARIB
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- Mr. ABDULLAH BIN MOHAMMED AL-LAHEM
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Honorary Consul, Istanbul

REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

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Representative to the OIC

-H.E. HAJA ALARI COLE
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sierra Leone to Iran
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-Mr. SÖZER ÖZER
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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

-Mr. MOHAMED WARSAME ALI
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REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

- H.E. SALMAN SULIMAN AL-SAFI
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- H.E. MOHAMED HASSAN AHMED ELHAJ
Ambassador of Sudan to Turkey
- H.E. HASSAN MOHAMED SALIH EL MAKI
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Director General at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy
- Ms. MANAL SIDDIQ
Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Counselor of the Sudan Embassy
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Manager of OIC,
Ministry of International Cooperation
- Mr. AHMED MEKI AHMED
Director of Technical Cooperation,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Head of Department for OIC in Suriname
- Ms. BEGiL-M NAZLI BAŞAR
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SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

- H.E. AMER HUSNILUTFI
Minister of Economy and Trade
- Ms. RIMA KADRI
Director General of International Relations,
Ministry of Economy and Trade

-Mr. MOHAMAD KOUDAYMI
Consul General

-Mr. MUHAMAD IBRAHIM
Consul

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

-Mr. SHUKHRAT SULTANOV
Ambassador of Tajikistan to Turkey

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Director, Ministry of Finance
Representative from the Ministry of Finance

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Director of the Commercial Representative Office

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Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister

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Undersecretary of State Planning Organization

-Mr. LÛTFİ ELVAN
Deputy Undersecretary of State Planning Organization

- Dr. MUSTAFA ATEŞ
Secretary General of Undersecretary of State Planning Organization
- Mr. TEVFIK MENGÜ
Director General, Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade
- Mr. MUSTAFA KEMALBÜYÜKMIHCI
Director General, Ministry of Energy and Natural Sources
- Mr. ERKAN DURDU
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- Doç. Dr. YUSUF BALCI
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- H.E. NURBERDY AMANMURADOV
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-Mr. ANNAMAMED MAMEDOV
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-H.E. ISAAC MUSUMBA
Minister of State Finance, Planning and Economic Development

-H.E. IBRAHIM MUKIIBI
Ambassador of Uganda to Turkey

-Mr. JOHN C. OGOL
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-Mr. YUSUF ATIKU ABDALLA
Senior Principal Economist, Research Dept, Bank of Uganda

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Minister of Economy and Planning

-H.E. MUHAMMED JASSEM AL MOZZAK!
Deputy Minister of Economy and Planning

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-H.E. DRAGAN DOKO
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-H.E. NADA JANKOVIC
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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

-H.E. EMILIE BEATRICE EPAYE
Minister of Economy and Trade

-Mr. RENE NGONAINDO
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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- Mr. RINAT SAYHULLAVIC GUBAYDULLIN
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(Russian Federation Assembly)
- Mr. SERGEY KIZYUKOV
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- Mr. KHARIS POZDNYAKOV
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- Mr. MEHMET BASEL
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C. GUEST

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- Mr. RISTO VELKOVSKI
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D. THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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Secretary General
- H.E. TORI LIMANGANA
Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs
- H.E. Ambassador THIRENO NABIKA DIALLO
Advisor to the Secretary General on Economic Affairs
- Mr. OKER GÜRLER
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-Mr. HUSSEIN TAYSIR
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-Mr. BİLAL K. SASSO
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-Mr. ALBARAA TARABZOUNI
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STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER FOR ISLAMIC (SESRTCIC)

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-Mr. KAMURAN MALATYALI
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ISLAMIC CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)

-Mr. ALLAH RACHDI
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-Mr. EL HASSANE HZAINÉ
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-Mr. AYMEN KACEM
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ISLAMIC RESEARCH CENTER FOR HISTORY ART AND CULTURE (IRCICA)

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-Ms. ZEYNEP DURUKAL
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-Dr. NAZIH MAAROUF
Head, Crafts Development Program

- Mr. MUHAMMED TAMIMI
Head, Cultural Heritage
- Mr. AHMET ALDOĞAN
Director of Administrative Affairs
- Mr. SÜLEYMAN AKÇEŞME
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-Ms. ATTIYA NAWAZISH ALI
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ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION (OISA)

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H. OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)

- Mr. ASKHAT ORAZBAY
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-Mr. ORHAN IŞIK
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FEDERATION OF CONSULTANTS FROM ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (FCIC)

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President of FCIC

-Mr. LEVENT GELGİN
Vice President

-Mr. ATİLLA KAPRALI
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-Mr. ABDUL KARIM MUSTAFA
Assistant Secretary General

FEDERATION OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES' CONTRACTORS (FICC)

-Mr. ABDERRAHIM LAHJOUJI
President

-Mr. ABDELHAMID BEN AMAR
Director

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)

-Mr. CELAL ARMANGİL
Director of UNIDO Centre for Regional Cooperation in Turkey

DEVELOPING EIGHT (D-8)

-H.E. Ambassador AYHAN KAMEL
Executive Director

-Ms. SUNAY DİZDAR
Director

I. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

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State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey

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-Mr. EBUBEKİR MEMİŞ
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-Mr. METİN EKER
Expert, Coordinator for Drafting

-Mr. METİN GENÇKOL
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-Mr. FAHRETTİN K. KADIOĞLU
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-Ms. SEMA HİMA
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-Ms. BİGE HAMURDAN
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-Ms. BİLGE GÜLLÜ
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-Mr. KEMAL ARSLAN
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-Ms. ŞERİFE MENĞİ
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-Ms. İLKNUR ARABACI
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J. PROTOCOL SERVICES

-Mr. DENİZ KARABULUT
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-Mr. FATİH KAHRAMAN
Protocol Assistant, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

K. MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM OF TURKEY

-Mr. HASAN ZONGÜR
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Ministry of Culture and Tourism

-Ms. SERMİN DEDEOĞLU
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Ministry of Culture and Tourism

L. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
OF THE STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION

-Mr. YAŞAR GÜLSOY
Head of Department

-Mr. MEVLÜTYAŞAR
Coordinator of Transport Relations

-Mr. NURETTİN AYDIN
Accommodation Relations

-Mr. TAYFURYÜKSEL
Protocol Relations

-Mr. MEHMET ÖCAL
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-Mr. CAFER ERDOĞAN
Treasurer

-Mr. SEYİT AMBARKÜTÜK
Technician

ANNEX

2

Original: Turkish

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

(Istanbul, 24 November 2005)

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Secretary-General,
Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to be with you again on the occasion of the 21st Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Welcome to Turkey. I sincerely greet you all, and hope that your efforts will yield beneficial results.

I wish once again Prof. Ekmeleddin İnsanoğlu who is participating in this COMCEC meeting as the Secretary-General of OIC for the first time, all success in his work. The success of the Secretary-General in introducing innovations and reforms aiming at establishing a more effective structure for the organization that meets the needs of its members will undoubtedly depend on the support provided by all member states.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

COMCEC has sustained its endeavors uninterruptedly for 21 years with the support of OIC Member States, and acquired the distinct peculiarity of being an international forum for developing economic and commercial relations among our countries and evaluating economic developments in the world.

The need for developing economic relations and cooperation among our countries is felt more than ever in a globalizing world, where transportation and communication have been advancing and mutual interaction rapidly increasing.

The Organization of Islamic Conference is the second biggest political organization worldwide in terms of population and geographical size, next to the United Nations. Therefore, it is the main goal of the activities by COMCEC to make use of the opportunities and meet the needs of the members of the Organization of Islamic Conference, in such a way as to produce common benefits in the economic and commercial field. It is our common wish that the member states provide strong support to the realization of concrete projects of an international size and scale through efficient and fruitful activities.

The world economy that showed a real growth rate of 5.1 percent in 2004, is expected to grow by 4.3 percent in 2005, which is expected to be maintained in 2006. In this context, the volume of world trade in goods and services, which increased by 10.3 percent in 2004, is expected to increase by 7 percent in 2005.

The economies of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference also grew by 5.7 percent in 2004 in parallel with the positive developments in the world economy last year. While the OIC member states account for 22 percent of the world population, they have only a share of 5 percent of gross national product globally and only 8 percent of the world trade.

These figures highlight the need for the member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference to engage in more intensive and efficient cooperation in order to have a higher share of the growth of the world economy and to reach further level of welfare.

We are gratified that the "First Tour of Trade Negotiations" in the context of the COMCEC project referred to as the "Framework Agreement of Trade Preferential System for Islamic Countries" was hosted by Turkey and successfully held in Antalya, and the "Trade Preferential Tariff Protocol" was made ready. We expect this protocol to be signed by the relevant parties in the course of this COMCEC Session.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

In pursuit of economic welfare, the tourism industry has gained increasing importance. The number of tourists globally that showed an average of 25 million a year during the 1950s has increased to 716 million today, with tourism revenues globally amounting to \$ 536 billion. The tourism industry, employing 207 million people, accounts for 8 percent of world employment. The market share of OIC member states of global tourism, which is only 6 percent, is indeed not sufficient.

Within this context, I think it is meaningful and appropriate that "the Role of Tourism in the Enhancement of Economic Cooperation among OIC Member States" will be discussed under a special item of the agenda during the 21st COMCEC session. We also believe that the First Tourism Fair to be conducted simultaneously with the COMCEC session and attended by companies operating in tourism in OIC member states, will contribute significantly to our cooperation efforts in this sector.

I believe that tourism will enable our peoples to get to know each other better apart from contributing to the welfare of our countries that possess natural, cultural and historical values.

I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Research Center for Islamic History, Art, and Culture in Istanbul on its 25th anniversary. The Center has scored significant accomplishments over the past 25 years. With the invaluable support and attention of the Secretariat and the member countries, it has made concrete contributions to the study and preservation of, and dissemination of information on the works of Islamic art and culture. The "Islamic Countries Cultural Week", organized for the 25th anniversary, underlines the diversity and value of these works, which are embedded into the traditions of the member countries pertaining to culture and art. I wish the Center will pursue these fruitful activities with a further extended scope.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

One of the main challenges for us is to combat poverty from which more than 1 billion people suffer today, by exerting all efforts required. As the international community, our main priority is to half, by 2015, the number of people in the world who have a daily income of less than one dollar and are on the brink of starvation. With a view to establishing an environment that enables development and the reduction of poverty both at the national and global levels, we must show determination and build strong partnerships with the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

To reach these goals, the establishment of better and independently operating political and economic mechanisms compatible with universal values and based on principles such as democracy, the rule of law, human rights, good governance, transparency, accountability, gender equality, and rejection of violence, is among our important tasks.

We are pleased that capacity building-programmes to combat poverty in OIC member states is a part of the agenda of the Twenty-first COMCEC Session. It is important that we concentrate our joint efforts on the development of democracy, lasting peace, combating poverty, and sustainable development in OIC member states. Within this context, regional and sub-regional cooperation mechanisms must be promoted and developed in order to prevent conflict, and strengthen political stability. We would like to invite the international community to take special measures for the solution of problems encountered by the less developed countries in their combat against poverty and in sustainable development efforts, including those aiming to increase development aid, technological cooperation, and boost foreign direct investment.

It is gratifying to observe that a promising tendency has been created for increased investments and improved trade among the member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference. It will also be beneficial to develop certain mechanisms to this end. I would also like to emphasize the importance of cooperation among stock exchanges.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

We have been profoundly saddened by the effects of the earthquake which hit our friend and brother Pakistan last month, causing heavy casualties and significant damage, before Indonesia and the other countries in the region could recover from the destruction caused by the earthquake in December last year. I would like to once again offer my condolences to the Pakistani people who need support more than ever on these hard days. I would like to invite the international community and the member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference to continue to extend increasingly their urgent and long-term aid to Pakistan.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

Negotiations on Turkey's accession to EU were initiated in October, 3rd. We are pleased to observe that this development is followed and welcomed by the Islam world. We believe that the position of Turkey in the European Union will contribute in a positive manner to the relations between the member states of the Organization of International Conference and the European Union. Turkey, that is on its way towards integration with the European Union, will continue to further maintain and strengthen its deep historical and cultural ties with the member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference. We believe that Turkey's accession to EU will enhance the cultural diversity, and improve the tolerant and collaborative approach of the European Union.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would like also refer in brief to some political issues of interest to the Organization of Islamic Conference.

In Istanbul and New York 2004 and in San'a 2005, the Organization of Islamic Conference addressed strong calls to put on end to the isolation of Muslim Turkish Cypriot people. The Organization of Islamic Conference reiterated its strong resolve on this issue during the OIC Annual Foreign Affairs Ministers Coordination Meeting, which was held on 24 September 2005 in New York.

We expect OIC member states to take concrete actions to implement these resolutions in order to promote respect for and credibility of the Organization of Islamic Conference before the international community.

It is high time that we put an end to the prolonged isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people who voted for peace and compromise in the referendum held on April, 24th, 2004. Turkish Cypriots must be provided the opportunity to integrate into the international community and they should be given financial and political assistance. Their relations with the world should be developed in every domain particularly on direct transportation, trade, investment, tourism, culture and sports.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The leading issue on the priority list for regional and international peace is the situation of Iraq which is an indispensable element of balance in the Middle East. We sympathize with the pain and distress of Iraq, where a deep-rooted historical transformation is underway.

We look forward to the immediate establishment of a political structure in Iraq that will protect national unity and integrity, ensure the rule of law and the fair distribution of national assets among all the segments of the society and would be satisfactory to both the Iraqi people and the international community.

We are in contact with all the segments of the brotherly Iraqi people. We recommend them to actively participate in political process and vote in elections. We sincerely a constitutional system which is pluralist, democratic and respecting to human rights based on a large-scale and viable consensus involving all the segments of the society, will be established in Iraq.

Similarly, we call upon the international community and the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to support the establishment and protection of lasting peace and stability in Iraq and in our region.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The developments in the year 2005 such as the cease fire between Israel and the Palestine in February, the withdrawal by Israel from the Gaza Strip and partially from the West Bank in September revived our hopes for a settlement of the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

We think that the conflict between Israel and Palestine should be settled on the basis of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions Nos. 242, 338 and 1397 in order to build just, lasting and comprehensive peace in our region. It is important to adhere to the vision stressed in Resolution No. 1397 of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side within secure and recognized borders. In this context, priority should be given to the resumption of talks according to the Road Map prepared by the Quartet.

At this current stage, there is an immediate need for the strong support of international community, particularly the member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference for the reforms and the actions taken to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people, and to vitalize the Palestinian economy.

Turkey will continue to make contributions in the process of settling the conflict between Israeli and Palestine in an institutionalized framework.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,

In December, the Organization of Islamic Conference Extraordinary Summit to be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be held in Makkah. Obviously, the resolutions to be adopted in the 21st COMCEC Session will be of great importance also for the Organization of Islamic Conference Extraordinary Summit. I believe that all the member states will make fruitful contributions to the activities to be carried out.

I wish your valuable contributions within the framework of the 21st COMCEC Session will be fruitful for our states in the pursuit of common welfare and peace. I would like to extend my best wishes to all of you.

ANNEX

3

Original: English

STATEMENT BY
H. E. PROF. EKMELEDDIN IHSANOĞLU
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE
21ST SESSION OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
(COMCEC)

(Istanbul, 24 November 2005)

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Your Excellency, Mr. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC,
Excellencies, Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamn Alaikwn Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

It is a great honour for me to be present at the inauguration of the 21st Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation. I would like to avail of this opportunity to convey my deep sense of appreciation to His Excellency Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), for his kind support and keen interest in the activities of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the COMCEC as well as to the government and people of the Republic of Turkey for regularly hosting the COMCEC Sessions every year and for the traditional warm welcome and generous hospitality

extended to all delegations since their arrival in this beautiful and historic city of Istanbul. The COMCEC under the strong and committed leadership of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Turkey has made profound contributions to the strengthening of the economic and commercial cooperation amongst the OIC Member States since its inception. I am confident that, in the future, its contributions towards this noble aim will continue intensively under the Chairmanship of the President of the Republic of *Turkey*.

We were deeply shocked and saddened to learn about the magnitude of the destruction and the massive loss of countless precious lives and property as a consequence of the devastating earthquake that struck an extensive region of Pakistan on 8 October 2005. OIC Member States generously provided relief aid to the victims of the earthquake. During my visit to Pakistan from 22 to 23 October 2005, I learned that the total pledged donations of the OIC Member States and its institutions have reached more than 75 percent of the total. Yet, the earthquake's devastation is so big that billions of dollars are required for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the devastated areas. Therefore, I reiterate my appeal to all OIC Member States to urgently extend all possible material and humanitarian assistance and support to the Government and the people of Pakistan in overcoming the catastrophic impact of this tragedy and in alleviating the sufferings of the affected victims. I believe that the OIC Member States and its institutions will continue to be at the forefront to provide financial and technical assistance to Pakistan. I further believe that there is an urgent need to create a permanent disaster relief fund at the OIC level to deal with such natural disasters.

Mr. Chairman,

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

Today, the Islamic world is passing through a difficult phase, full of trying circumstances and daunting challenges in political, economic, scientific, social, and cultural fields. Most of the OIC Member States suffer from illiteracy, inadequate housing, poverty, lack of health services, lack of basic needs, low life expectancy, being far below the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), insufficient human development, infrastructural inadequacies, limited production levels, low levels of investment, heavy debt burden, lack of competitiveness, marginalization and the like. Under such adverse conditions and challenges surrounding us, the Tenth Islamic Summit held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, adopted a resolution establishing the Commission of Eminent Persons in order to prepare a strategy and plan of action to enable the Islamic Ummah to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

The Commission, consisting of the leading intellectuals from the OIC Member States, met twice under the chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, first in Putrajaya in January 2005 and secondly in Islamabad in May 2005. The recommendations of the Commission of Eminent Persons were contained in three documents, namely, (a) the challenges of the 21st Century; (b) Policies and Programme for Promoting Enlightened Moderation; and (c) OIC Reform and Restructuring.

In January this year, we have followed with keen interest the valuable speech delivered by His Majesty King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. In this very important and timely

speech, His Majesty invited the leaders of the Muslim Ummah to a meeting in Makkah Al Mukarramah to discuss the issues of 'unity' and 'joint action', to examine the challenges facing the Islamic world today and to explore appropriate solutions for them so as to develop a future vision for the Ummah. His Majesty also highlighted the need to "hold meetings of the Ummah's intellectuals and scholars in preparation for the Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference. Upon invitation by His Majesty, a Preparatory Forum of Muslim Scholars and Intellectuals was held in Makkah Al Mukarramah on 9-11 September 2005. Makkah Forum evaluated the challenges facing the Islamic world, discussed the main facets of the new vision and proposed a set of recommendations to enable the Ummah to meet these challenges. Its final conclusions will be submitted for consideration and approval to the Extraordinary Islamic Summit, scheduled to be held in Makkah Al Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005.

In this connection, I would like to state that I will be honoured and happy to exert all efforts and to mobilize all our energy to achieve its success. I am confident that the final outcome of the Extraordinary Islamic Summit and the implementation of its resolutions will open new avenues to the Islamic Ummah to recover from its present setback. No doubt, this Summit will also create a powerful synergy to achieve the desire of the Member States to strengthen and advance the Organization to the level aspired by our governments and peoples. In this regard, I am confident that all the Member States will spare no effort to consolidate trade exchanges among themselves in order to increase the intra-OIC trade to a minimum of 20 percent from its present levels of 13 percent in their total trade as envisaged by Muslim Scholars and intellectuals at the Preparatory Forum.

At such difficult times, enhancing solidarity and cooperation in all fields, particularly in the domain of economic and commercial cooperation, gains importance and priority. In this connection, I strongly commend the role played by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) in promoting and consolidating economic relations and trade exchanges among the Member States. As it has been the case in the past, the COMCEC will continue to contribute effectively to developing economic and trade relations among our nations.

Furthermore, to reap the benefits of the globalization and minimize its adverse effects on our economies, it is imperative to accelerate the process of economic and commercial cooperation which will, in turn, provide the Member States with necessary leverage to achieve sustainable development and to avoid further marginalization of some of our economies. Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action through the effective participation of the Member States will pave the way to create a more integrated economic and commercial environment among ourselves.. I would like to recall in this context that the 20th COMCEC adopted the supplementary mechanism as developed by the Coordination Office of the COMCEC in cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat, the relevant subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions. In this connection, I would like to express my appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office and the relevant OIC institutions for developing the said mechanism which, I believe, will effectively accelerate the implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States.

It is also a source of great pleasure that the First Round of Trade Negotiations under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States was concluded satisfactorily. I express my deep gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting four meetings in Antalya during the First Round. I also extend my thanks to the COMCEC Coordination Office and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) for jointly acting as the Secretariat for the Trade Negotiating Committee. I also thank the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for its contribution to the financing of these negotiations. With the conclusion of the First Round of Trade Negotiations, a significant phase has been reached in the efforts at the level of OIC to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation. Now, the Trade Preferential System will hopefully be expanded to include all the OIC Member States through their ratification of the Framework Agreement. I believe that all the OIC Member States should participate in this System as soon as possible and thus; the OIC family will be able to commence discussing the means and modalities of establishing a Free Trade Area among themselves in -the near future, as envisaged by the Muslim scholars met in Makkah Al Mukarramah in September 2005. Therefore, I strongly urge the Member States that have not yet signed and ratified this Framework Agreement, to do so at an early date.

Additionally, there are several other Agreements and Statutes on economic matters, concluded with a view to promoting economic and commercial relations and exchanges among the Member States. Since my taking over as the Secretary General in January this year, I assigned great importance and priority to the signing and ratification of them, and during my contacts with the leaders of the Member States, I always appealed them to do so. Once again, I would like to reiterate my appeal to the

Member States that have not yet signed and ratified these Agreements and Statutes, to do so at an early date.

As one of the most important priority areas of the OIC Plan of Action, tourism sector attracted great interest and commitment among the Member States in recent years. It plays a major role in economic development, cultural exchange and rapprochement between nations. It represents an important source of revenue and foreign exchange, and creates employment. Therefore, it constitutes an important tool for alleviating poverty and improving the living standards of our people. Based upon such considerations and thanks to the interest of the Member States, we have had four ministerial meetings since the first one held in Isfahan in 2000. I would like to avail of this opportunity to express my thanks to the Government of the Republic of Senegal for hosting the 4th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in Dakar on 28-30 March 2005, to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting in collaboration with the ICDT and other OIC institutions, a workshop on this topic in Casablanca on 14-15 June 2005, and to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting an expert group meeting on the same subject in Tehran on 11-14 July 2005. This year, we will discuss the "Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation among Member States" and exchange our views and experiences on this theme during the current session. On the sidelines, we will also visit the First Tourism Fair organized jointly by the ICDT and the concerned authorities of the Republic of Turkey. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the concerned authorities of the Republic of Turkey and the ICDT for their joint efforts for the organization of the First Tourism Fair in Istanbul.

The OIC Plan of Action is, inter alia, based on the idea of giving a more prominent role to the private sector in its implementation. The role of the private sector in strengthening economic and commercial cooperation has also been emphasized in various resolutions of the Islamic Summits and the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers. It is my sincere conviction that the private sector should be given more chance to provide more input during the deliberations at the COMCEC and the other OIC fora. In this regard, convening of the OIC Economic Conference on the sidelines of the 20th Session of the COMCEC was an important development in evaluating the economic and commercial cooperation activities among the Member States from the standpoint of the private sector. Benefiting from the ideas and experiences of the real economic actors is a must if we want them to contribute to energize trade and investment in OIC Member States so as to enhance cooperation among the latter in these domains. In this connection, I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate H.E. Shaikh Saleh Bin Abdullah Kamel for being elected as the President of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICO) and I wish him great success. I will spare no efforts in supporting the ICCI's new leadership and the private sector activities with a view to fostering economic and commercial cooperation among Member States.

In March this year, I undertook a tour to 6 Member States in Africa. I visited Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Mali, Niger and Senegal to obtain first hand information on the prevailing socio-economic conditions in the Sahel region, and on the efforts being implemented or planned to help this region economically and socially. During this tour, I was received very warmly. We have agreed, inter alia, for the development of food and cotton industries in West Africa through the promotion of joint ventures among the Member States. In this connection, we have organized, in

cooperation with the Government of Burkina Faso, the IDB and the ICDT, a Forum on "Energizing Trade and Investment in the Cotton Sector of OIC Member States" in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 18-19 April 2005. The main objective was to discuss the ways and means of increasing the value-added in cotton sector in Africa. On the sidelines of the Forum, the companies particularly from Morocco and Turkey negotiated agreements with their counterparts from Burkina Faso and Mali to establish cotton factories in these countries. Before the said Forum, the IDB also organized an "Expert Meeting on Promoting Production, Effectiveness and International Competitiveness of Cotton Producing Member Countries at the IDB Headquarters on 22-23 March 2005. I hope the proposals emerged from these meetings will be implemented effectively by all concerned.

The number of people living in poverty continues to grow in spite of all the efforts made at the international level for poverty alleviation. The majority of the Least Developed (LDCs) and low income OIC countries lack financial resources and skilled manpower to effectively combat against poverty. Out of 50 LDCs classified by the United Nations, 22 are members of the OIC. In such a gloomy picture, Malaysia in its capacity as the Chairman of the 10th Islamic Summit, initiated the programme of "Capacity Building for Poverty Alleviation among the Low-Income and the Least Developed OIC Member States" focusing on action-oriented concrete projects to alleviate poverty. This programme has shown a significant progress in less than a year since its start with the convening of the First Meeting of the Steering Committee in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 10 December 2004. Under the first phase of this programme, three pilot projects were identified in Bangladesh, Mauritania and Sierra Leone. The Third Meeting of the Steering

Committee, held on 8-9 October 2005 at the IDB Headquarters, agreed to include Burkina Faso, Comoros, Guinea, Maldives, Palestine, Senegal and Somalia under Second Phase of the Programme. Malaysia in close cooperation with the IDB formulates the details of the Programme. I would like to express my appreciation for the commendable role played by Malaysia and the IDB towards alleviation of poverty in the Member States, particularly in Africa.

Furthermore, I am glad to learn that Turkey has also initiated a programme called "African Development Strategy". This programme will serve as the framework and a catalyst for the development of trade, investment and technical cooperation between Turkey and African countries. Thus, the ADS aims at contributing to the development of Africa, improving living standards and reducing poverty of the African People. Within the framework of this programme, a Turkish Trade Exhibition is, now, being organized in Dakar from 25-28 November 2005. Within the framework of concretizing Islamic solidarity, I strongly support the activities aimed at enhancing cooperation among the Member States in particular those between African members and the others. In this connection, I would like to urge the Member States to demonstrate greater solidarity with Africa.

Before concluding, I would like to express my appreciation for the commendable role played by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in supporting the concrete projects which will contribute immensely to the economic development of the Member States. I would like also to extend my appreciation to other OIC subsidiary and affiliated institutions dealing with economic and commercial matters, namely the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries

(SESRTCIC), the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Organization of the Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA).

Lastly, I reiterate my belief that it is imperative to reconsider the role of the OIC so as to empower it to become an active player in international arena as the sole representative of the Muslim world. The OIC has not been able to make the optimal use of its potentials, nor has it been able to impose itself as a powerful entity capable of making its voice heard internationally on matters of common concern to the Member States. Now, we, all of us, should work hard to strengthen the position of the Organization and energize its role proportionate with the genuine potentials of the Muslim world. We need to enhance the effectiveness and credibility of the Organization and adapt it to the new circumstances and expectations as was the case with such other regional and international organizations.

While concluding, I would like to convey my firm conviction that the present Session of the COMCEC will produce effective and fruitful results. I wish the 21st Session of the COMCEC great success.

Wassalamu Alaikum W a Rahmatullahi W a Baraka tuh.

ANNEX

4

Original: Arabic

**TEXT OF THE STATEMENT
OF H.E. AHMED MOHAMMED ALI,
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK,
AT THE OPENING SESSION**

(Istanbul, 24 November 2005)

*Bismillah Arrahmani Arrahim
Praise be to Allah and Prayers and Peace be upon on Prophet Mohamed,
Seal of The Prophets and Messengers, and upon his Kin and
all his Companions.*

Honorable President Ahmed Nejdet Sezer,
President of the Republic of Turkey and President of the COMCEC,
Your Excellency Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İnsanoğlu,
Secretary-General of the OIC,
Your Excellencies,
Honorable Members of Delegations,
Brothers and Sisters,

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatulla wa Barakatu,

It gives me great pleasure and honor, on behalf of your institution, IDB, to address this distinguished gathering, expressing profound thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Turkey, its President, government and people for their sustained support and assistance to your esteemed Committee I would like to seize this opportunity commend the warm welcome and hospitality as well as the excellent efforts exerted to ensure the success if this meeting.

From this august rostrum, I would like to express sincere appreciation to the COMCEC Secretariat for inviting IDB to participate in the deliberations of this important meeting, which, we pray Allah Almighty, will be crowned with success.

Mr. President,

Your all-inclusive speech has contained quite many enlightening ideas and valuable opinions which would undoubtedly provide a rich source from which participants will draw specific proposals and recommendations to enhance joint Islamic actions.

In his important speech, brother Professor Dr. Ekmeleddin İnsanoğlu, the Secretary-General of the OIC, has put forward comprehensive conceptions of the real situation of joint Islamic action. He has also presented proposals to address the successive challenges imposed by globalization on the member states in all domains.

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Brothers and sisters

The Islamic Development Bank takes great pride in its close cooperation with your esteemed Committee. The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) was established in response to a kind directive by your esteemed Committee. The ICIEC that will celebrate, at the IDB headquarters in Jeddah, its 10th anniversary still pursues its accelerated efforts to perform its mission of reinforcing the flow of exports of the member states and attracting investments thereto.

In this respect, ICIEC has recently taken several initiatives to activate its role in this field. Salient of these were the expansion during this year of insurance coverage to exports to the non-member states and the provision of support and counsel to export credit institutions in the member states.

During this year, memoranda of understanding were signed with a member of export credit institutions in the member states that will enable them to expand their activities and improve their technical performance, so as to be able to perform their role in developing national exports. During this year also, ICIEC has reinforced its activities in promoting investment opportunities and improving the investment climate in the member states, by introducing a programme for providing technical assistance in this vital areas, in cooperation with the other institutions and organs of the IDB Group. This programme also comprises several activities and events to be

undertaken in collaboration with concerned international institutions in this field such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Bank's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Brothers and sisters,

In continuation of close co-operation with your esteemed Committee, IDB has contributed to financing the first round of negotiations leading to the creation of the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States (TPS-OIC) and has participated in all meetings held for this purpose in the Republic of Turkey.

On behalf of all of you, I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to Turkey for the efforts exerted thereby in this domain. We look forward to a positive response by all member states to these efforts to create an active Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States that would serve common interests.

Indeed, one of the latest fruits of cooperation between the esteemed COMCEC and the IDB was the convention, here in Istanbul last year, of the Economic Conference for the OIC Member States, on the sidelines of the 20th COMCEC Session Meeting.

By the Grace of Allah and the substantial efforts exerted by the Turkish authorities and COMCEC, the conference was crowned with success.

This conference issued several recommendations that would enhance joint Islamic action. The Islamic Development Bank is resolved, Allah willing, to work earnestly and diligently with your esteemed Committee to translate the Conference recommendations into practical stages on the ground.

As an initial step towards implementing the Conference recommendations, IDB has set up an Investment Development Taskforce. Having held several meetings in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, the

task force is currently working out practicable proposals in specific domains and the distribution of roles among various entities concerned in this field.

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Brothers and Sisters,

Since 1420 AH (1999 AD), IDB has redoubled its efforts in the field of trade financing, in implementation of the directives of the Eight Islamic Summit. During the period 1420 AH-14256 AH (1999 AD-2004 AD), average trade approvals worth U.S. Dollar 1.8 billion were given, rising more than three times above its level of U.S. Dollar 567 million over the period 1397 AH-1419 AH (1977 AD-1998 AD). During last year; 1425 AH (2004 AD) alone trade approvals hit more than U.S. Dollar 2 billion.

I would like to point out that, by the Grace of Allah, your institution, the Islamic Development Bank has maintained, for the third time in a row, the highest credit rating; i.e. long-term AAA and short-term A-1+ as certified by the Standard & Poor's credit rating institution.

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Brothers and Sisters,

In a significant step towards enhancing the role of the IDB Group in developing intra-trade among the OIC Member States, the IDB Board of Governors, in its latest meeting in Malaysia, adopted a historic resolution establishing the Islamic Trade Development Institution (ITDI).

This resolution comes in response to the pioneering initiative launched by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Ibn Abdul-Aziz, Head of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Tenth Islamic Summit, Putrajaya, 1424 AH (2003 AD), where he called for "encouraging trade exchange among the OIC member states; raising it from its current modest level to one that meets on expectation ", proposing that "IDB resources be allocated to financing exports among the member states.

The resolution establishing the ITDI also comes in consonance with the proposals presented by the Government of the United Arab Emirates to

the IDB Board of Governors in this respect in Teheran in 1425 AH (2004). Immediately upon the adoption by the Board of Governors of the resolutions establishing the ITDI, IDB initiated the necessary steps to implement this resolution on the ground. As an initial step, the association agreement for ITDI was drafted and put to indepth discussion in a panel meeting attended by prominent experts form around the would.

The ITDI has a subscribed capital of US Dollar 500 million, basically drawn from the resources of the IDB Export Financing Scheme and Islamic Banks Portfolio, and an authorized capital of US Dollar 3 billion. IDB looks forward to seeing this nascent institution enjoy support by your esteemed Committee as well as by all the member states; thus enabling it to perform its role of contributing to the promotion of inter-trade among our member-states up to the desired level.

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Brothers and Sisters,

In consonance with the resolutions of your esteemed Committee and in recognition of the significance of the WTO-related issues and the requirements and obligations engendered thereby to our member states, IDB has pursued its activities within its ad hoc programme of providing technical assistance to OIC Member States on WTO-related issues. Created in 1997, this programme covers many events and activities, including courses, symposia, workshops, preparation of sectoral studies, provision of direct technical assistance to the member states and consultation meetings. IDB intends to organize on December 12, 2005 in Hong Kong on the level of participating ministers and heads of delegations, in preparation for the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference. From this august rostrum, I kindly request your support by responding to the invitation addressed to all the member states to participate in the events of this meeting.

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Brothers and Sisters,

I am pleased to give tribute to the pioneering initiative launched by H.E. Hajj Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia to develop

an integrated capacity-building and enhancing programme for the member states.

I recognition of the importance of this initiative and the substantial role it can play in accelerating growth in the member states by giving them the chance to benefit from each others' experience, IDB has already started to coordinate with Malaysia and a number of member states in order to develop and implement pilot projects, within this framework with each of Sierra Leone, Bangladesh and Mauritania. A Supervisory Committee for this programme was set up. The Committee has held two meetings, the latest of which took place on 8-9 October, 2005 at the IDB headquarters in Jeddah.

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Brothers and Sisters,

Your institution, the IDB has the pleasure and honor to continue to cooperate with your esteemed Committee and will spare no effort, God willing, to achieve the noble goals you are pursuing.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity, to express my thanks, appreciation and gratitude to Your Excellency Mr. President and to their Excellencies the Ministers of Member States for the continuous support that the Bank receives to remain a symbol of solidarity and integration among Member States. I pray to Allah the Almighty to crown this Meeting was success.

Wassalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatu.

ANNEX

5

**THE TEXT OF THE SPEECH OF
H.E. SHAIKH SALEH BIN ABDULLAH KAMEL,
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY, AT THE OPENING SESSION**

(Istanbul, 24 November 2005)

In the name of Allah, the merciful, the compassionate

H.E. President of the Republic of Turkey,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Economic & Trade Co-operation (COMCEC)

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Assalamu Alaikum W a Rahmatu Allah W a Barakatu,

Praise be to Allah, the Almighty, the All-Powerful to bestow on this gathering his grace and blessing and to foreordain success to every dedicated effort under this blooming Islamic canopy for the well-being of Islam and Muslims as well as welfare of all humanity.

Peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Mohamed, Family and Companions, the messenger of mercy and right guidance.

Your Excellency, Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and pride to attend for the first time the meeting of the standing committee on Economic & Trade Cooperation (COMCEC), affiliated to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

It is a great responsibility and duty to stand here before you in my capacity as the chairman of Islamic Chamber Of Commerce & Industry as well as of the General Council of Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions, at this time which witness unfavorable prevailing military and political

conditions all over the world which represent invincible obstacles in the way of Islamic Integration that we all aspire and anticipate.

It is clearly evident that our ultimate objective of achieving development and welfare could not be attained, after grace of Allah, without attaining ultimate Islamic Economic Unity. This unity which is based on the bounties that Allah graced our Islamic peoples all over the world, including diversified wealth, natural resources, integrated capabilities and powers which yield economic and trade unity that not only benefit our nations but rather all countries of the world, the only requirement for this is sincere intentions and faithful efforts as well as clear vision. Since my election as chairman of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, I was involved in deliberations with the chamber officials on previous achievements and future projects.

H.E. The President, Dear guests

By the grace of Allah, we have initiated a practical program which I hope will be the starting point for tangible and specific achievements, not mere theoretical recommendations, without due implementation.

Based on this well studied proposition, the Islamic chamber of Commerce & Industry executive committee has passed in its extra-ordinary meeting last September at Sharm El-Shiekh, Egypt a number of resolutions put forward for the extra-ordinary summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Based on my practical experience in the field of trade, business and investment transactions in various Islamic countries and in my capacity as the chairman of Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry institutions, it is my duty to present these practical proposals, in order to share with you the concerns and noble intentions that aim at realizing the Islamic nation dream of establishing the Islamic Common Market:

1. Priority of manpower recruitment to the Islamic countries.
2. Increasing volume of inter-state investments between Islamic Countries.

3. Enhancing tourism throughout Islamic countries.
4. Developing trade exchange among Islamic countries..
5. Developing education curricula to meet demand in labor market and internal development necessities as well as establishing private educational institutions wherever feasible in Islamic countries.
6. More attention to be given to research and technical studies leading to innovations and useful inventions to be developed, financed and marketed for the benefit of Muslim Scholars, the Islamic Ummah and the world at large. Hence, establishing of venture capital companies is highly recommended to sponsor those researches and inventions wherever feasible in Islamic countries.
7. Considering the integrity between economic and media, and due to the importance of media in this era, besides the urgent need of the Ummah to reform our media address in a more wide domain to enhance Ummah solidarity and to counter various challenges. In addition to elaboration of the bright images of Islam among other non-muslim communities as well as linking Muslim individuals of different sects on the basis of the modest Islamic approach.

In order to realize the above six objectives, we have to create certain means and mechanisms of implementation including:

1) **International Organization for Collection & Distribution of Zakat:**

This is an applied modern organization to be entrusted with the collection and distribution of Zakat, its structure ranking from the level of urban neighborhood, village, town, city, up to the country and the whole nation. The organization shall be concerned with enhancing Zakat; as an economical, developmental and social solidarity tool under the supervision and regulation of the state.

Implementation requirements:

1. Drafting articles of association, which was already submitted to the Organization of Islamic conference.
2. A resolution of adoption by the summit conference.

2) Muslims Businessmen Association:

It is an international organization with its membership open for all businessmen in Muslim countries, an affiliate of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Its goals include:

1. Increasing trade exchange between Islamic countries.
2. Acquainting and introducing Muslim businessmen to each other and enhancing their cooperation and integration.
3. Giving Muslim businessmen major role in eliminating obstacles and solving problems hindering trade exchange and investment activities.
4. Convening an annual conference once at Makkah Al-Mukarramah and the next year in other country with promising investment chances. The theme of the conference is to exchange views and deliberate on Islamic economics and ethics. As well as establishing specialized enterprises to address the mentioned objectives.

Implementation requirements:

- Drafting articles of association to be adopted by the summit conference
- Agreement between member countries on regulation of visa issuance. The draft was already presented to the Organization of Islamic conference.

3) International Company for investment studies and inter-state trade:

It is an international Company affiliated to the Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Industry specialized in conducting research, feasibility studies, exploring investments and promotion of inter-state trade. The company

objectives include consultations and provision of information for development and promotion of projects and manpower training.

Implementation requirements:

- Support of the summit.

4) Eamar international Group:

It is an International Islamic Bank with a capital of One Billion U.S. Dollars. Bank shareholders include Islamic banks and financial institutions along with government agencies in the member countries of the Organization of Islamic conference in addition to high net worth investors. The bank shall not be open for direct public transactions. Its major roles shall include exploring direct investment opportunities, financing and securitization of investments as well as liquidity management for banks and financial institutions.

The bank shall issue four types of shares; a mechanism through which its capital will be raised to One Hundred Billion U.S. Dollars.

Implementation requirements:

- Support of the summit.

5) Free Trade Zone:

Establishing a free trade zone to be located between Jeddah & Makkah; being the capital of the Islamic world and distinguished central location. The trade zone, which will be equipped with a seaport and airport, shall constitute an open city for Muslim businessmen from all over the world. Entry regulations will be specified by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the host country. The zone shall act as an avenue for exhibiting commodities and services from all over the Islamic world and concluding transactions and contracts.

Complementary services include shipping agencies, and warehouses and other facilities, which their details are pending conducting necessary studies by renowned consultant firms.

6) Fair Vision Network:

Launching the specialized media network " Fair Vision". An international media company which subsidiaries are : News Agency, Public Relations and TV stations in the main prevailing languages of the Islamic World.

Implementation requirements :-

- Support by OIC Summit.
Recommending member states, institutions and individuals to participate in its capital.

H.E. The President, Brothers and Sisters,

I would like in this respect to recall the experiment of the European Common Market, which their coasts border this beloved country. We all witness how Europe availed itself from the common market, eliminating its political differences and conflicts which it surmounted through trade and business, although of historical disputes including the two world wars.

It is our duty today as Muslims to make the first step in a long procession depending on our faith in Allah Almighty and our spiritual linkage. We have to expedite our efforts, because this is the era of swift action where time is of essence, otherwise we will lose too much.

We acknowledge before this summit, that although of our great ambitions and huge powers as businessmen, we urgently need the sincere support of Muslim governments and leaders. In fact, most of them, thanks to Allah, lend all capabilities and facilities for realizing Islamic economic unity.

I hereby appeal to senior government executives reporting directly to our distinguished leaders to avoid ordaining restrictions and laying dues on exports and imports as represented in every dual agreement entered between two Islamic countries, which may favor national interest but in return hamper huge benefits for the general Islamic treasury.

In the same time some of our businessmen and financiers disregard the common responsibility towards their Ummah and only concentrate on personal benefits using selfish means such as dumping and price wars.

We should deal honestly and ethically for common benefit of our nation. It is our utmost duty to change realities of trade exchange figures between Muslim countries which are very poor and to convert the situation for

common interest of Islamic balance of trade. We are in the age of great conglomerations and grouping and we possess all requirements for an optimum coalition.

H. E. The President, Brothers and Sisters,

You are shouldering a great responsibility before Allah. Your esteemed committee, during a quarter of a century, realized what was possible to be achieved. However, the ongoing latest developments of this age like globalization and ITO and other challenges impose radical changes to be applied in our plans to help implement our objectives in practical measurable terms.

To that extent, I may take the liberty to appeal to Your Excellency to sponsor and strongly support these issues before the upcoming Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference Summit.

In consideration to Your Excellency's high-esteem and the COMCEC recognition and appreciation in OIC states, we also appeal to H.E. The Secretary General, my dear friend since many years back, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, to make a historical precedent for his tenure.

May Allah bless his efforts to activate the real role of the organization and incite its sense of initiation, movement and realizing the objectives in practical tangible results instead of theoretical speculations. .

H.E. the Secretary General is kindly requested to support those proposals and to take the initiative to crystallize them to real by entrusting their implementation and follow-up to three entities headed by the Islamic Development Bank under the leadership of its President H.E. Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali, who is well known to all of us for his vigilant care and enthusiasm for the service of Ummah, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions. The three institutions will provide timely progress reports to COMCEC.

COMCEC will also be in-charge of supervision, follow-up and reporting to next summit about progress of the projects. COMCEC should also be entrusted with liaising with member states to cope with obstacles and provide facilities to the plan.

At last but not least, it is my pleasure to reiterate my gratitude to Your Excellency for availing me the opportunity to address this venerable gathering.

As we are all navigating in one boat, we pray to Allah Almighty for our safe pursuit and to help us land on prosperity and progress shores for the ultimate strength of our faith and well being for all humanity.

Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet, the Messenger of Mercy.

Wassalamu Aliakum Wa Rahmatu Allah Wa Barakatuh.

ANNEX

6

Original: English

AGENDA
OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 22-25 November 2005)

1. Opening Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Background Reports
 - i. Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat
 - ii. World Economic Developments with Special Reference to OIC Member Countries by SESRTCIC
 - iii. Supporting the Reform of the International Financial Architecture by SESRTCIC
 - iv. Report of the Follow-up Committee by the COMCEC Coordination Office
 - v. Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action:
 - a) Report of OIC General Secretariat
 - b) Report of the Sessional Committee
 - vi. Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges of the OIC Countries
4. Reports by IDB and ICDT on the Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade
5. Report of the Trade Negotiating Committee for Establishing Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States
6. Matters related to World Trade Organization Activities
7. Report by ICCI on Private Sector Meetings among OIC Member Countries
8. Report by ICDT on Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries
9. Exchange of Views on the "Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member Countries".
10. Evaluation and Follow-Up of the Outcomes of the OIC Economic Conference held on the sideline of the 20th COMCEC
11. Capacity Building Program for Poverty Alleviation in OIC Member States
12. Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries
13. Date of the Twenty Second Session of the COMCEC
14. Any other business
15. Adoption of the Resolutions of the Twenty-First Session of the COMCEC
16. Closing Session.

ANNEX

7

Original: English

**TEXT OF PRESENTATION BY H.E. DR. AHMET TIKTIK
UNDERSECRETARY OF 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 ROLE OF TOURISM IN THE
PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AMONG THE OIC MEMBER STATES"**

(Istanbul, 24 November 2005)

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to submit to the august assembly a summary of the observations and recommendations made by the senior officials on the subject of this year's Exchange of Views, namely, The Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation among the Member States.

During the discussions on the subject, the Senior Officials have considered various aspects of the tourism and economic cooperation among the OIC member states, and made several observations and recommendations in this regard. Besides, the proposals and views regarding tourism during the workshop on "The Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation among the Member States" held on June 14-15, 2005 at the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) were also discussed.

The senior officials have observed, among others that:

- Member countries should facilitate exchange of experts, trainers, and research and tourism development and try to initiate a capacity building program of human resources in tourism sector;
- It is important for the member countries to draw up a communication and general information program on cultures and civilization. This program that will be drawn up in several languages with a view to promoting tourism, the wealth and role played by Islamic civilization in humankind history, will allow access to Islamic heritage via Internet,

with interactive links and themes to be defined by all the OIC Member countries;

- Member countries need to diversify tourism products by the inclusion of socio- cultural programs and traditional activities to ensure sustainable development;
- Finally, the senior officials agreed that the member states should derive maximum benefit from the programs and services of the OIC Institutions and the World Tourism Organization and other specialized regional and international Organizations.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Senior officials have also agreed on a number of specific recommendations with a view to promote tourism among the OIC member states. The notable ones are the following:

1. Member countries are called to develop partnership agreements between the private and the public sector at national and regional levels;
2. Member countries are encouraged to set up establishment of alliances between tourism partners in the OIC countries, particularly, the official tourism promotion bodies to strengthening joint tourism marketing and promoting cooperation efforts at the sub regions level of the OIC and as a whole;
3. Member countries are called to establish and facilitate linkages in air, land-rail, sea transportation with a view to easing access from one destination to another within the OIC region;
4. Member countries are called to take necessary measures to facilitate the entry and movement of tourists among the OIC member states and enhance intra OIC tourism through simplifying visa issuance.
5. Member countries are urged to consider the possibility of granting incentives to investment projects initiated by the Investors of the OIC countries.

The points of agreement and recommendations which came out of the discussions of the senior officials, some of which I have just submitted to you, are incorporated into the Draft Resolution Number One, already made available to you in three languages.

This completes my presentation on the outcome of this year's Exchange of Views Session, held at the level of Senior Officials.

Thank you.

ANNEX

8

Original :English

**RESOLUTION (1)
OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 22-25 November 2005)

The Twenty-First Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held in Istanbul from 22 to 25 November 2005;

Deeply grieved by the recent disastrous earthquake which struck the Pakistani Nation and **conveys** its deep condolences for the victims of the catastrophe.

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

Recalling in particular the emphasis laid by the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 16 to 18 October 2003, on further enhancing economic cooperation among the OIC Member States;

Recalling the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, 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 Twenty-First Meeting of its Follow-up Committee;

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

Having considered the current international situation and its economic and financial repercussion on the OIC Member States;

Taking into consideration the Resolution adopted at the Tenth Session of the COMCEC calling for holding an 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;

Reaffirming the commitment of Member States to the strengthening of the intra-OIC trade through mutual economic cooperation and progressive trade liberalization for the development of economic and commercial infrastructure; and **recalling** the related decisions of the COMCEC that the subject be on its agenda as a permanent item;

Recognizing in this respect the need for more cooperation and coordination among OIC Member States to ensure an increase in their share of the world trade;

Expressing its satisfaction at the entering into force of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member Countries (TPSOIC) and the successful conclusion of the First Round of Trade Negotiations.

Noting the background and progress reports, working papers and studies submitted by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office, the 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) and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on the agenda items.

Appreciating 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 Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), and the Organization of Islamic Ship-owners Association (OISA), and **appeals** to Member States to give the needed support and assistance and to meet their financial obligations to these institutions so that they may continue to perform their functions effectively.

I. Background Reports

(Agenda Item: 3)

(i) Background Report and study submitted by the OIC General Secretariat

(Agenda Item; 3.i)

1. **Takes Note** the Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat [(OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(1))] on the progress achieved by Member States and OIC institutions in the field of economic and commercial cooperation.

2. **Recognizes** the importance of tourism as an area of cooperation among the OIC Member States and **notes with satisfaction** the commitment and interest of the OIC Member States to convene four ministerial meetings since the first Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 2-4 October 2000. In this connection, **expresses its thanks** to the Government of Senegal for hosting the Fourth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in Dakar, Senegal, on 28-30 March 2005, **welcomes** the initiative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the Fifth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in Baku on 9-12 September 2006 and **urges** the OIC Member States to actively participate in this Conference.

3. **Emphasizes** the importance of OIC Agreements and Statutes in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, and **underlines** that these Agreements and Statutes are specifically intended to promote economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States. In this connection, **renews its appeal** to those Member States, that had not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Agreements as early as possible, particularly the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among Member States of the OIC (TPSOIC) and the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for the TPSOIC (PRETAS) so as to facilitate the wider participation of Member States in the System.

(ii) World Economic Developments with Special Reference to OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 3.H)

4. **Takes note** the Report of SESRTCIC on the recent world economic developments and the implications for the OIC Member States, which has drawn the following salient conclusions;

- i. The average economic performance of the OIC countries, as a group, remained below that of the developing countries, as a group, which indicates a more vulnerability of the economies of the former group to the adverse external shocks such as the unpredictable fluctuations in international trade and the instability in financial flows ,
- ii. Agriculture and oil production are still the main productive economic activities in almost half of the OIC countries. The large share of such primary commodities in those countries' output and exports brings about a significant exposure of their economies to the risk of the fluctuating trends in international commodity prices and, thus, negatively affects their sustainable economic growth and long-term policy making ,
- iii. In order to decrease their vulnerability to the adverse shocks in the world economy, the OIC countries are recommended to further their efforts towards creating an enabling environment for sustainable development through the pursuit of more coherent and practical development strategies based on sectoral diversification and structural reforms with the active participation of the private sector,

5. **Entrusts** SESRTCIC to continue to monitor world economic developments and their implications for the OIC Member States and report to the annual sessions of the COMCEC.

*(iii) Supporting the Reform of the International Financial Architecture
(Agenda Item: 3.iii)*

6 **Takes note** of the Report of SESRTCIC regarding the International Financial Architecture and its implications for the OIC Member States [(OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(5)], in the implementation of the Resolution No. 4/32-E adopted at the 32nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Sana, Republic of Yemen, which has drawn the following salient conclusions:

- i. To balance the risks of the tightening up of the global liquidity and give positive signs to foreign investors, the OIC countries are recommended to accelerate the process of restructuring their economies and create an

overall enabling economic environment for well-functioning market economies,

- ii. To become more attentive to the recent financial standards which is recently developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS), the OIC countries are recommended to accelerate the process of restructuring their banking systems through developing higher supervisory and regulatory capacities,
- iii. The OIC countries are recommended to play a more active role in the whole process of restructuring the global financial architecture through getting more involved in the process of formulating and revising the international financial criteria and standards,
- iv. As an alternative means of using international funds, the OIC countries are recommended to realise more equity issuance through enhancing the efficiency of their stock exchanges, which is a less costly option compared to issuing bonds or receiving syndicated loans.

7. **Entrusts** SESRTCIC to continue to follow-up and study developments on the subject and their implications for the Member States and report to the next Session of the COMCEC.

(iv) Report of the Follow up Committee (Agenda Item: 3.iv)

8. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the 21st Meeting of the Follow up Committee.

9. **Takes note** the Report of the Follow up Committee (OIC/COMCEC-FC/21-05/REP) of COMCEC held on 10-12 May 2005.

10. **Endorses** the recommendations made by the Follow up Committee at its 21st Meeting.

(v) *Review of Implementation of the Plan of Action (Agenda Item: 3.v)*

a) *Report by the OIC General Secretariat*

11. **Takes note** the Report entitled "Review of Implementation of the Plan of Action" [(OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(7))] submitted by the General Secretariat of the OIC and **requests** the OIC General Secretariat to continue submitting to the Annual Sessions of the COMCEC a periodical review on the implementation of the Plan of Action.

12. **Underlines** the importance of the implementation of the outcome of the Expert Group Meeting for Accelerating the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Economic and Commercial Cooperation held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 6-7 May 2001 which was approved by the 17th Session of the COMCEC.

13. **Requests** the Member States that had already offered to host sectoral expert group meetings to expedite the convening of said meetings and also calls the Member States offering to host the expert group meetings (EGMs) may kindly do so by May 2006 after which dead live line, it could be open to other Member States willing to host the same meeting as decided by the COMCEC.

14. **Appeals** to Member States to come forward with proposals for hosting sectoral or inter-sectoral Expert Group Meetings in the priority areas of the Plan of Action, where no EGM has so far been held.

15. **Also takes note** of the presentations of the project proposals by the concerned institutions of the Republic of Turkey in the prescribed format of project profile and **urges** Member States, that were interested in these projects, and the coordinator OIC Institutions to expedite the formation of the project committees, as envisaged in the Plan of Action.

16. **Reaffirms** the importance of the need to develop regionally-based projects by a group of Member States in a particular region to get the support of the regional institutions and, accordingly, **stresses** the importance to ensure the active involvement of regional institutions such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) in future experts group meetings.

17. **Calls upon** the concerned OIC institutions working in the field of economic and commercial cooperation under the auspices of the COMCEC to continue to extend the necessary assistance to Member States, and **appreciates** the assistance already offered by them.

18. **Takes note** of the outcome of the OIC Economic Conference and **urges** all concerned parties to take necessary action for its actual implementation.

(vi) Promotion of Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges of the OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 3. vi)

19. **Takes note** the Report submitted jointly by SESRTCIC and ICDT on the Developments in the Promotion of Cooperation among the "Stock Exchanges of the OIC Member Countries" (OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(8)).

20. **Expresses its appreciation** that the Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE), in collaboration with the relevant OIC institutions, organized a round table meeting on "Promotion of Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges of the OIC Countries", in Istanbul, in March 2005, with the participation of stock exchanges from 11 OIC Member Countries and several OIC institutions.

21. **Notes** the decision of the round table meeting that the cooperation among the stock exchanges of OIC countries shall continue under the platform called "Islamic Stock Exchanges Forum", which will be led by ISE and **calls upon** the stock exchanges of Member States to pool their efforts in terms of cooperation in this regard in the "Islamic Stock Exchanges Forum", and invite them to actively join the Forum.

22. **Also Notes** that Islamic Stock Exchanges Forum shall meet twice annually, once in Istanbul and the other in another member state. **Also noted** that holding of two meetings in a year may not be feasible which should be re-examined by Islamic Stock Exchanges Forum from its practicability point of view.

23. **Request** the Istanbul Stock Exchange to follow-up, in collaboration with the SESRTCIC, ICDT and IDB, the developments on the subject and report to the next Session of the COMCEC.

**II. Reports by IDB and ICDT on the Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade
(Agenda Item: 4)**

24. **Takes Note** the reports submitted by IDB and ICDT on the expansion of intra-OIC trade (OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(10) and (OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(4).

25. **Welcomes** IDB's effort to set up the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation, the new autonomous trade financing entity of the IDB Group, which will have an authorized capital of US\$3.0 billion and a subscribed capital of US\$500 million and **calls upon** Member States to support its establishment and business activities by transferring its shares in Export Financing Scheme (EFS) to the new institution i.e. International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation.

26. **Notes with satisfaction** the steps taken by IDB through its operational plans to mobilize the needed resources under four schemes, namely the Import Trade Financing (ITFO), the Export Financing Scheme (EFS), the Islamic Bank Portfolio (IBP), the Unit Investment Fund (UIF) and the two mechanisms (two steps murabaha and syndication); and appreciates also the continuous efforts of IDB in this regard enabling it to finance an amount of US \$6.69 billion in favour of intra-OIC trade from 1420H/1425H (1999-2005) constituting 76% of its approved trade financing operations totaling an amount of US \$8.82 billion.

27. **Notes** the parallel efforts of IDB to increase intra-OIC trade through financing trade-related projects and technical assistance; and further **urges** Member States to accede to the programs of ICIEC and to other schemes designed to boost intra-OIC trade.

28. **Welcomes** the efforts of IDB to mobilize a total amount of US\$2.12 billion through Two Step Murabaha (2SMF) and syndication mechanisms since 1420H (1999) with about US\$546 million having been mobilized in 1425H (2004- 2005) alone under the two mechanisms, of which US\$421 million was raised from other Islamic banks and financial institutions for the purpose of financing intra trade among OIC/IDB Member States.

29. **Notes** the approvals made by IDB amounting to US\$2.72 billion in 1425H (2004-2005) and US\$23.02 billion during the period 1397H to 1425H under the four trade financing schemes.

30. **Thanks** Member States who have actively assisted in identifying viable trade operations for financing by the IDB, and **urges** other Member States, who have not done so, to actively support IDB in its efforts to increase intra OIC trade financing.

31. **Takes note with appreciation** that the intra-OIC trade recorded positive results since the share of intra-OIC trade in the overall trade of the OIC Member States has shown a positive evolution rising from 12.8% in 2002 to 13.5% in 2003, and the value of this trade reached approximately 77 billion US dollars in 2003, as indicated in the ICDT's 2005 Annual Report.

32. **Requests** Member States to provide on a regular basis ICDT with data relating to trade and investment statistics and regulations.

33. **Urges** financial institutions, including insurance companies, in Member States to support IDB's efforts, among others, by according more favourable terms to transactions that promote direct trade among Member States.

34. **Takes note** of the recommendations made at the OIC Trade Forum held in Malaysia on 20-21 June 2005 and **calls upon** IDB and ICDT to follow-up on the recommendations made.

35. **Requests** IDB to continue provision of technical assistance for capacity building of the focal points in Member States.

36. **Entrusts** IDB and ICDT to follow up the expansion of intra-OIC trade and report to the COMCEC and to other OIC fora.

III. Report of the Trade Negotiating Committee for Establishing Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 5)

37. **Notes with satisfaction** that the First Round of Trade Negotiations under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Islamic Countries (TPSOIC) held in Antalya, the Republic of Turkey, from April 2004 to April 2005, was successfully concluded with the preparation of the draft Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS).

38. **Expresses its thanks and appreciation** to the Republic of Turkey for successfully hosting and chairing the first round of trade negotiations under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Islamic Countries held in Antalya, from April 2004 to April 2005.
39. **Also thanks** the Republic of Turkey for hosting a Special Session of the Trade Negotiating Committee on the sidelines of the 21st COMCEC in order to finalize the PRETAS for signature at the Ministerial Session of 21st COMCEC.
40. **Expresses its satisfaction** to the COMCEC Coordination Office and the ICDT for fulfilling, in an excellent manner, their task as the Secretariat of the Trade Negotiating Committee under the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the Islamic Countries.
41. **Notes** that the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) contributed to the financing of the First Round of the Trade Negotiations as well as the Special Session of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) that was held on the sidelines of the 21st Session of COMCEC **and encourages** IDB to continue to support future rounds of trade negotiations.
42. **Adopts** the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS), agreed upon in the special session of the Trade Negotiating Committee, held concurrently with the 21st Session of COMCEC on November 23rd, 2005, in Istanbul, as the outcome of the first round of trade negotiations.
43. **Welcomes** the decision by the Trade Negotiating Committee to launch the second round of trade negotiations under the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member Countries (TPS-OIC), in 2006, with a view to complement the PRETAS with annexes, which are necessary to implement it.
44. **Calls upon** the Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the "Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of OIC" and to accede to the PRETAS.
45. **Calls upon** the Members of the Trade Negotiating Committee to expedite the signing and ratification processes of the PRETAS with a view to implementing it as soon as possible.

IV. Matters Relating to WTO Activities (Agenda Item: 6)

46. **Welcomes** the full membership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the WTO, which was approved by the WTO on 11 November 2005.

47. **Notes** the monitoring reports on the World Trade Organization (WTO) activities and prepared by IDB (OIC/COMCEC/20-04/D(15) and ICDT. (OIC/COMCEC/20-04/D(16)

48. **Urges** the OIC Member States to participate actively in the 6th Ministerial Conference of WTO (Hong Kong 13-18 December 2005) by submitting a positive agenda for the issues of high interest for and implication on their economies, especially, those relating the Agriculture including cotton, industrial products, services as well as the other issues.

49. **Commends** the IDB for organizing a seminar on 29-30 March 2005 on "The State of Play in the Current WTO Negotiations on Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access: Challenges and Opportunities for the OIC Member Countries", and a Workshop on 31 January-3 February 2005 on WTO accession for the CIS countries. **thanks** the IDB for organizing an expert-level meeting on trade facilitation, in September 2005, with a view of assisting the OIC member participants on various dimensions of the WTO's mandate vis-à-vis the trade facilitation negotiations. **Also thanks** the IDB for organizing in June 2005, the consultative meeting for the OIC Member Countries' Permanent Missions in Geneva, with a view to discussing the state of play in different negotiation tracks before the WTO General Council Meeting in July 2005.

50. **Takes note** that IDB is planning to organize a Ministerial consultative meeting for OIC member countries on the eve of the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, on 12 December 2005 to exchange views and deliberate on the latest developments in the Doha Work Programme and the likely outcome of the Conference, and explore how best to enhance their cooperation on issues related to the WTO and **urges** the OIC member countries to attend the above mentioned consultative meeting.

51. **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.

52. **Expresses** their concern over the slow pace of negotiations on the access to goods and services markets and states that the OIC member states in the course of accession are subjected to excessive demands.

53. **Appeals** to WTO members that OIC Member States that the acceding to the WTO should not be submitted to obligations and commitments that are not aimed at in multilateral trade agreements (especially those called WTO-plus obligations) and the provisions of the special and differential treatment should automatically be enforced on OIC Member States, acceding to WTO Members, and the accession procedure should be simplified.

54. **Noting** that the WTO ministerial conference is to be held shortly, and whereas Palestine has requested to participate in the deliberations of the WTO Ministerial Conference as an observer, the 21st session of COMCEC **calls upon** the member states to support and endorse Palestine's request to participate in the deliberations of the WTO Ministerial Conference as an observer It also **calls upon** them to support Palestine to accede to the observer-status membership of WTO.

55. **Entrusted** IDB and ICDT to monitor matters relating to WTO activities as well as to render technical assistance to Member States particularly on issues of trade in services and trade facilitation and to report there on to the annual session of the COMCEC and other concerned OIC fora.

V. Report by ICCI on Private Sector Meetings among OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 7)

56. **Notes** the efforts made by ICCI to organize annual Private Sector Meetings, prior to the annual COMCEC sessions and calls for their continuation.

57. **Takes note** of the reports presented by the representative of the Islamic Chamber, on the 11th Private Sector Meeting held in Bahrain from 5-7 February 2005, the First Businesswomen Forum held in the Emirates of Sharjah, on 1-3 March, 2005 and the 1st World Islamic Forum held in Malaysia from 1-3 October 2005, **also notes** the efforts of the Islamic Chamber in pursuing activities for the promotion of the private sector and **conveys its thanks** to the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain the Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce, the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce

and the Asian Strategic Leadership Institute (ASLI) of Malaysia, and the IDB for their support in organising the respective meetings.

58. **Takes Note** of the recommendations of the World Islamic Economic Forum, which focuses on the need for sustainable economic development as a means to promote the prosperity of the OIC Countries. In this context, the Forum set up three task forces, one, to establish a private sector sponsored World Economic Corporation, two, to set up a World Islamic Businesswomen Network and third, a World Islamic Education Trust.

59. **Underlines** the importance of the holding such wide-based Forums, as an effective mechanism to have a greater interaction between the public/private sector, the academicians, NGO's and **calls for** the follow up of the recommendations of the Forum.

60. **Calls upon** the related OIC Institutions, the IDB, NGOs the UN Agencies and the National Chambers of Commerce to extend all support to the initiatives of the ICCI related to the development of the private sector.

61. **Calls upon** the ICCI to continue with its efforts for greater interaction between the private sector of the OIC countries and the Muslim Communities from non-OIC Countries, by organizing relevant meetings, and also **calls upon** the ICCI to continue to submit these reports and recommendations therein to the COMCEC for consideration.

62. **Takes Note** that Islamic Chamber will organize: (1) The 1st Forum of Tourism in Islamic Countries, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 17-19 April 2006 (2) The First Global Islamic Trading Conference and Exhibition, in State of Kuwait from 9-11 April 2006 (3) the 2nd Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries, in Malaysia, in the third quarter 2006 the 3rd Forum for Businesswomen in Qatar in 2007 and (4) The 3rd International Conference on Investment and Privatization in OIC, Countries in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in 2006, and **calls upon** the OIC Member States to encourage their relevant private sector and Chambers of Commerce to actively participate in the said events.

VI. Report of the ICDT on Islamic Trade Fairs (Agenda Item: 8)

63. **Expresses its thanks and appreciation** to the Kingdom of Bahrain for hosting, and ICDT for jointly organizing with the Kingdom of Bahrain the 10th Trade Fair of Islamic Countries, from 5th to 9th February 2005, under the theme of "Role of the Private Sector in the Economic Integration between the Islamic Countries", with an exhibition area of 14,000 sqm, deals settled around 50 million Bahraini Dinars (about 130 million US \$).

64. **Recalls** the offers of the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of Iraq and the Republic of Guinea to host the 11th, 12th and 13th of Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries in 2007, 2008 and 2010 respectively.

65. **Expresses its thanks and appreciation** to the Republic of Turkey for hosting the First Tourism Fair of Islamic Countries, under the theme "OIC Tourism: A Meeting Point of Peace and Tolerance", jointly organized by ICDT, TURSAB and CNR. in Istanbul from 24-26 November 2005.

66. **Takes Note** that the 2nd and 3rd Tourism Fairs of Islamic Countries will be hosted in Lebanon and Egypt in 2007, 2009 respectively and **welcomes** the offer of Syria to host the 4th Tourism Fair of Islamic Countries.

67. **Thanks** the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for hosting the 1st Agribusiness Exhibition of the OIC Countries under the theme "The Agribusiness sector: partnership model among the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference" jointly organized with ICDT from 17th to 20th April 2005.

68. **Requests** ICDT to prepare regularly a progress report on the Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries as well as the Tourism Fairs and submit them to the COMCEC Sessions, and the related OIC fora.

VII. Exchange of Views on "Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation among the OIC Member States " (Agenda Item: 9)

69. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and to ICDT, in collaboration with IDB, SESRTCIC and ICCI for organizing successfully the Workshop on the "the Role of Tourism in economic cooperation among the OIC

Member States" in Casablanca on 14th and 15th June 2005, **endorses** the recommendations of the workshop, and **calls upon** OIC Member States to endeavour to implement them. (Annexed herewith.)

70. **Thanks** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the presentation on the tourism development.

71. **Thanks** the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding the Expert Group Meeting on Tourism in July 2005 and **endorses** the recommendations of the said EGM.

VIII. Evaluation and the Follow-Up of the Outcome of the OIC Economic Conference (Agenda Item: 10)

72. **Takes note** the presentation of the COMCEC Coordination Office on the Evaluation and Follow-Up of the Outcome of the OIC Economic Conference.

73. **Notes** the initiative of the IDB Group to launch the Technical Assistance Programme for the promotion of investment.

74. **Notes with appreciation** the holding of meetings by the IDB on promotion of intra-OIC investment in October 2005 on the occasion of the World Islamic Economic Forum in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, and the Ninth International Business Forum in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

75. **Calls on** the Member States and the concerned OIC Institutions to continue to follow-up the outcome of the OIC Economic Conference, and **requests** the concerned OIC Institutions to report on the developments of the subject to the forthcoming Sessions of the COMCEC.

IX. Capacity Building Programme for Poverty Alleviation in OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 11)

76. **Welcomes** Malaysia's recent initiative of establishing a Capacity Building Program in the OIC Countries for poverty alleviation in less developed and low-income OIC Countries, and launching the first phase of the program, which consists of three

pilot projects, in March, 2005, in Kuala Lumpur, and **calls upon** the Member States to extend all support to the program.

77. **Takes note** of the eight capacity building programmes offered by Malaysia to OIC countries for implementation in 2006 in the area of trade, investment, SME, trade facilitation, development of women entrepreneur, productivity and standards and **urges** member countries to participate in the programmes.

78. **Expresses its thanks and appreciation** to the Government of Burkina Faso, the OIC General Secretariat, IDB and ICDT, for successfully organizing in Ouagadougou on 18-19 April 2005 a forum on Energizing Trade and Investment in Cotton Sector in Africa and **calls** for the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forum.

79. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Second Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on "Cotton Producing and Processing Industry" in Izmir, in March 2006 and **urges** Member States and concerned OIC institutions to participate in this meeting.

80. **Entrusts** IDB to monitor matters regarding the Capacity Building Program in the OIC Countries and report on them to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other concerned OIC fora and **notes** IDB's continuous efforts in this regard.

X. Report of the Sessional Committee

81. **Takes note** of the Report of the Sessional Committee (OIC/COMCEC/SC-05/REP) and **approves** the recommendations contained therein.

82. **Renews its appeal** to Member States to take the measures needed for a greater involvement in the activities of the OIC subsidiary organs, affiliated, and specialized institutions.

XI. Organizational Matters

83. **Decides** that the Twenty Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee be held from 23 to 25 May 2006 and the Twenty Second Session of the COMCEC be held from 13 to 16 November 2006, in Istanbul.

84. **Decides** that "Capacity Building on Facilitation of Trade and Investment" be the theme for the exchange of Views at the Twenty Second Session of the COMCEC, and **requests** IDB to organize a workshop on this topic in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat and any other international organization, prior to the Twenty Second Session of the COMCEC and submit its report to the Session.

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

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

87. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to communicate to Member States the dates of the Twenty Second Session of the COMCEC and the Twenty Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

ANNEX

9

Original: English

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

(Istanbul, 22-25 November 2005)

The Twenty-first Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) held in Istanbul, 22-25 November 2005;

A. Economic Measures in Support of Palestine

Recalling the resolutions adopted by OIC Summits in support of the Palestinian people;

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

Recalling further the resolutions adopted by the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in support of the State of Palestine;

Condemning the repeated Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and occupation of Palestinian territories in violation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and agreements signed and recognized internationally and demanding the cessation of all forms of aggression and the violation of the Muslim and Christian holy places and also demanding the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces from all the Palestinian territories as well as the cessation of aggressions against the Palestinian people, and the insistence on imposing the separation-wall on the Palestine territories, in spite of overwhelming international opposition;

Noting the role played by the Palestine National Authority in all its cities, hamlets and camps, including East Jerusalem in order to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people and build up national economy;

1. **Appeals** to the Quartet to send a peace-keeping force to secure the implementation of the Road-Map scheme.
2. **Notes** with deep appreciation the assistance provided by some Member States and the OIC relevant institutions.
3. **Commends** the efforts made by the Palestine National Authority in the Palestinian territory and its camps in order to reconstruct what was destroyed by Israeli occupation as well as the Palestinian steadfastness in the face of Israeli aggression and **urges** Member States and other relevant parties to exert further efforts and provide greater assistance to build up a national economy, develop and consolidate it.
4. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance provided by some Member States to the Palestinian people to build up their national economy and **urges** Member States and relevant OIC bodies to provide, as early as possible, the required and approved assistance to enable the Palestine National Authority and the Palestinian people to build up a national economy and consolidate their national institutions as the infrastructure of these institutions was totally destroyed by the Israeli occupying forces.
5. **Reaffirms** the previous resolutions on providing all forms of support and assistance: economic, technical, material and moral to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian National Authority, recommending preference in import to Palestinian products, exempting them from 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 territory, 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 period, in the various economic, social and health fields.
7. **Appeals** to Member States, to provide employment opportunities to the Palestinian labour force, given the harsh condition imposed by the Israeli occupation forces, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic condition of the Palestinian people and putting an end to unemployment.

8. **Urges** Member States to conclude bilateral agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organization and its National Authority in the economic, commercial and social fields, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic condition of the Palestinian people.
9. **Urges** all OIC Member States and affiliated institutions to provide urgent assistance to build up a strong and independent Palestinian national economy.
10. **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 thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

B. Assistance to Lebanon

The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC),

Recalling resolution 13/10-EC(IS) adopted by the 10th Session of the OIC Summit;

Recalling resolution 13/31-EC adopted by the 31st Session of the OIC Ministers of Foreign Affairs;

Also **recalling** the Israeli aggressions against Lebanon and ensuing damages and loss of lives as well as properties, and their repercussions on political and economic conditions in Lebanon;

Lauding the efforts exerted by the Lebanese Government to ensure security and stability, exercise its authority, reconstruct and provide the needs of Lebanese citizens living in areas earlier occupied by Israel.

Taking into consideration the difficulties confronted by Lebanese citizens living in the region under Israeli occupation and neighbouring areas;

Having reviewed the report of the Secretary General in this regard:

1. **Expresses** its appreciation to the Islamic and Arab countries for the assistance extended within the framework of the Donors' Conference (Paris 2).
2. **Expresses** its appreciation for the assistance granted by OIC relevant bodies.
3. **Denounces** the refusal of Israel to withdraw from parts of the Lebanese territory, including Shaba'a farms, and beyond the internationally recognized Lebanese borders.
4. **Condemns** Israel for refusing to hand over detailed maps of areas where landmines were planted thereby in the South and West of the Bekaa valley, a matter that exposes civilian life to extreme danger. Also **condemns** Israel for detaining Lebanese citizens in its prisons.
5. **Emphasizes** its support to Lebanon in its sovereign right to exercise its political options within its constitutional procedures and institutions bearing in mind Lebanon's right to maintain relations with sisterly and friendly countries on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty, independence, its national interests, good neighborliness, equality and peerage.
6. **Considers** that unraveling the truth about the terrorist assassination crime that claimed the life of Prime Minister Rafic Hariri and his colleagues, and penalizing the culprits, whoever and wherever they are, would help re-entrench security and stability in Lebanon and the region.
7. **Reaffirms** its previous recommendations related to the necessity to extend urgent assistance, financial, humanitarian and in kind to Lebanon in light of its requirements in the economic, technical and training fields and **reiterates** its **request** to OIC Member States and other international and regional organizations to take urgent and active measures to contribute to the reconstruction of what was destroyed by the Israeli occupation and respond to the call for holding a Conference of donor countries for this purpose.
8. **Calls upon** Member States to extend exceptional facilities to allow access by Lebanese products to their markets without any obstacles in order to re-inforce its economy which is the fundamental pillar for Lebanese resistance and steadfastness against Israeli aggression.

9. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC session.

C. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Albania

Recalling relevant resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference (resolution 18/10-EC), the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 20th 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.

D. Economic Measures in Support of Uganda

Recalling relevant resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference (resolution 20/10-EC), the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 20th 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. **Urges** that Member States, Islamic Institutions and organizations to extend urgent and substantial assistance to the people of Northern Uganda.
3. **Requests** the Secretary General to liaise with Government of Uganda and the follow-up this matter urgently.

E. Economic Measures in Support of The Islamic State of Afghanistan

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference (resolution 19/10-EC), the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (resolution 9/32-E) and the 20th 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 extraordinarily grave situation prevailing in the Islamic State of Afghanistan;

1. **Recognizes** that the Islamic State of Afghanistan was 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 the Islamic State of Afghanistan.
3. **Commends** those Member States that have already provided assistance to the people of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.
4. **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. This fund should be established as soon as possible.
5. **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 to return from neighbouring and other countries to their own country.

6. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC session.

F. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Somalia

Recalling resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference (resolution 15/10-EC), the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (resolution 13/32-E) and the 20th Session of the COMCEC;

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.

G. Economic Assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic

Recalling relevant Resolution of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference (resolution 22/10-EC), the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 20th 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 Member States and Islamic financial institutions to contribute generously to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by the Kyrgyz Republic, either on a bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organizations, in order to enable the Kyrgyz Republic to fulfil its economic programme.
3. **Appeals also** to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

H. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the 10th Islamic Summit Conference (resolution 21/10-EC), and the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (resolution 10/32-E) and the 20th Session of the COMCEC 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 one fifth of its territory and in one million of refugees and displaced Azeri people.
2. **Reaffirms** its support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the full solidarity of OIC Member States with the government and people of Azerbaijan in this grave and very critical time of the country's history.
3. **Recognizes** the need to reinforce the concrete solidarity of OIC Member States with the government and people of Azerbaijan.
4. **Welcomes and appreciates** the assistance extended by OIC Member States and relevant bodies, the United Nations institutions and international organizations.

5. **Appeals** to 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 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.

I. 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;

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 through 32nd Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers (resolution 14/32-E), 10th Islamic Summit Conference (resolution 14/10-EC), and 20th 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-Herzegovina.

2. **Welcomes** the contributions of OIC Member States at the Donor Conference for the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina, held in Brussels in April 1996 which encourages OIC Member States to pursue their efforts as regards financial contributions for the final return of refugees adopted at the OIC Conference held in Doha in May 2001 and expresses its satisfaction for the efforts exerted by the OIC Committee for the Reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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-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 war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

5. **Urges** the International Community to take efficient measures to ensure the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

6. **Categorically demands** that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina be safeguarded and protected within its internationally recognized frontiers and supports the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina in its intent to proceed on this sound basis for a just and lasting solution to restore the confidence of its people so that they may continue to live as a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious society.

7. **Requests** the OIC Member States, at the same time members of the Peace Implementation Council in Bosnia-Herzegovina and its Coordination Committee, to seek directing the biggest part of international assistance for the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina and, in particular, the areas inhabited by Muslim Bosnians.

8. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

J. Assistance to the Republic of Guinea

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference (resolution 16/10-EC), the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (resolution 11/32-E) and the 20th 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 to ensure stability in some Member States;

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

Being gravely concerned by the repeated aggressions against the Republic of Guinea on its borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone, resulting 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 Foreign Ministers of 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;

Noting with satisfaction that a joint mission OIC/IDB visited the zones affected by rebel attacks with a view to assessing the damage and destruction resulting from the attacks and prepare a reconstruction program;

1. **Expresses** its support to and solidarity with the people and the Government of Guinea.
2. **Invites** the international community and the OIC Member States to provide the Republic of Guinea with substantial financial and material assistance, so that it may cope with the difficulties caused by the aggressions waged against the Republic of Guinea and the presence of hundreds of thousands of refugees, who are Muslims in majority, on its territories.
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 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.

K. Assistance to the Republic of Sierra Leone

Recalling the pertinent Resolutions adopted by the 10th Islamic Summit Conference (resolution 17/10-EC), the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (resolution 13/32-E) and the 20th Session of the COMCEC;

1. **Appeals** to Member States and Islamic institutions of the Organization of Islamic Conference of which Sierra Leone has always been an active member, whose people have experienced the most brutal acts of violence, to urgently extend substantial financial and material assistance to the war ravaged country 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. **Appeals** to those Member States which have not generously contributed to the OIC trust fund for the reconstruction and economic rehabilitation of Sierra Leone to kindly do so to accelerate the reconstruction efforts currently undertaken by the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

3. **Requests** the Secretary General to use his good offices to accelerate the approval process of projects already identified for Sierra Leone.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

L. Assistance to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan In The Wake of Earthquake

The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC),

Deeply concerned about the loss of human life and the unprecedented destruction of property and infrastructure caused by the devastating earthquake in Pakistan on 8 October 2005,

Recognizing that natural disasters constitute a development problem of great magnitude, the solution of which calls for substantial resources, requiring national efforts to be supplemented by international financial and technical assistance,

Recognizing also the large-scale relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the Government and the people of Pakistan to alleviate the suffering of disaster victims,

Noting the appeal made by the Secretary-General of the OIC to the Islamic Ummah for help and assistance for the earthquake-affected people of Pakistan,

Noting also the appeal to the international community made by the Heads of State and the Government of Pakistan to come forward with assistance in order to help the country to recover from the disastrous earthquake,

1. **Expresses** its solidarity with the Government and the people of Pakistan, who are bravely facing the disaster;

2. **Appeals** to all Member States, OIC Subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions, as well as Islamic financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, to respond urgently and generously in order to assist Pakistan in its relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and programmes following the unprecedented calamity;

3. **Expresses** its gratitude to Member States, international organizations within and outside the OIC, non-governmental organizations and individuals and groups that have so generously assisted the Government of Pakistan in its immediate relief and rehabilitations efforts;

4. **Requests** the OIC Secretary-General to report to the 33rd ICFM and 22nd Session of COMCEC on the collaborative effort referred to in paragraph 2 above.

M. Assistance to the Kashmiri People

Recalling the relevant resolution of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference (resolution 23/10-EC), the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (resolution 15/32-E) and the 20th Session of COMCEC;

Noting that the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the Indian occupied Kashmir have continued to suffer from grave atrocities and serious repression which have continued against them with increased intensity resulting in greater economic hardship for the people;

1. **Recognizes** the need for immediate economic assistance to alleviate the suffering of the innocent and displaced Kashmiris.

2. **Appeals** to all Member States and Islamic institutions, particularly the Islamic Solidarity Fund and the Islamic Development Bank to grant immediate assistance to suffering Kashmiri people.

3. **Also appeals** to all OIC Member States and Islamic institutions to grant scholarships to 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 10th Islamic Summit Conference (resolution 24/10-EC), the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (resolution 13/32-E) and the 20th Session of the 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 the 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 neighbouring African countries;

Recalling that Yemen is one of the least developed countries:

1. **Expresses** its appreciation for the efforts of the Yemeni Government to overcome its economic difficulties and to implement 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 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 alleviating the ravages suffered by Yemen as a result of the floods as well as the heavy

burden *c,i* sheltering large number of rcmgees from neighbouring African countries.

4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next CQMCEC Session.

O. Economic Assistance to Tajikistan

Recalling relevant resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference (resolution 27/10-EC), the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (resolution 13/32-E) and the 20th Session of the COMCFC;

Taking into account the objectives and principles of the OIC Charter as wed •; member./ commitment to consolidate international peace and security;

Deeph concerned with the crhica! situation which Tajikistan has laced after six years of bloods civil war. which resulted in death, injury and displacement of tliousands of people as well as destruction of its economic and social infrastructures;

Noting the return of about 200,000 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 a bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organizations 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 10th Islamic Summit Conference, the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 20th 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 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 10th Islamic Summit Conference (resolution 10/10-EC), the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 20th Session of the COMCEC;

Noting with concern the grave situation caused by drought and natural disasters, and their damaging effects on economic and social conditions

specially in the agricultural, 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 Countries, 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 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 a long time.
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 Sahelian African States.
8. **Also expresses** its appreciation to the Great Peoples Socialist Libyan Jamahiriyah for the support and assistance it provides to the Islamic States to improve their infrastructure, alleviate the ills of extreme poverty, drought and natural disasters and ameliorate the health, social and cultural conditions through donations, soft loans and assistance in kind.
9. **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 7th 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 10th Islamic Summit Conference, the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 20th Session of the COMCEC;

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Appeals** to all Member States and Islamic institutions to extend urgently special assistance to enable Sahelian African States to cope with the lack of cereal crops and poor grazing land and a result of weak rain falls and locusts invasion.

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 to crystallize 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. **Also notes** with appreciation the initiation by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the third phase of its program in favour of the Sahelian African States to combat drought and desertification.
9. **Urges** Member States to announce their contributions to the new programme in favour of the Sahelian African States.
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

Noting with satisfaction that the Mozambique's Presidential and Legislative elections held on 1-2 December, 2004, was carried out peacefully and in a transparent manner, which created conditions to reinforce democratic process and to continue to implementation of economic and social programmes,

Appreciating the efforts being made by the Government of Mozambique in the implementation programme for eradication of poverty and for economic development;

1. **Appeals** to the Islamic Development Bank, all Islamic Institutions and the International community in general to continue rendering their assistance in order to ensure the socio-economic development of Mozambique.
2. **Urges** the developed countries to write off the external debt of Mozambique in the light of its current efforts to eradication of poverty.
3. **Calls upon** all Member States to continue their support to the implementation of the programme of reconstruction of Mozambique.
4. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and relevant OIC institutions.
5. **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.
11. 6. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the twenty second session of the COMCEC.

T. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Sudan

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conference and the Foreign Ministers meetings in earlier sessions on the support of Sudan,

1. **Expresses deep conce** n over the suffering by Sudan from the traces of the ravaging war imposed thereon, the influx of refugees and the displaced as a result of conflict, natural disasters, drought, desertification and floods;
2. **Commends** the positive developments taking place in the Republic of Sudan leading to the signing on January 9th, 2005 of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, also **welcomes** the formation of the national unity government, and **re-affirms** its assistance to the Republic of Sudan for building peace and development in the interest of the unity and stability of Sudan;
3. **Lauds** the positive response by the Islamic Development Bank to the Urgent Assistance Programme, already initiated, and **calls upon** the other states

and institutions to extend urgent assistance to support the programme with a view to removing the traces of war, drought, desertification and natural disasters as well as their effects on the infrastructure and social and economic structures;

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up this matter and report to the coming COMCEC Session.

U. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Iraq

Recalling the resolution of the 10th Islamic Summit and that of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers preceding it on support to the Iraqi people.

1. **Expresses** its conviction that the Iraqi people should enjoy the required standard of living and economic flexibility to enable them to overcome the consequences of war and economic embargo they underwent for reasons beyond their control.

2. **Appeals** to the OIC Member States to exert their utmost efforts to support and extend urgent assistance to Iraq and non-interference in its internal affairs so that it may effectively contribute to the security and stability of the region. This will promote the achievement of development in Iraq, resolve economic problems and structural distortions in the Iraqi economy.

3. **Highlights** the need and importance of enhanced security environment and measures because of terrorist activities for those civilian drivers and other personnel working for the reconstruction of Iraq as well as for the supply of humanitarian assistance to Iraqi people.

4. **Also urges** Member States to contribute, in the coming period, to the reconstruction of Iraq.

5. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to follow up this matter and report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

ANNEX

10

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE WORKSHOP ON**

**"THE ROLE OF TOURISM IN THE PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC
COOPERATION AMONG THE OIC MEMBER STATES"**

In compliance with the recommendation n° 1 paragraph 87 of the 20th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States (COMCEC), held from 23rd to 27th November 2004 in Istanbul and which chose the "Role of Tourism in the promotion of Economic Cooperation among the OIC Member States", the ICDT organises under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism, Handicraft and Social Economy of the Kingdom of Morocco and in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank Group and the other OIC institutions, a workshop on this topic on 14th and 15th June 2005 in Hotel Sheraton-Casablanca.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP:

The main aims of this workshop are:

- » To gather experts from Member States, and the OIC institutions as well as from international and regional organisations in order to make an appraisal of the tourism sector in the OIC Member States;
- . To examine the ways and means likely to promote the best practices in this field and give impetus and facilitate intra-OIC tourist flows;
- To formulate a set of concrete recommendations aimed at helping decision-makers to provide for the required intra-OIC tourism facilitation measures;
- To identify the most promising cooperation fields and market openings in this sector that can contribute to the growth of intra-OIC tourist flows and to the development of intra-OIC partnership and investment.
- The Meeting was attended by the:

OIC General Secretariat

Representatives from the following OIC Member States:

Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Jordan, Libya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco (Ministry of Tourism, Handicraft and Social Economy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Ministry of foreign Trade), Mauritania, Qatar, Senegal, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

The following OIC institutions also attended this workshop:

- The Islamic Development Bank Group.
- The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO).

- The Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC).
- The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT).

The Representatives of International and Regional Organisations.

- The United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The Representatives of Public or Private Enterprises notably,

- The National Federation of Tourism of Morocco (CGEM), the Regional Council of Tourism in Casablanca.

The following OIC institutions have contributed to this workshop by written papers that were read out during the proceedings of the workshop.

The Research Centre for Islamic Art and Culture (IRCICA).

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and industry (ICCI).

(The List of participants in annex n°1).

A/ OPENING SESSION:

- After the recitation of verses from the Holy Koran, Mr. Allal RACHDI, Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade took the floor to convey his deep gratitude to the Ministry of Tourism, Handicraft and Social Economy of the Kingdom of Morocco that has kindly accepted to organise this event under its patronage and extended also his warm welcome to participants.

Mr. Allal RACHDI underlined the importance invested by this workshop whose organisation was recommended by the 20th Session of the COMCEC, which has mandated ICDT to organise this workshop under the theme: "Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation among the OIC Member States" within the framework of the preparation of the next exchange of views of the COMCEC, which will deal with this theme at its 21st Session.

The choice of Tourism, added Mr. RACHDI reflects the great importance given to the Tourism sector in the OIC agenda, in view of the role played by this sector at the level of Member States' economies and which contributes to improving the standard of living of populations through the reduction of unemployment and poverty. One should also keep in mind that this sector attracts investments in infrastructure and contributes to enhancing the importance of the historical monuments and archaeological sites and contributes to opening up the rural areas.

The report and recommendations of this workshop will be submitted for adoption by the 21st Session of the COMCEC that will be held from 22nd to 25th November 2005 in Istanbul concomitantly with the 1st Tourism Fair of Islamic Countries to be held from 24th to 26th November 2005 and he invited Member States to actively participate in this event.

Even though the OIC Member Countries are among the most attractive areas due to their cultural and geographical diversity, Inter-Islamic Tourism does not meet the real expectations of the Islamic world.

He therefore underlined that this workshop would be for the economic operators of the private and public sectors a good opportunity to exchange their views, present the national experiences of the different countries in this field and to examine the ways and means likely to facilitate and increase the Intra-OIC tourist flows.

Finally, Mr. RACHDI reiterated his deepest thanks and gratitude to the Government of his Majesty the King Mohammed the Sixth and to the OIC institutions, which have contributed to this workshop, particularly the Islamic Development Bank Group. He also conveyed his thanks to the experts and the professional associations for their constructive and fruitful participation in the debates and their submission of concrete recommendations to enhance the level of intra-OIC cooperation in the tourism sector.

Then Mr. Homai'd AL OUTAÏBY read out the message addressed to participants by H.E. Prof. Dr. EKMELEDDIN IHSANOGLU, the OIC Secretary General.

In his speech HE Prof. Dr. EKMELEDDIN IHSANOGLU paid special tribute to His Majesty Mohamed the Sixth, King of Morocco for His sustained support to the OIC and expressed His warm thanks to the Moroccan Authorities for the measures and the excellent arrangements they have made to ensure the success of this workshop.

In His address, His Excellency emphasized the importance of tourism nowadays, since it has proved to be an Industry that yields some of the highest growth rates in comparison with the other traditionally known industries. In fact, apart from being a source of revenues and a job creator, it is a means of combating poverty and it also contributes to a large extent to in the GNP of several countries in the world. Such a performance is corroborated by the projections of the World Tourism Organisation, which indicate that the number of tourists in the world will exceed 700 millions this year and will be around one billion by 2010. In the same context, tourist hosting countries are expected to reap about US\$ 621 billion from this sector this year and about US\$ 1550 billion by 2010.

Besides, H.E. Prof. Dr. EKMELEDDIN IHSANOGLU also added that tourism is not only considered as a source of revenue for a particular country, but also a tool for promoting cooperation and establishing closer links among countries and nations and realizing an optimal understanding for the Islamic values, arts and culture of each OIC Member State an it is in this perspective that the OIC adopted an included tourism as one of the priority areas within the framework of the Plan of Action for strengthening Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States.

In conclusion, H.E. Prof. Dr. EKMELEDDIN IHSANOGLU expressed his hope that the proceedings of this workshop would end by a set of concrete recommendations that would contribute to promoting the tourism sector in the OIC Member States and strengthening economic cooperation among these countries and he added that the General Secretariat will spare no effort to extend assistance and support in order to contribute to the development of this important sector.

- In his speech, Mr. Abderrahim DAOUDI, Representative of the Ministry of Tourism, Handicraft and Social Economy extended his warm welcome to

participants and conveyed his thanks to ICDT for the efforts made by the Centre to organise this workshop, which will undoubtedly be a decisive point to consolidate Inter-Islamic Cooperation in the Tourism sector.

He also added that this workshop aims at assessing the present situation of the tourism sector in the OIC Countries and identifying the ways and means that would develop this sector in order to initiate intra-OIC tourism facilitation measures, which are imperative in a conjuncture marked by market openness, globalisation and economic groupings. The OIC Member States should therefore, devise a common strategy, to unify their positions and defend their interests so as to become a privileged partner at world level, especially as the Islamic world is endowed with a cultural and geographical diversity.

Nowadays, Tourism is invested with a great importance in view of the role it plays in the economies of Member States, furthermore, as it is a tool that throws into relief Islamic culture as well as the human principles of solidarity, peace and tolerance that characterise the Muslim religion.

Finally, Mr. DAOUDI commended the role played by the OIC at the level of Tourism Ministers in promoting and developing this sector in Islamic Countries and emphasized the need for making recommendations that would bring out tourism destinations, the Art and Culture of the Islamic world and counteract the harmful propaganda against Islam through campaigns using the information and telecommunications technologies.

- Taking the floor on behalf of the Islamic Development Group, Mr. BENALI delivered a speech conveying his feelings of gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting this important event, he also extended his warmest thanks to ICDT for the excellent conditions in which he organised this workshop and the OIC Member States' experts who will contribute to the preparation of the exchange of views which deal with a sector invested with a prime importance for the Islamic Joint action.

Mr. BENALI recalled to participants that the IDB Group intervenes indirectly in the tourism sector in so far as its financing schemes concern several sectors involving tourism activities, such as structural infrastructures relating to transport, telecommunications and urban sanitation and drinking water.

- Mr. Azzelarab KETTANI has then taken the floor in the name of the National Tourism Federation of the Kingdom of Morocco welcoming all participants to Morocco, which is known for its hospitality and tolerance.

He added that it is a long time since a number of countries, have realised the importance of the travel industry, which will become the industry of the future. In fact, the World Tourism organisation shows in its forecasts that in spite of the substantial oil and mining wealth, tourism is expected to become, the first economic resource worldwide by 2030.

Mr. KETTANI has on the other hand, underlined the weakness and low level of the tourist flows, in comparison with the European or South American Countries, while Member States are gifted with the richest civilisation and historical achievements of the planet. Therefore, he added Member States have to pool their resources together and make every effort to further develop and promote not only international but also inter-OIC tourism industry.

He also pointed out that this weakness is due to large extent to gaps in the field of trade promotion of our destinations and to the inadequate coordination of our actions, and also to the persisting barriers related to border crossing and visas etc...

He also criticized the lack of adaptation of the product offered to the lifestyle and customs of Arabo-Islamic culture, in this respect, Mr. KETTANI pointed that the practice of group tourism and the intervention of Tours operators is crucial.

B/ PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP AND SYNTHESIS of DEBATES:

Before resuming its proceedings, the workshop elected its bureau as follows:

Chairman	:	Kingdom of Morocco
Vice Chairman	:	State of Malaysia
Vice Chairman	:	Republic of Mali
Rapporteur	:	Mr. Azzelarab KETTANI (National Federation of Tourism of the Kingdom of Morocco).

The proceedings of the workshop continued on in plenary session at which, experts representing the following Member States and Organisations made presentations:

- * "International Tourism Promotion: Trade Investment and Development Perspectives for Islamic Countries", presented by Mr. David DIAZ BENAVIDES-UNCTAD;
- * "The WTO negotiations in the Tourism Sector", presented by Mr Hassan BENSEDDIK (consultant).
- * "International Tourism in the OIC countries : prospects and challenges", presented by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) ;
- » "Role of the private sector in the promotion of cooperation in the tourism sector among the OIC Member States", presented by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICO);
- * "The role of crafts in the development of Tourism» presented by the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) ;
- . "The ISESCO's efforts aiming at protecting the cultural and architectural heritage of the OIC Member States" presented by Mr .SALAH SALEM- the Islamic, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) ;
- Paper of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- * Paper of Malaysia
- * Paper of the Republic of Turkey
- * Paper of Tunisia
- > Paper of the Kingdom of Morocco
- . Paper of the Republic of Senegal.
- Besides, the Representative of the Republic of Mali presented the project of transborder protected parks and areas in West Africa initiated by the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

From the papers presented during the workshop and debates the following conclusions have been made:

Evolution of tourism sector: Main trends and challenges

International tourism demand is submitted to the fluctuations of the exchange rate as well as to the impact of domestic incentives provided to this sector. In case of political instability, health hazards, or the wars, it can be strongly and noticeably affected.

After three years of stagnation, with a cumulated growth lower than 1%, international tourism has shown in 2004 an impressive recovery. According to the data collected by the World Tourism Organization (WTO), the arrivals of international tourists was estimated at 760 million last year, such level has been recorded before and accounts for a 10% increase in comparison with 2003, while in January 2004, their increase was estimated at 9% and in August at 6%.

The number of tourists increased from 25 millions in 1950 to more than 700 billion in 2002 and fell afterwards to 526 million in 2004. According to the world Tourism organisation, this figure is expected to show a twofold increase by the 2020 corresponding to an annual growth of 6.6%.

Growth was observed in all the areas, but it was particularly strong in Asia and in the Pacific (+29%) and in the Middle East (+20%). A growth with two digits was noted in the Americas (+10%), while Africa (+7%) and Europe (+4%) showed results below the world average, even if they are far better than in the previous years. The year 2004 was marked by the strong recovery of Asia and Pacific after the drops that were recorded in 2003 as a result of the SRAS, positive results in the Americas and by a new distribution of the big tourist flows in Europe and in the Americas under the effect of the evolution of the rate of exchange between the US dollars and the Euro.

Europe is the first destination accounting for 240 billion US of receipts followed by the Americas (with 114 billion US dollars), then Pacific Asia (with 95 billion US dollars). The Middle East and Africa hold the two last positions with respectively 13 and 12 billion US dollars of receipts.

Tourism Industry provides jobs for about 207 million individuals in the world, i.e. 8% of total employment, this sector yields about 474 billion dollars and its contribution in the world GDP is about 11%.

The year 2004 marks the end of the crisis which has been raging in this sector since 2001, and especially the 11th September terrorist attacks. The recent trends show that tourists prefer to stay near their countries. The opinions of experts are similar: "the sea, the sand and the sun" trilogy and the total environment change provided by exotic destinations are progressively becoming unfashionable.

International tourist arrivals dropped by 1.5% falling from about 691 million in 2003 to 526 million in 2004 due to the war in Iraq, terrorist attacks threats and SRAS epidemics.

- The world tourism structure is complex. It is essential to distinguish between international or transborder and domestic tourism in a given country. The importance of these forms of tourism varies from one country to another.

There are two divergent markets. On the one hand, the strongly growing international and intercontinental market and the close or domestic market oriented towards individual tourism. Yet, the latter is mature nowadays and more and more predominated by excursionists and the owners of second homes whose expenditures do not often reach those of the users of traditional hotel industry.

As far as its structure is concerned, the world tourism industry is experiencing a high concentration and is more and more predominated by the big travelling and tourism industry. Tours operators, air companies, hotel chains, large cruisers and car hiring companies have managed to exploit local potentials using international and even world encompassing strategies. They open and develop the new markets of urban centres and populations aggregates. They seek quick returns from invested capitals.

- The Multilateral Trade Negotiations within the WTO in the services sector

In the services sector, annex C of the July Package reiterates the commitments and objectives set during Doha Work program and in the guidelines of the GATS. It underscores the need for making significant offers in fields of interest to developing countries. Particularly, through the movement of physical persons (mode IV). It is also stipulated that revised offers should be submitted in May 2005 at the latest.

The decision stipulates also that efforts made to conclude negotiations with a view to working out rules should be intensified and a target technical assistance should be provided to developing countries to enable them to participate in an effective manner in negotiations on services.

Despite such instructions, negotiations since July have not shown any sign of progress in so much as the liberal process of the submission of requests and offers of market access is still showing a delay.

- Tourism in the OIC Member States

Tourism has become an important source of foreign exchange earnings, a job generator, a means to relieve the isolation of some areas and to establish a balance and equilibrium between the various areas of the OIC Member States. Tourism has open in some underdeveloped areas, new spaces to entrepreneurship and boosted human life.

The overall tourist receipts of the OIC Member States are estimated at about 37 billion US dollars, the total number of tourist arrivals is estimated at about 43 million tourists, i.e. 6% of the World tourism market.

The main tourist countries, which exceed one million tourists per year, are by order of importance: Malaysia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, UAE, Jordan and Bahrain. Furthermore, the three first countries of the classification account for 70% of the overall receipts generated by tourism, hence a strong concentration around some countries.

Intra-OIC tourism has been estimated at 18 million tourists in 2002, i.e. 45% of total arrivals, which shows a good integration level, but some countries carry most of their tourist activities through their agencies, in other OIC countries, such as Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, UAE and Oman.

The main intra-OIC tourism destinations are Bahrain accounting for 3 million tourists, Jordan with 2.3 million tourists, Kuwait and Kazakhstan with 1.4 million tourists each, Tunisia with 1.3 million tourists, Egypt 1.1 million tourists. Some big tourist destinations, such as Malaysia and Turkey receive very small number of OIC tourists comparatively with their accommodation capacity.

The main intra-OIC tourist resources of the OIC countries are the following:

- S The landscape and nature
- S The Holy shrines of Islam
- S Beach resorts
- S Trade and tourist events (exhibitions, business and trade weeks etc..)
- S The history and culture of Islamic countries
- S Gastronomy
- S Sports and active tourism
- S Arts and crafts

Intra-OIC tourism has become a very important market especially after the 11th September 2001 events, when the USA and Europe was no more the first tourist or business destination of a large number of tourists from our Member States.

Of course, in a large number of the OIC countries, outgoing tourism is not very developed in terms of group organisation, especially in the Arab Countries where group trips is not yet very widespread.

But with the new promotional and communications techniques, the facilities granted to tours operators and the host countries, such customs could change and we may hope that intra-OIC tourism would take as in the event for example of destinations such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Maldives, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, and Morocco, which are highly competing with the most frequented European destinations on the GGC market.

- Intra-OIC trade facilitation:

Various factors can facilitate or prevent the growth of intra-OIC- tourism. Visa delivery procedures, border formalities and customs regulations constitute the most current obstacles on the arrival of tourists. It is incumbent on governments only, to facilitate travels by reducing obstacles and making formalities easier and more efficient.

Accessibility is an essential condition for the success of tourism. To meet such a condition, transport means to and from a well-known destination should be handy and cheap. Air, land and sea transport means of prime importance require a particular planning and attention. The emergence on the market of a large number of air companies offering cheap prices, will to a large extent contribute to expanding tourism and possibly incite Governments to reconsider their policies in this field so as to meet such an evolution.

PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Morocco, Syria, Senegal, Tunisia and Turkey presented their national experiences in the field of tourism and particularly in intra-OIC tourism.

These papers dealt with three aspects: The position of tourism in national economy, the promotion of tourist destination, the promotion of tourist investments and sustainable tourism development.

On the basis of the presentations on national experiences, it has been established that the success of national tourism policy depends on the mastering of the following parameters:

- The need for having a long term national vision and strategy in the tourism sector;
- The other sector-based policies should be consistent with the tourist strategy, in other words all the intervening parties in the tourist value chain should contribute to the success of the tourist strategy, particularly, the transport sector;
- The need for adapting offered products to the evolution of international and domestic;
- Diversification of offered products by widening the range of products beyond the classical products, such as beach tourism, ecotourism, mountain tourism, desert tourism, spa tourism (thalassotherapy, thermal resort etc..) and by extending it to education , and sports tourism as well.
- The need for having a good marketing policy not only at global level (organisation of campaigns to promote national destination and improve the image of the country), but also at microeconomic level, at the level or enterprises, which must master and penetrate the large distribution channels.
- The need for having an adequate infrastructure and improving tourism related services (catering business, maintenance of archaeological and cultural sites, reception at ports of entry, security, tourist guides, tourist entertainment programmes, booking etc.).
- The need for preserving the arts and crafts, architectural and ecological patrimony.
- Handicraft is also a highly valued asset by visitors, in view of its importance as a tourist development tool of tourism promotion; it requires a sustained safeguard and development.

Besides, participants have brought out some weaknesses that reduce the performance level of the tourist sector in some countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries such as:

- Low accommodation capacity in comparison with international demand; the existing potential, passenger handling capacity,
- Ageing infrastructures;
- Very high seasonality (very high occupancy rate in peak season and very low in off season);
- Low integration in regional economy
- Some perverse social effects, offence against public decency...);

- Some negative effects on environment;
- An extravert structure of the Capital due to the predominance of tours operators and to the very high number of foreign operators, which tap almost all profits;
- The high prices of air transport.

C/ RECOMMENDATIONS:

While recalling the relevant resolutions of the four Islamic Conferences of Tourism Ministers held successively in Iran, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Senegal;

And notwithstanding all the provisions of these resolutions, participants agreed upon the following recommendations relating to the OIC.

Recommendations to the OIC Bodies:

1. To consider the possibility of convening a meeting between the officials of the immigrations, interior department and customs to find an appropriate mechanism to facilitate the issue of entry visas.
2. To call upon the OIC institutions, each in its own field of specialization, to give special attention to the joint ventures initiated by the OIC Member States in the tourist sector (Feasibility studies, promotion at the level of the funding parties etc.).
3. To call on the ISESCO and IRCICA to initiate an awareness program of the importance of cultural tourism as a means of dialogue between civilizations and to improve the image of Islam in the world. The private sector, the international large organizations and concerned donor institutions and organizations may also contribute to such a program.
4. To urge the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), which organizes on a regular basis once every two years the Tourism Fair of Islamic Countries, to give more importance to the tourist sector by initiating new activities specific to this sector: investment forums, seminars, meetings between Tourism Promotion Organs etc...
5. The workshop takes note with satisfaction of the project of transborder protected parks and areas in West Africa initiated by the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal and recommends to submit it for consideration to the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC that will be held on the sidelines of the 21st Session of the COMCEC in Istanbul from 22nd to 25th November 2005.
6. To draw up a communication and general information program on cultures and civilization of Islamic Countries. This program that will be drawn up in several languages with a view to promoting tourism, the wealth and the role played by Islamic civilization in humankind history, will allow access to Islamic heritage via Internet, with interactive links and themes to be defined by all the OIC Member States. For the design of this program, it would be beneficial to draw one's inspiration from MEDINA (MEDITERRANEAN by Internet Access) and it may be called: ATIC (Access to Tourism and Islamic Culture).

7. To call on SESRTCIC to set up an information network specific to tourism and tourism related services and urge Member States to provide necessary data to SESRTCIC.
8. To call on SESRTCIC to organize executive training sessions in the field of tourism in collaboration with the specialized institutions in the OIC Member States.
9. To entrust SESRTCIC with establishing linkages or networks among tourism training institutions in the OIC Countries (Tourism school, hotel management school etc..) facilitating exchange of experts, trainers, and trainees and research and tourism development and to initiate a capacity building program of human resources in this sector (organization of training workshops intended for trainers, forums on the evolution of the tourism industry and the future strategies to be adopted in this field etc.).
10. To extend assistance for the creation of Tourism Observatories in Islamic Countries. To this end the experience of Morocco could serve as a pattern. The Observatory could be seen as the focal point to process statistics on tourism including investments and the satellite account.
11. To request the UNCTAD and OIC to provide jointly technical assistance to individual countries in the preparation of guidelines to implement master plans for tourism development to capitalize benefits from investment and ensuring trade benefits and development gains from international tourism.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO MEMBER STATES:

12. To call on the OIC Member States to derive maximum benefit from the programs and services of the OIC Institutions and the World Tourism organization and other specialized regional and international Organizations.
13. To call on the OIC Member States to develop partnership agreements between the private and the public sector both at national and regional levels.
14. To encourage the establishment of alliances between tourism partners in the OIC Countries, particularly, the official tourism promotion bodies, with a view to strengthening joint tourism marketing and promoting cooperation efforts at the sub-regions level as well as at the level of the OIC regions as a whole.
15. To produce joint programs and promotional materials on tourism like, TV programs, brochures, posters and guidebooks and making these materials available in the Member Countries as well as in the other countries around the world in order to promote the cultural heritage and the diversity and landmarks of the OIC Countries at regional and international levels.
16. To call on Member States to diversify tourism products by the inclusion of socio-cultural programs and traditional activities involving local communities. In this regard efforts should be made to improve planning, management and marketing of ecotourism, not only as a sector with a great potential for economic development, especially, in remote areas where few

other possibilities exist but also as a significant tool for conservation of the natural environment and the sustainable tourism development.

17. To call *on* Member States to make the inventory of the different Arts and Crafts sectors of each Member State and make every effort in order to preserve them by the creation of apprenticeship workshops of Arts and Crafts.
18. To call on Member States to participate actively and massively in the 1st Tourism Fair of Islamic Countries to be organized by the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade in Istanbul from 24th to 26th November 2005.
19. To establish and facilitate linkages in air, land/rail and sea and multimodal transportation with a view to easing access from one destination to another within the OIC region. In this context efforts should be made to establishing alliances among the airlines of the OIC Countries with the possibility of having an open-sky policy and direct flights between their capitals and major cities.
20. To consider the possibility *of* creating airlines of the OIC Member States and / or one or several charter carriers between the tours operators in the OIC Member States with a view to facilitating transport among Member States and reduce distances which impede intra-OIC tourism development.
21. To take necessary measures to facilitate the entry and movement of tourists among the OIC Member States and enhance intra-OIC tourism through, inter alia, simplifying visa issuance. It would be in the interest of the OIC Countries that citizens should be allowed to get visas on minimal charges upon arrival at the port of entry. Similarly, even more encouraging policy has to be established for transit visitors.
22. To urge the OIC Member States to consider the possibility of granting incentives to investment projects initiated by the Investors of the OIC Countries.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

23. To consider **the** possibility of setting up the Union of Tourism Operators of **the OIC Member** States with a view to establishing closer links between the professionals of **these** countries and incite them to collaborate in promotional and training fields.
24. To **examine the** possibility of creating a common fund for intra-OIC tourism promotion.
25. To **set** up a follow up committee for the implementation of the recommendations of this workshop.

Motion of Thanks:

Participants in the workshop expressed their profound gratitude to His Majesty Mohammed the Sixth, King of Morocco for His High Solitude towards the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and the causes of the Islamic Ummah and conveyed their thanks to the Government of the kingdom of Morocco for the warm welcome extended to delegations and the excellent organization of this workshop.

Participants expressed also their appreciation to the Director General of ICDT and IDB for the excellent arrangements that were provided to this workshop and which ensured its success.

Done in Casablanca on 15th June 2005

ANNEX

11

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 7th SESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF COMCEC
(Istanbul, 21 November 2005)**

1. The 7th Sessional Committee of COMCEC was held on 21 November 2005, prior to the 21st Session of the COMCEC (22-25 November 2005).
2. The Meeting was co-chaired H.E. Tori LIMANGANA, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and Ambassador Nabika DIALLO, Advisor to the Secretary General of the OIC.
3. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) the following OIC Institutions attended the Meeting;
 - General Secretariat of the OIC
 - Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)
 - Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
 - Islamic University of Technology (IUT)
 - Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
 - Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICO)
- In addition to the above OIC Institutions, the Turkish Institutions who are the owners of the projects also attended the Meeting.
4. The Meeting adopted the following agenda items for consideration:
 - a) Review of the Proposed Cooperation Projects within the OIC Plan of Action,
 - b) Evaluation of the Outcome of the OIC Economic Conference, held on 23-27 November 2004 in Istanbul,
 - c) Any other business.

Under Agenda Item 1 :

5. As per the Decisions of the 6th Sessional Committee, the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) gave a presentation on the demarches undertaken with regards to the Project Proposals from Turkey. Thereafter, the owners of the Project Proposals made their presentations.

6. The Committee took the following Decisions as per the Projects (Annexed herewith):

Project No. 1 (Technical Cooperation Among Patent Offices in the OIC Member States), the owner of the Project namely Turkish Patent Office made a presentation. Thereafter the coordinator, the ICDT and the owner were asked to form the Project Committee and to contact World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and invite them to the future related Meetings.

IDB, in principle, is interested in studying its participation in cofinancing the above Project, once the Project Profile is finalised. Thereafter, the Project owner was requested to send the complete Project Profile to ICDT, the coordinator Institution, for circulation among member states and to IDB for consideration.

Project No. 2 (Technical Cooperation in the Area of Business Incubators Among OIC Member States), Small and Medium Industry Development Organisation of Turkey (KOSGEB), the owner of the Project made a presentation. In this context, the Committee noted ICCI and KOSGEB were cooperating in the finalisation of the Project Document. The Committee called upon the Project owner to send the Project to the ICCI for circulation to the member states. The Committee was informed that the name of the Project has been amended to "Networking of Incubators in Islamic Countries"

- Project No. 3 (Cooperation in the Area of Technical Development: Medium Range Regional Turbofan Airliner) TUSAŞ Aerospace Industries of Turkey (TAI), the owner of the Project, made a presentation. The Committee noted that the private sector may have some interest in this Project and called upon the owner to prepare the necessary documentation

and to establish contacts with the ICCI. It was also noted that IDB was interested in the Project and expressed its readiness to consider the participation in financing the first phase of its implementation, once the full Project Profile is received. The Committee called upon the Project owner to send the Project to the General Secretariat of OIC for circulation to the member states and to the IDB for consideration.

- Project No. 4 (Provision of Technical Assistance for Establishment of Technology Development Foundation in the OIC Member States) The Committee called upon the Project owner, Turkish Technology Development Foundation (TTGV), to send the Project to the IUT for circulation to the member states.

- Project No. 5 (Low Cost Imaging Based Mapping System Applications for Monitoring of Natural and Anthropogenic changes in OIC Member Countries Coasts). The owner of the Project, the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) made a presentation. IUT, in its capacity as the coordinator of the Project, informed that it had contacted the member states and so far, two institutions had shown interest. The Committee also called for involving United Nations Environment Programme (LTNEP) and ISESCO in the Project. The Committee called upon the Project owner to send the Project to IUT for circulation to the member states. It was also suggested that this Project could be submitted to the Conference of the Ministers of Environment. IDB agreed to consider financial support for implementation of the project.

Project No. 6 (World Gold Markets and Cooperation Possibilities among Islamic Countries). The Committee entrusted SESRTCIC, in its capacity as the coordinator of the Project, to circulate to the member states the integral texts of the explanatory note and Project Profile Form it received from Istanbul Gold Exchange (the owner of the Project). Should a sufficient number of member states express their interest in the Project, the owner of the latter shall call for a meeting of those states to explore the ways and means of the actual implementation of the Project.

7. The Committee took the following Decisions for the following additional Projects:

- Establishment of Energy Technology Network (en-tech-net) Among the Member states. The Project Proposal was presented by the owner, General Directorate of Electrical Power Resources Survey and Development Administration (EIE). IUT was designated as the coordinator of the Project. The Committee called upon its owner to prepare the summary and send it to IUT for circulation.

TURKSAT Satellite Communication and Cable TV Operation AS of Turkey (TURKSAT) presented two projects namely "Satellite Control and Monitoring Centre (SATCMC)" and "Low Earth Orbit Satellite". The Committee noted that the private sector may have some interest in these Projects in promoting linkages among the media of OIC member states and called upon the owner to prepare the necessary documentation and to contact the ICCI.

- The new project proposal, namely "Creation of a Network of Cross-border parks on Tourism and Reserves in West Africa", proposed in the Expert Group Meeting on the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action in the area of Tourism, 11-14 July 2005 in Tehran, will be coordinated by the ICDT.

8. The Committee agreed to submit these additional Projects to the 21st Session of the COMCEC for their inclusion in the existing list of Projects.

9. In order to work in a time frame, the Committee called upon the Project owners and coordinators to ensure that the Projects are ready to be circulated to the member states by the end of 2005 and inform the General Secretariat of OIC and COMCEC Coordination Office accordingly.

10. The Committee also agreed that all the Projects which envisaged the involvement of the private sector could be sent to the ICCI, who would in turn, submit them, to the private sector through its meetings.

Under Agenda Item 2 :

11. The COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), gave a presentation on the demarches undertaken with regards to the evaluation and follow-up of the outcome of the OIC Economic Conference held on the sideline of the 20th Session of COMCEC Meeting in November, 2004.

12. The Committee, following an in-depth discussion, agreed on the following;

- to harmonise the holding of the business forums/economic conferences so as to avoid overlapping,
- OIC Institutions should give their feedback to the COMCEC Coordination Office regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Final Communique of the Economic Conference,
- to put the text of the Final Communique of OIC Economic Conferences/Business Forums on the web-site of the OIC Institutions,
- to call upon ICCI to streamline all the private sector based recommendations of these fora, in order to facilitate their implementation. The public sector related recommendations will be submitted to the next Islamic Commission and the ICFM.
- the Committee welcomed the support of IDB for the implementation of the recommendations.

13. The 7th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of COMCEC concluded its works by expressing its appreciation to the Chair and to the participants.

LIST OF THE PROJECT PROPOSALS

Serial No	Project Proposals/Ideas	Proposing State/Institution	Interested Country	Coordinator
I-	TECHNICAL COOPERATION			
1.	Technical Cooperation Among Patent Offices in the OIC Member States	Turkey	Kazakhstan, Syria, Morocco, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Yemen	ICDT
2.	Technical Cooperation in the area of Business Incubators Among OIC Member States.	Turkey		ICCI
3.	Cooperation in the area of Technical Development: Medium Range Regional Turbofan Airliner.	Turkey	Kazakhstan	
4.	Provision of Technical Assistance for Establishment of Technology Development Foundation in the OIC Member States.	Turkey		IUT
5.	Low Cost Imaging Based Mapping System Applications for Monitoring of Natural and Anthropogenic changes in OIC Member Countries Coasts	Turkey		IUT
6.	World Gold Markets and Cooperation Possibilities among Islamic countries	Turkey		SESRTCIC
II-	FOREIGN TRADE			
7.	Trade Facilitation Services to be Provided by the National Chambers of the Member Countries.	ICCI		
8.	Import Management Facilities to be Provided by the National Chambers of the Member Countries.	ICCI		
9.	Setting up of Regional Companies Specialized in Organization of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions.	ICDT	Burkina Faso	
10.	Setting up of Permanent Exhibition Halls.	ICDT		
Hi-	ADDITIONAL PROJECTS			
11.	Establishment of Energy Technology Network (en-tech-net)	Turkey		
12.	Satellite Control and Monitoring Centre (SATCMC)	Turkey	Turkey	
13.	Low Earth Orbit Satellite	Turkey	Turkey	
14.	Creation of a Network of Cross-border Parks and Reserves in West Africa	Guinea	Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone	ICDT

ANNEX

12

Original: English

**REPORT
OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATING
COMMITTEE FOR ESTABLISHING THE TRADE PREFERENTIAL
SYSTEM AMONG THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OIC (TPS-OIC)
(Istanbul, 23 November 2005)**

1. The Special Session of the Trade Negotiating Committee set up under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member Countries of the OIC (TPS-OIC), was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 November 2005.

2. Representatives of the following Member States that have ratified the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member Countries of the OIC attended the meeting:

- People's Republic of Bangladesh
- Republic of Cameroon
- Arab Republic of Egypt
- Republic of Guinea
- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Republic of Lebanon
- The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- Malaysia
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Republic of Senegal
- Arab Republic of Syria
- Republic of Tunisia
- Republic of Turkey
- Republic of Uganda
- United Arab Emirates

3. Representatives of the following OIC Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the Framework Agreement on TPS-OIC attended the meeting as observers:

- People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- Republic of Azerbaijan
- Brunei Darussalam
- Republic of Gambia
- Republic of Indonesia (Signatory)
- Republic of Iraq (Signatory)
- State of Kuwait (Signatory)
- Republic of Mali
- Kingdom of Morocco
- Federal Republic of Nigeria (Signatory)
- Sultanate of Oman
- State of Qatar (Signatory)
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Signatory)
- Republic of Sierra Leone
- Republic of Sudan (Signatory)
- Republic of Yemen

4. Representatives of the General Secretariat of OIC and the following organizations also attended the meeting:

- COMCEC Coordination Office (as a member of the TNC Secretariat)
- Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
- Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) (as a member of the TNC Secretariat)
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)

5. Representatives of the following states that have observer status at OIC also attended the meeting.

- Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
- Macedonia
- Russia

(Copy of the List of Participants is attached as Annex I.)

Opening Session

6. The Meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Ahmet TIKTIK, Undersecretary of State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey.

7. Welcoming all the delegates, H.E. Ahmet TIKTIK stated that the OIC community had recognized the importance of economic and commercial cooperation in promoting the welfare of the Member States. H.E. TIKTIK also congratulated the Arab Republic of Syria and the State of United Arab Emirates for becoming, by ratifying the Framework Agreement on TPSOIC, the new members of TNC. He pointed out that, having reached the end of the first round, Member States need to finalize the Draft Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPSOIC and called on the Member States of the TNC to work at the Special Session towards this end.

8. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Tevfik MENGÜ, General Director at the Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade of Turkey.

Adoption of Agenda

9. The TNC adopted the agenda of the Special Session as proposed by the Secretariat.

Presentation by the Secretariat of the TNC

10. In its presentation addressed to the meeting the TNC Secretariat summarized the recent developments in the area of TPSOIC trade negotiations, and drew attention to some important decisions taken by the TNC at its fourth

meeting. The Secretariat also proposed that the TNC would meet in 2006 to tackle aspects of PRETAS pertaining to its implementation, such as rules of origin para-tariffs, non-tariff barriers and other trade-related issues.

Consideration of the Draft Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for the TPS-OIC (PRETAS)

11. The TNC, at the Special Session, worked on finalizing the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS), deliberating on the issues left in the previous meeting. Taking into considerations the concerns expressed by the LDCs for a longer transition period and the need to harmonize trade remedy measures, the TNC modified the Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 of the PRETAS drafted in the 4th TNC Meeting.

12. The TNC took note of the view expressed by the delegation of Senegal concerning its difficulties in signing the PRETAS because of their country's membership of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAMEU), which is a customs union with an external common tariff. Therefore, they need to make the necessary consultations with the members of WAMEU regarding the signature of PRETAS.

Adoption of the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for the TPS-OIC (PRETAS)

13. The TNC adopted the final version of the PRETAS, and decided to submit it to the 21st Ministerial Session of the COMCEC for signing.

14. The TNC decided that the countries that would sign the PRETAS expedite its ratification and notify the Secretariat of their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of the products within three months from the date of entry into force of the PRETAS.

Any Other Business

15. The TNC decided to hold meetings on regular basis to finalize the remaining trade-related issues in order to operationalize the PRETAS. However, the representative of the Republic of Turkey urged that rules of origin should be negotiated on priority.

16. The TNC called upon the OIC Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Framework Agreement on TPS-OIC.

Date and venue of the next meeting of TNC

17. The TNC decided that the Secretariat would communicate with the TNC Members regarding the date and venue of the next meeting of the TNC.

18. The member countries that wish to host the next round of trade negotiations are invited to inform the Secretariat by the end of 2005.

Closing Remarks

19. At the end of the Special Session of the TNC, the Participating States conveyed their thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for the excellent arrangements made for this Meeting and the warm hospitality provided to them during their stay in the historical city of Istanbul.

ANNEX

13

Original : English

**PROTOCOL ON THE PREFERENTIAL
TARIFF SCHEME FOR TPS-OIC (PRETAS)**

PREAMBLE

The members of the Trade Negotiating Committee for establishing the Trade Preferential System Among the member states of OIC (TPS-OIC); People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Cameroon, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Guinea, Islamic Republic of Iran, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Republic of Lebanon, The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Uganda, State of the United Arab Emirates.

In compliance with the objectives of the OIC's Charter;

Taking into consideration the Resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) which recommend the setting up of a trade preferential system among the member states of OIC, and the Plan of Action adopted by the Third and Seventh Islamic Summit for enhanced economic cooperation among the member states;

In pursuance of the aims and principles of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Conference;

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration of COMCEC on launching the first round of trade negotiations at its 19th Session;

Convinced of the essential role of trade in achieving a higher degree of economic cooperation, expansion of production and investment opportunities as well as promoting welfare among the OIC member states;

Recognizing the special needs of the Least Developed Member States of OIC;

Giving due regard to the bilateral and multilateral commitments of individual member states;

Noting the desire of some of the Participating States to pursue the optional fast track tariff reduction schedule;

Emphasizing the necessity of holding successive rounds of trade negotiations in order to expand, improve, and strengthen the Trade Preferential System among the OIC member states;

Reaffirming their commitment to attain the objectives of this Protocol by giving due attention to the procedures and timetables for implementation;

Have agreed on the following:

Article 1

Definitions

For the purpose of this Protocol, the following terms and references shall mean:

1. OIC: Organization of the Islamic Conference;
2. COMCEC: The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the member states of OIC;
3. TNC Negotiating Committee: The Committee within the framework of which rounds of negotiations on trade preferences are held among Participating States;
4. TPS-OIC: The Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference;
5. Framework Agreement: The Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of OIC;
6. Protocol: The Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC;
7. PRETAS: Preferential Tariff Scheme to be applied among the Participating States in accordance with this Protocol;

8. Member States: The Member States of OIC;
9. Contracting States: The OIC Member States parties to the Framework Agreement;
10. Participating States: The Contracting States which have signed, ratified, and implemented the Protocol;
11. Least Developed Countries: The OIC Member States designated as Least Developed Countries by the United Nations, unless otherwise decided by the COMCEC;
12. Tariffs: Customs duties as stipulated in the national tariff schedules;

It is agreed that for some participating countries, tariffs may also refer to import duties stipulated in their national tariff schedule.

13. Para-tariffs: Border charges and fees, other than tariffs, on foreign trade transactions of a tariff-like effect which are levied solely on imports, but not those indirect taxes and charges, which are levied in the same manner on like domestic products. Import charges corresponding to specific services rendered are not considered as para-tariff measures;

It is agreed upon that border charges refer to all charges and fees, other than tariffs, imposed on import.

14. Non-tariff barriers: Any measure, regulation, or practice, other than "tariffs" and "para-tariffs," the effect of which is to restrict imports, or to significantly distort trade;
15. Negative List: The list of products, identified at HS level of the National Tariff Codes of the Participating States, that shall not be subject to tariff reduction under the PRETAS.

Article 2

General Provisions

1. Products to be included in the PRETAS shall be identified at HS level of the National Tariff Codes of the Participating States.
2. The base rate of the tariffs to be used for reduction shall be the MFN applied rate applicable on October 1st, 2003.

Upon entry into force of the PRETAS, no new tariffs on imports shall be introduced on products which are subject to tariff reduction nor shall those already applied be increased, in face of Participating States in this Protocol in trade among the participating states.

The least developed countries shall be given a three year grace period for the tariff reduction on products covered by the PRETAS, as of the date of implementation.

Other participating states, facing unusual situations, may be allowed upon request of the State and approval of COMCEC, to benefit from the same grace period as of the date of implementation.

Article 3

Tariff Reduction Programme

1. For the purpose of tariff reduction each Participating State shall cover 7% of its total HS lines identified at HS level of National Tariff Codes. Any Participating State, whose 90% and above of its total tariff lines estimated at the base rate are between 0% and 10%, shall only cover 1% of the same total HS lines.
2. The 7% of total HS lines referred to in Paragraph 1 shall only include lines with tariff above 10%.

3. Tariffs on the 7% of total HS lines referred to in paragraph 1 and having tariffs:
 - a) above 25% shall be reduced to 25%
 - b) above 15% and up to 25% shall be reduced to 15%
 - c) above 10% and up to 15% shall be reduced to 10%

in six annual installments by the Least Developed Countries and in four annual installments by the other countries, beginning from the date of coming into force of the PRETAS.
4. Participating States shall notify the TNC Secretariat of their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of products within three months, from the date of entry into force of this Protocol.

Article 4

Voluntary Fast Track Tariff Reduction Schedule

1. Notwithstanding relevant articles of this Protocol and in accordance with Article 6 (2) of the Framework Agreement on TPS-OIC, Participating States desiring to further deepen the concessions, may do so on voluntary basis among themselves. The Participating States willing to join the Fast Track Tariff Reduction will notify the TNC Secretariat within three months after coming into force of the PRETAS.
2. The Schedule of Tariff reduction shall involve all products other than those under the negative list. The negative list shall not exceed:
 - a) 25% of all MS tariff lines plus lines with tariffs 10% and below for developing countries whose average tariff rate is 20% and above;
 - b) 20% of all IIS tariff lines plus lines with tariffs 10% and below for developing countries whose average tariff rate is between 15% and 20%;
 - c) 15% of all HS tariff lines for developing countries whose average tariff is below 15%.
 - d) 30% of all HS tariff lines for LDCs.

3. Tariff shall be reduced by applying margin of preference on current MFN applied rate at HS level of National Tariff Codes.
4. Margin of preference shall be increased to 50% in five installments beginning from the ninetieth day of entry into force of this Protocol while the LDCs shall implement the program in seven installments.
5. The developing countries shall increase the margin of preference to 50% for the products of LDCs in 3 installments.
6. At the beginning of the fifth year of the date of implementation of this voluntary fast track schedule or earlier, Participating States may enter into negotiations with a view to expanding the product coverage and deepening the concessions.

Article 5

Rules of Origin

Products traded among the participating states shall be eligible for preferential treatment if they meet the rules of origin, annexed to the Framework Agreement (Annex III), until new rules of origin are adopted by the Trade Negotiating Committee.

Article 6

Removal of Para-tariffs

1. Participating States shall eliminate upon entry into force of this Protocol, and in the case of LDCs within three years, their Para-Tariffs on the products which are subject to reduction. This period for LDCs may be extended, if a request is made to and approved by TNC.
2. Upon entry into force of this Protocol no new Para-Tariffs shall be introduced, nor shall those already applied be increased, on the products which are subject to tariff reduction.

Article 7

Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers

1. Participating States shall eliminate, upon entry into force of this Protocol, and in the case of LDCs within three years, their non-tariff barriers on the products which are subject to tariff reduction. This period for LDCs may be extended, if a request is made to and approved by TNC.
2. Upon entry into force of this Protocol no new Non-Tariffs Barriers shall be introduced, nor shall those already applied be increased, on the products which are subject to tariff reduction.

Article 8

Anti-dumping, Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

If a party finds that subsidies granted significantly distort trade with another party, or that dumping is taking place in trade with that party, the party concerned may take appropriate measures consistent with relevant WTO rules.

Article 9

Safeguard Measures

Before applying safeguard measures, the Party intending to apply such measure shall supply the Trade Negotiating Committee with all relevant information required for a thorough examination ;if the situation with a view to seeking a solution acceptable to the Parties. In ork-< lo find such a solution, the Parties shall immediately hold consultations within the Trade Negotiating Committee. If, as a result of the consultations, the parties do not reach an agreement within thirty days, the Party may-apply safeguard measures consistent with relevant WTO rules.

Article 10

Review of the Protocol

In pursuance of the purposes and principles laid out in Article 2 (6, 9) of the Framework Agreement, and guided by experience for the activation of TPS-OIC, the Protocol shall be reviewed periodically.

Article 11

Institutional Structure

1. COMCEC shall supervise the overall implementation of the PRETAS Protocol in accordance with the provisions set forth in Article 13 of the Framework Agreement.
2. The Trade Negotiating Committee shall be responsible for the implementation of the PRETAS Protocol and the smooth functioning of the TPS-OIC. The Trade Negotiating Committee shall carry out its functions in accordance with Article 13 of the Framework Agreement and its Rules of Procedure adopted at the 19th COMCEC Session.
3. The Trade Negotiating Committee shall hold regular meetings with a view to fulfilling its mandate stemming from the Protocol and the Framework Agreement, to clarify and incorporate trade-related issues, and to help develop and expand the TPS-OIC.

Article 12

Final Provisions

1. The Framework Agreement shall be a reference document in terms of issues not included in the PRETAS Protocol.
2. The Protocol shall enter into force on the ninetieth day of the date of receipt by the depository of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval by at least 10 governments of the Participating States. Subsequent accession to this protocol by any Contracting State shall be effective one month after the date on which it has deposited its instrument of ratification.

3. The General Secretariat of the OIC shall be the depository of the Protocol. The General Secretariat shall notify all Participating or Contracting States that have signed the Protocol of the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, or approval, the entry into force of the Protocol, any other act or notification relating to the Protocol or to its validity.

This Agreement is done in the Arabic, English and French languages each text being equally authentic. In case of discrepancy in interpretation, the English version shall prevail.

**PROTOCOL ON THE PREFERENTIAL
TARIFF SCHEME FOR TPS-OIC (PRETAS)**

NAME OF COUNTRY	DATE	SIGNATURE
1- People's Republic of Bangladesh.....		
2- Republic of Cameroon.....		
3- Arab Republic of Egypt.....		
4- Republic of Guinea.....		
5- Islamic Republic of Iran.....		
6- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.....		
7- Republic of Lebanon.....		
8- The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		
9- Malaysia		
10- Islamic Republic of Pakistan		
11 - Republic of Senegal		
12- Syrian Arab Republic		
13- Republic of Tunisia		
14- Republic of Turkey		
15- Republic of Uganda		
16- State of the United Arab Emirates		

ANNEX

14

Original: English

**MESSAGE BY H. E. PROF. EKMELEDDIN İHSANOĞLU,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 25 November 2005)

On behalf of His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), I would like to express my greetings and deep respects. H.E. the Secretary General could not take part in this Session since he, at the moment, is attending the meeting of the Governing Board of the Islamic Research Centre for History, Art and Culture (IRCICA).

It is a great honour for me, to represent H.E. the Secretary General of the OIC here at the Closing Ceremony of the 21st Session of the COMCEC.

Now, with your permission, I would like to read out the message of His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the Secretary General of the OIC.

QUOTE,

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

H.E. Dr. Abdullatif Şener, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey,
Excellencies, Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

At the close of this 21st Session of the COMCEC, I would like to thank all the Ministers, Heads of delegation and the delegates for their sincere efforts to arrive at a number of important decisions.

Mr. Chairman,

During this Session, we have taken important decisions concerning the process of implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the development of economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States.

In particular, relating to the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States (TPSOIC), we have gone one important step forward by adopting the final version of the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS). We have also observed with great satisfaction that three member countries, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Turkey, signed this important document. Happily, the other participating countries also expressed their intention to sign this Protocol as soon as possible.

All these developments further contribute to the positive atmosphere before us and increase our hopes for achieving a more intensified trade and economic relations among our brotherly nations. In this connection, I would like state that all the OIC Member States should participate in this System as soon as possible. This way, I hope that the whole OIC family will be able to commence discussing the means and modalities of establishing a Free Trade Area among themselves in the near future. It is one of the main goals of COMCEC and recently reiterated by the Muslim scholars met in Makkah Al Mukarramah in September 2005. Therefore, I repeat my appeal to the Member States that have not yet signed and ratified this Framework Agreement and the PRETAS, to do so at an early date.

In this regard, I would also like to express my satisfaction that the adherence to the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States has also increased from 14 to 16 by its ratification by two more members, namely, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Emirates. I do hope that this will be followed by further signatures and ratifications in the near future. In this regard, I would like to thank, once again, the Republic of Turkey for successfully hosting and chairing the first round of trade negotiations under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Islamic Countries.

During our deliberations on the theme of "Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation among the Member States", we have listed with great interest the encouraging developments experienced in Member States. We have also endorsed a set of important recommendations that emerged from the workshop on the same topic held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 14-15 June 2005. I hope we will be able to follow up and evaluate the outcome of these recommendations and the resolutions adopted at the earlier conferences of Tourism Ministers in September 2006 when the 5th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers is scheduled to be held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. In this connection, I would like to extend my deep gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for their kind support and keen interest in the activities of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

I would like to reiterate my appeal to all OIC Member States to urgently extend all possible material and humanitarian assistance and support to the brotherly Government and the people of Pakistan in overcoming the catastrophic impact of this earthquake and in alleviating the sufferings of the affected victims. I believe that the OIC Member States and its institutions will continue to be at the forefront to provide financial and technical assistance to Pakistan. I further believe that there is an urgent need to create a permanent disaster relief fund at the OIC level to deal with such natural disasters.

Before I conclude, I wish to express, once again, my thanks and appreciation to H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC for the valuable efforts he exerts and for the wisdom with which he directed our deliberations into successful conclusions during the COMCEC sessions.

I also wish to thank H.E. Dr. Abdullatif Şener for his smooth conduct of this session, on behalf of the President of the Republic of Turkey and for having led it to such a satisfactory conclusion.

I would also like to convey my deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates who have contributed with great wisdom to the success of this Session.

I also express my appreciation and congratulations to the COMCEC Coordination Office, for their precious efforts in meticulously organizing the work of the Session, as well as to the OIC subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions for their hard work and support towards the success of the COMCEC activities. I cannot fail to thank the interpreters the translators and all those who have contributed to the success of our conference.

I also would like to assure you all that the OIC General Secretariat will not spare any efforts in following up and implementing all COMCEC resolutions.

At the end, I pray God Almighty to help us and guide our steps to achieve the prosperity and welfare of the Islamic Ummah. I wish you all a safe travel back home.

Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu

UNQUOTE

Thank you very much,

Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

ANNEX

15

Original :Turkish

THE TEXT OF THE CLOSING STATEMENT OF
H.E. ASSOC. PROF. ABDÜLLATİF ŞENER,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

(Istanbul, 25 November 2005)

Honorable Ministers,
Valued Representatives,

I would like to commence by expressing my satisfaction at the successful conclusion of the 21st Session of COMCEC. I hope and believe that COMCEC, with the contributions and support of the brotherly countries, will help intensify and consolidate economic and commercial cooperation among our countries and play an important role in the achievement of our goals.

The 21st COMCEC Session was attended by 285 delegates and representatives from 13 international institutions in 51 countries. I would like to avail this opportunity to thank the Member States, the valued members of the Islamic Conference and the relevant institutions, and all the participants that attended our Session for the interest they showed in and the contribution they made to COMCEC.

Honorable Ministers,
Valued Representatives,

During the session, the latest developments in the world economy have been evaluated, and comprehensive discussions regarding the effects of these developments on Islamic countries made.

Activities of COMCEC need to be re-evaluated on a regular basis in order to ensure their continuity and efficiency, and within this framework, requirements of global economic and social trends should be appropriately integrated into the scope of our cooperation.

Honored Ministers,
Valued Representatives,

Tourism, growing in parallel with the rising level of welfare, has been one of the fastest developing sectors in the world. Over the past decade, demand for international tourism increased by 24 percent and expenditures on tourism by 28.3 percent. In 2004, the number of international tourists showed 716 millions, and tourism receipts amounted to \$ 536 billion. According to the World Tourism Organization estimates, the number of tourists worldwide is expected to reach 1,5 billion people and total tourism receipts \$ 2 trillion in the year 2020.

International tourism activities will not only contribute to the prosperity of our countries which have deep-rooted historical and cultural ties, but also enable our nations to get to know each other better.

COMCEC Member States need to make efforts to facilitate and vitalize tourist flows in line with their own applicable laws and regulations, and promote cooperation among private sector institutions and organizations operating in the tourism sector. Moreover, in order to facilitate exchange of information and cooperation, and strengthen tourism interactions among COMCEC Member States, joint seminars, workshops, exhibitions, culture and art events and other joint activities should be promoted.

This year, the active involvement in the 1st Tourism Fair of Islamic Countries organized simultaneously with COMCEC, by tourism companies side by side with the government representatives of the Member States has yielded significant benefits.

Having reached significant achievements in the tourism industry over the past twenty-five years, Turkey is ready and willing to cooperate and share its experience in a wide range of areas from planning to tourism training, facility investments, promotion activities, and joint product development with the brotherly Islamic countries.

Honored Ministers,
Valued Representatives,

I am pleased that capacity-building programmes for the alleviation of poverty in the Member States has been discussed during the 21st COMCEC Session. Within this context, I hope our joint efforts to solve the problems encountered by the less developed countries in their combat against poverty and in sustainable development endeavors bear fruit. In line with these goals, we need to build strong partnerships with the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

Honored Ministers,
Valued Representatives,

I would also like to express my satisfaction that "the Protocol on the Trade Preferential Scheme" under the COMCEC project "Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States (TPS-OIC)" has been finalized and signed during this 21st Session of COMCEC. Open to all Islamic countries, this agreement aiming at liberalizing trade is a very important starting-point. The agreement sets concrete goals and a calendar for the elimination of trade barriers. I would also like to congratulate the Member States that signed this Protocol during this COMCEC Session, and I expect that other related parties that have not signed this Protocol will do so at the earliest date possible.

Honored Ministers,
Valued Representatives,

The implementation of the Economic Cooperation Action Plan, which is the basis of COMCEC activities, is only possible with the contributions of the General Secretariat of the OIC and the invaluable support offered by the relevant institutions. I would like to call upon all Member States to participate in these projects and propose new projects.

Taking into account the growing roles of international institutions in the world economy, I believe it is meaningful and appropriate that the Organization of Islamic Conference was identified as the coordinator for the implementation of these valuable projects proposed within the framework of the Action Plan.

I would like to thank in anticipation the Member States and OIC institutions for their efforts towards this end. I hope these projects will yield concrete results and contribute significantly to the cooperation among our countries, facilitating the successful implementation of the Action Plan.

Honored Ministers,
Valued Representatives,

In the twenty-first year of its existence, COMCEC, with its concrete projects and regular meetings, has become an institutionalized, successful and economic cooperation forum in the framework of the Organization of Islamic Conference. There is no doubt that all Member States and distinguished participants have a great share in this achievement.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deep appreciation to all delegations, distinguished press members, the General Secretariat and the related institutions of the Organization of Islamic Conference that contributed to the success of the Session, for their valuable support.

Moreover, I would like to thank the staff of the COMCEC Coordination Office, the support staff, the translators and the interpreters for their meticulous efforts and dedication.

I hope you have enjoyed your stay in Turkey. Looking forward to seeing you next year at the Twenty-Second Session of COMCEC, I wish you a good trip home.