

OIC/COMCEC-FC/12-96/REP

**REPORT
OF THE TWELFTH MEETING
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
OF THE COMCEC**

Istanbul, 11-13 May 1996

**COMCEC Coordination Office
Ankara, May 1996**

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**REPORT
OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE**

(Istanbul, 11-13 May 1996)

Original : English

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OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
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ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

(Istanbul, 11-13 May 1996)

1. The Twelfth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) was held in Istanbul, from 11 to 13 May, 1996.

2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States of the Committee:

Republic of Turkey	(Chairman)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	(Vice-chairman, Permanent Member)
State of Palestine	(Vice-Chairman, Permanent Member)
State of Kuwait	(Vice-Chairman, Representing the Arab Region)
Republic of Indonesia	(Vice-Chairman, Representing the Asian Region)
Republic of Uganda	(Vice-Chairman, Representing the African Region)
Kingdom of Morocco	(Vice-Chairman, Current Chairman of the Islamic Summit Conference)
Islamic Republic of Pakistan	(Rapporteur)

- Arab Republic of Egypt (Member of the Previous Bureau)
- Islamic Republic of Iran (Member of the Previous Bureau)
- Republic of Cameroon (Member of the Previous Bureau)

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

- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)
- Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
- Islamic Institute of Technology (ITT)
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)
- Federation of Consultants of Islamic Countries (FCIC)
- Organization of Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA)

The representatives of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) attended the Meeting as observers.

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

Opening Session

4. The Meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Ufuk SÖYLEMEZ, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey.

5. In his message addressed to the Meeting, H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, referring to the twelve year history of the COMCEC, drew attention to the complex conditions emerging in the aftermath of the Cold War era. H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL expressed his confidence that the new Strategy and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member Countries did comply with the new global trends. The President wished success to the Committee in its important task.

(A copy of the text of the message of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL is attached as Annex II).

6. The Meeting was, then, addressed by H.E. Ufuk SÖYLEMEZ, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey. H.E. SÖYLEMEZ, welcoming the delegates to Istanbul, pointed out that with the end of the Cold War era, the ways and means of international economic cooperation underwent substantive changes with significant implications for the Member Countries. The Minister, then, highlighted the positive developments in the global economy. The Minister stated that international experiences in the field of regional economic cooperation would be taken into account in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

(The text of the Statement of H.E. Ufuk SÖYLEMEZ is attached as Annex III).

7. The Meeting was also addressed by H.E. Ousman N.R. OTHMAN, Assistant Secretary General of OIC. H.E. OTHMAN expressed his gratitude to H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, and to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for their unfailing interest in and abiding commitment to the promotion of economic and commercial

cooperation among Member States. The Assistant Secretary General also expressed his thanks and appreciation for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

(A copy of the text of the statement of HE. Ousman N.R. OTHMAN is attached as Annex IV).

8. The Meeting was then addressed by the Heads of Delegation of the State of Kuwait, the State of Palestine, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Indonesia. The Heads of Delegation expressed their thanks and appreciation to H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, and to the Government of Turkey for their continuing interest in economic cooperation among member countries. They also thanked the Government of Turkey for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. In their statements, stressing the importance of crucial changes in the world political and economic climate, the Heads of Delegation underlined the urgent need to enhance solidarity among member countries, and to look for ways and means of promoting cooperation based on concrete and realistic projects.

9. The working sessions of the Meeting were thereafter chaired by H.E. Timuçin SANALAN, Deputy Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey.

10. After the adoption of the Agenda, the Committee set up an open-ended Drafting Committee under the Chairmanship of the Rapporteur, H.E. Ambassador Inam UL-HAQUE, Head of the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

(A copy of the Agenda as adopted by the Committee is attached as Annex V).

Report of the OIC General Secretariat

11. Under Agenda Item 3, H.E. Ousman N.R. OTHMAN, Assistant Secretary General of OIC, introduced the Background Report of the General Secretariat, which was subsequently summarized by Ambassador N. DIALLO, Director of Economic Affairs of the OIC. In his presentation, Mr. DIALLO highlighted the progress achieved towards the implementation of the resolutions of the COMCEC pertaining to the agenda items.

12. The Committee took note of the Report of the General Secretariat and expressed thanks for its preparation.

13. The Committee noted with appreciation the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications on 8-11 July, 1996 in Tehran.

14. The representative of FAO informed the Meeting about the World Food Summit to be held from 13 to 17 November 1996 in Rome. The Committee expressed its thanks to the representative of FAO for his presentation and agreed to call upon the OIC Member Countries to actively participate in the said Summit.

15. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Sixth Islamic Trade Fair would take place from 22 to 27 October 1996, in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, and the 7th Islamic Trade Fair by the year 1998, in Lebanon, in cooperation with ICDT, ICCI and other relevant institutions. The Committee appealed to the Member States to participate in the said Islamic Trade Fairs.

16. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), in cooperation with the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will organize the Third Private Sector Meeting Among OIC Member Countries from 21 to 23 October 1996, in Jakarta. The Committee appealed to the member countries to make necessary efforts for effective participation of the representatives of their private sector in the said Meeting.

17. The Committee appreciated the offer of the Turkish Standards Institute to host the expert group meeting on standardization for a final review of the Draft Statute of the Standards and Metrology Organization for Islamic Countries (SMOIC) on 3-4 September 1996 in Istanbul. The Committee agreed to submit, through the OIC General Secretariat, the revised Draft Statute to the 12th Session of the COMCEC for consideration.

(The text of the Background Report of the General Secretariat is attached as Annex VI).

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

18. Under Agenda Item 4, H.E. N.R. Othman, Assistant Secretary of OIC, introduced a report on the implementation of the Plan of Action. The report was subsequently presented by Ambassador N. DIALLO, Director of Economic Affairs of OIC. In his presentation, Ambassador DIALLO gave a background information on the preparation and adoption of the new Strategy and the Plan of Action by the COMCEC, and its endorsement at the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference.

19. The Committee expressed its appreciation that the Arab Republic of Egypt proposed to convene the two sectoral expert group meetings on "Food, Agriculture

and Rural Development" and "Transport and Communications", prior to the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC.

20. The Committee also appreciated that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan proposed to convene the sectoral expert group meeting on "Foreign Trade", in the last quarter of 1996.

21. The Committee noted that the exact dates and venues of the sectoral meetings to be hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt and by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan will be communicated, through the OIC General Secretariat, to the Member Countries.

(The Report of the OIC General Secretariat on the Implementation of the Plan of Action is attached as Annex VII).

**Progress Report by IDB on the Activities of the Islamic Corporation
for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit**

22. Under Agenda Item 5, the representative of IDB summarized the activities of the Corporation for the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme under the aegis of IDB, and stated that a full presentation on the subject would be made during the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC. As the Corporation had become operational, the Committee agreed that, in future, reports on the activities of the Corporation would be submitted directly to the COMCEC.

23. The Committee expressed its thanks and appreciation to IDB for its efforts in successfully finalizing this important project of the COMCEC, and appealed to the Member States, which had not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Articles of Agreement of the Corporation and to subscribe to its capital.

Preparations for the Exchange of Views on "Privatization Experiences of the OIC Member Countries" to be Organized During the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC.

24. Under Agenda Item 6, the COMCEC Coordination Office made a presentation on the organization of "exchange of views" sessions.

25. The Committee recommended that background papers be presented by relevant OIC and other international organizations on the subject.

26. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Ankara Center, in collaboration with the Privatization Commission of Pakistan, would be organizing a workshop on privatization with the participation of experts from the member states, on 5-6 October 1996, in Islamabad. The Committee felt that the report of the Ankara Center on the workshop would constitute a useful input for the exchange of views session at the 12th Session of the COMCEC.

27. The Committee was of the view that the primary inputs for the exchange of views session should be provided by the member states themselves.

28. The Committee further agreed that the conclusions of the "exchange of view sessions" be incorporated in the report of the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC. The Committee appealed to Member States and relevant OIC and other international institutions to forward to the General Secretariat, for circulation to Member States and concerned OIC institutions, the texts of their presentations on this subject, together with the studies, reports and other documents, two months before the 12th Session of the COMCEC. An executive summary of the reports should also be provided to the Meeting.

29. The Committee requested the General Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, in cooperation with the COMCEC Coordination Office and other relevant OIC institutions, for an effective and indepth exchange views on the subject.

30. The Committe decided to submit the following proposals as possible themes for the exchange of views to take place during the 13th Session of the COMCEC:

- a) Implications of Regional Economic Groupings, particularly the European Union, for the Economies of the Member Countries.
- b) Economic Stabilization Measures and Structural Reforms in the Member Countries.
- c) Human Resource Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Progress in the Member Countries.
- d) Strengthening Small and Medium-sized Enterprises facing Globalization and Liberalization.

31. The Committee felt that further proposals could be submitted by the member states to the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC.

Draft Agenda of the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC

32. Under Agenda Item 7, the Committee considered the Draft Agenda of the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC to be held from 2 to 5 November 1996 in Istanbul.

33. The Committee approved the Draft Agenda, and decided to communicate it, through the General Secretariat of OIC, to Member States.

(A copy of the Draft Agenda of the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC, as approved by the Committee, is attached as Annex VIII).

Closing Session

34. At its closing session, chaired by HE. Ufuk SÖYLEMEZ, Minister of State in charge of economic affairs of the Republic of Turkey, the Committee adopted its Report together with its Annexes. The Committee requested the OIC General Secretariat to circulate the Report among the Member States, and to submit it to the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC.

35. The Committee requested the Chairman to send a message to H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC. In its message, the Committee expressed its profound gratitude and appreciation to H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL for the sincere welcome and warm hospitality extended to the delegates.

36. H.E. Edmond MOAMPEA MBIO, Secretary of State for Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Cameroon, made a statement on behalf of the delegates. H.E. MOAMPEA MBIO expressed his sincere thanks to the Government and people of Turkey for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the delegates during their stay in Istanbul. The Minister also thanked the Chairman of the Meeting and all the supporting staff for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

37. In his closing statement, H.E. Ufuk SÖYLEMEZ expressed his thanks to the delegates for their valuable contributions and sense of cooperation. H.E. Ufuk SÖYLEMEZ, also thanked the General Secretariat, subsidiary and affiliated institutions of the OIC for their valuable assistance. The recommendations made at the end of their deliberations would lead to a closer cooperation among the Member Countries. Underlining the necessity for developing efficient mechanisms for economic cooperation, he emphasized the importance of the early implementation of the Plan of Action for Economic Cooperation Among Member Countries. Finally, H.E. Ufuk SÖYLEMEZ wished the delegates a safe journey home.

(A copy of the text of the Closing Statement by H.E. Ufuk SÖYLEMEZ is attached as Annex IX).

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS
CONSIDERED BY THE TWELFTH MEETING
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 11-13 May 1996)

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1. Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat to the Twelfth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.....OIC/COMCEC-FC/12-96/D(1)
2. 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-FC/12-96/D(2)
3. Progress Report by IDB on the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)...

ANNEXES

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE
TWELFTH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
OF THE COMCEC**

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE
TWELFTH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 11-13 May 1996)

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

- H.E EDMOND MOAMPEA MBIO
 Secretary of State for Commerce and Industry

- Mrs . HAMAN ADAMA HALIMA
 Technical Counsellor, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- Mrs . AKOM MVONDO
 Under Director for Cooperation,
 Ministry of Commerce and Industry

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- Dr. ROSHDI BARAKAT
 Commercial Minister General Consulate of Egypt, Istanbul

- Mr. EL SAID KASSEM
 Commercial Counsellor, Ministry of Trade of the Arab
 Republic of Egypt

- Mr. AHMED NAS SER
 Commercial Consul at Commercial Counsellor's Office in Istanbul

- Mr. HISHAM EL KHATEEB
Consul at the Egyptian Consulate in Istanbul

- Ms. HALA YOUSEF
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

- H.E. SOELARSO H. SOEBROTO
Indonesian Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey

- Mr. RACHMAT RANUDIWIJAYA
Director of Economic Relations Among Developing Countries,
Department of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. KOMARA DJAJA
Head of Bureau for International Balance of Payments,
National Development Planning Agency

- Mr. DEDE KUSUMA EDI IDRIS
Senior Officer, Department of Industry and Trade

- Mr. EDI YUSUF
Senior Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. DES ALWI
Second Secretary to Indonesian Embassy in Ankara, Turkey

- Mr. EFFENDY ASHARIYANTO
Secretary of Ambassador

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

- H.E ALI AKBAR ARABMAZAR
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance,
Vice Minister for International Affairs

- Mr ABDOUL ALI AMIDI
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance,
Director General for International Organization
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- Mr. HAMID NAZARI TAJABADI
Expert, International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. SAEID KHANI OUSHANI
Expert, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance

STATE OF KUWAIT

- Mr. ISHAQ ABDULGANI ABDULKARIM
Director of the Economic Cooperation Department, Ministry of Finance

- Mr MISHAL MENWER AL-ARDHI
Head of OIC Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance

- Mrs AMNA JAMAL
Economic Researcher, Ministry of Finance

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

- H.E ABDELLATIF AQALLAL
Ambassador in Ankara

- Mr. HAMID EL GHAZI
Head of the Multilateral Economic Affairs Department, Rabat

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

- H.E INAM UL-HAQUE
Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey

- Mr. RAHAT UL AJN
Counsel General of Pakistan, Istanbul

- Mr MOHAMMED NADEEM KHAN
Vice Counsel of Pakistan, Istanbul

STATE OF PALESTINE

- Dr. MUNTHER S. DAJANI
Director General of External Economic Relations.
Ministry of Economy and Trade

- Mr. BASSAM ABU-GHARBIA
Director of IDB Governor Office, Ministry of Economy and Trade

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

- Dr. YOSEF TERAD ALSAADON
Ministry of Commerce, Director General International Organizations

- Dr HAMAD ABDALHAMMED AL-AWFY
Director General, Quality Control and inspection Dep., Ministry of Commerce

- Mr SOLYMAN S ALFRAYH
First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr M. ABDULRAHMAN ALMUGAITIB
Adviser, Ministry of Finance

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

- H.E. UFUK SÖYLEMEZ
Minister of State
- Mr. OĞUZ ÖZBİLGİN
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- Mr. TİMUÇİN SANALAN
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- Mr. ALİ KÖPRÜLÜ
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- Mr. CAHİT AKINCI
Head of Department, Undersecretariat of Treasury
- Mrs. NİLGÜN TONGUÇ
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- Mr. ERSİN EROĞLU
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- Mr. ÖZHAN ÜZÜMCÜOĞLU
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Auditor, Capital Market Board
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Head of Section, Turkish Standard Institute

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- Mr ALI EMRE YURDAKUL
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Expert, Union of Chambers of Commerce and
Industry of Turkey

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Principal Finance Officer
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OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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- H.E. NABIKA DIALLO
Director of Economic Affairs

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- Mr ABDURRAHMAN HERSI
 Adviser

- Dr MUKHTAR HAMOUR
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ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ICCI)

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THE FEDERATION OF CONSULTANTS FROM ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (FCIC)

- Mr ATILLA KAPRALI
 Secretary General

THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION (OISA)

- Dr. ABDULLATIF SULTAN
 Secretary General

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)

- Mr MANSOUR CHAVOSHI
 Director of ECO

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

- Mr MAHARAJ K.MUTHOO
 Representative

**THE COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR THE ARAB STATES OF THE GULF
SECRETARIAT GENERAL (GCC)**

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Expert, Drafting
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- Mr. MEVLÜT YAŞAR
Expert
- Mr. SEYİT AMBARKÜTÜK
Technician

II

**MESSAGE OF H.E. SÜLEYMAN DEMIREL
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF OTURKEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC**

**Twelfth Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 11 May 1996)

Original : English

**MESSAGE OF H.E. SÜLEYMAN DEMİREL
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC**

**Twelfth Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 11 May 1996)

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you once again to Istanbul on the occasion of your Twelfth Meeting.

I would also like to congratulate the new members of the Committee and wish them success in their task.

Twelve years have passed since the COMCEC started its activities in 1984. Our economic cooperation efforts were undertaken under the conditions of the Cold War then prevailing in the world. During these twelve years, thanks to the efforts of your Committee, the COMCEC has proven itself as an outstanding OIC forum with regular annual meetings and several concrete achievements to its credit.

With the emergence of the new world conditions, the ways and means of international economic cooperation have also undergone substantial changes. Increasing prosperity and economic well-being through interdependence and globalization have replaced self-sufficiency as the ultimate objective of economic cooperation. Instead of government sponsored projects financed out of national budgets, pooling of resources for projects developed by private sectors now makes up the agenda of international economic cooperation.

As chairman of the COMCEC, I am happy to see that our new Strategy, Plan of Action for economic cooperation and the decision to exchange views on current world economic at during the annual sessions, do comply with the new global trends.

I am confident that you will make useful recommendations, among others, for an effective conduct of exchange of views on the Privatization Experiences at the forthcoming twelfth session of the COMCEC.

I wish every success to the Follow-up Committee in its deliberations, and a pleasant stay in Istanbul to the delegates.

Süleyman DEMİREL
President of the Republic of Turkey,
Chairman of the COMCEC

III

**OPENING STATEMENT OF H.E. UFUK SÖYLEMEZ
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE**

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**OPENING STATEMENT OF H.E. UFUK SÖYLEMEZ
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE**

**Twelfth Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 11 May 1996)

Honourable Assistant Secretary General of OIC,
Honourable Members of the Follow-up Committee,
Distinguished Delegates,

I have the pleasure of welcoming you to Istanbul for the Twelfth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee. As this is the first meeting of the Committee after the renewal of its membership at the last session of the COMCEC, I would like to welcome and congratulate the new members and wish them every success in their assignment.

At the outset, let me say that I am deeply honored at chairing, for the first time, the meeting of the Committee. I know that your esteemed Committee has proven to be very instrumental in preparing the groundwork for all the activities which are entrusted to the COMCEC. I am confident that with your cooperation and help I will be able to fulfill my duty with success.

Distinguished Delegates,

In the past decade, we have seen radical transformations occurring on the global economic and political scene. With the end of the cold war, new nations emerged in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, the peace process in the Middle East started, and human and democratic values acquired greater importance worldwide. Such major developments have had significant implications for the Member Countries of our Organization.

We are deeply shocked and disturbed by the tragedy and human sufferings in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Caucasia, Chechnya, Africa and most recently in Lebanon. At this point, I would like to underscore the importance of our solidarity and common efforts, as exemplified in the Bosnian case, to end these human sufferings.

In the past few years, world economic developments have been favorable with the major exception of the Mexican crisis in 1994. The latest international statistics reveal that overall world economic performance has exceeded expectations.

One of the main dynamics underlying the current global recovery has been the rapid expansion in many Asian and some Latin American countries. On the other hand, the recovery in the industrialized world is now well established. Nevertheless, a number of developing countries, particularly the poorest ones, continue to experience economic stagnation and a declining standard of living.

Several of the Eastern European countries and other economies in transition are also beginning to show signs of recovery. However, the outlook for the Russian Federation and some other economies in transition remains uncertain.

This overall outlook indicates that, while significant progress has been made toward sustained global expansion, much remains to be done.

Distinguished Delegates,

Several existing regional cooperation schemes among developing countries are beset by difficulties of varying degrees, which in many respects, are similar to ours at the COMCEC.

Various studies conducted by the international community relate these difficulties to changing world economic and political conditions following the end of the cold war. These studies provide significant lessons to the COMCEC.

One of the important lessons to be learned from the international experience is that attempts at ambitious actions are counterproductive. What tends to be more successful is cooperation based on a gradual and progressive approach which starts with few modest but feasible projects of a flexible nature.

Another lesson is that schemes for market and production integration are unlikely to succeed unless they are designed in a way that provides for careful conciliation of individual national interests with those of the group as a whole.

I believe that, in our 12 years of cooperation experience, what we achieved, such as the Longer Term Trade Financing, and Insurance of Investment and Export Credit Schemes, and what we failed to achieve bear testimony to these findings.

I hope that international experiences will be taken into consideration during the implementation of the Plan of Action so as to benefit therefrom.

Distinguished Delegates,

It is noteworthy that the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round clearly strengthened the expectations with respect to the stimulating effect of free trade on world economy. An opportunity has been created for all nations to proceed ahead with solid economic programs aimed at ensuring a balanced growth of trade, higher level of employment and real income.

At this point, I am pleased to note with satisfaction that, at the last Session of the COMCEC, a number of meetings were held to discuss the implications of the Uruguay Round for the economies of the member countries. As you will recall, the outcome of these discussions, among others, stresses the importance of adjustment in the economic and administrative structures of Member Countries to safeguard their interests and take maximum advantage from the opportunities to be created by the Uruguay Round.

It is a great pleasure for me to note that, considering the growing global interest in privatization, the COMCEC, at its last Session, had decided to devote one of the agenda items of its Twelfth Session to the "Privatization Experiences of the OIC Member Countries".

The purpose was to create an opportunity for member countries to share experiences, address common problems and learn from each others' experiences in this important area.

Having assumed an executive role in the privatization administration in Turkey, I am more than pleased that the next COMCEC Session will be an occasion for us to have fruitful discussions on the issues relevant to privatization.

Honourable Delegates,

Over the last decade, Turkey has taken major steps in instituting market mechanisms and integrating its economy with that of the world.

Faced with a financial crisis in 1994, the Turkish Government implemented drastic austerity measures which prevented a major economic downturn in the economy. In fact, the recovery in the Turkish economy in 1995 has exceeded expectations. As a result of a rapid increase in the capacity utilization rates in many sectors, the Turkish economy has grown by more than 8 percent last year.

At the beginning of this year, Turkey has adhered to the European Customs Union.

The basic characteristic of the Customs Union is the application of a common customs tariff to third countries. Thus Turkey, as of last January, is applying the Common Customs Tariffs of the European Union to imports of industrial goods from third countries, including the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

For agricultural goods, textile and clothing, Turkey will harmonize its import regime with that of the European Union.

At this point, I would like to point out that adhesion to the European Customs Union should not be seen as a factor impairing its will and capacity to promote cooperation with third countries and other regional groupings.

With the application of the Common Customs Tariffs of the European Union on imports from third countries, the average protection rate of Turkey in industrial sector imports has become 5.8 percent. This will further decrease to 3.5 percent after the fulfillment by the European Union of its commitments under the Uruguay Round Agreements.

In addition to these tariff reductions, Turkey will align itself with the preferential GSP regime of the European Union vis-a-vis developing countries, including the OIC member countries. In this context, Turkey will be in a position to give concessions to some of the third countries up to 100 percent.

This will certainly increase Turkey's capacity to cooperate with Islamic countries, by opening up its market which is a gateway to one of the greatest trading centres in the world, namely, Europe.

With these words, I would like to conclude my statement by wishing you success in your important work.

Thank you.

IV

**STATEMENT OF H.E. OUSMAN N.R. OTHMAN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE**

**Twelfth Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 11 May 1996)

Original: English

**STATEMENT OF H.E. OUSMAN N.R. OTHMAN
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Excellency Mr. President,
Distinguished guests and delegates,

It is for me a singular honour, as COMCEC's Follow-up Committee is holding its 12th session, to convey to you the greetings of His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and his best wishes for the total success of this very important meeting.

Allow me, also on behalf of the Secretary General of the OIC, to express my deep gratitude to the brotherly people and Government of Turkey for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to all delegations ever since they set foot in his beautiful and historic city of Istanbul. Our sincerest appreciation is extended to H.E. Mr. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC and to H.E. Mr. Mesut Yılmaz the Prime Minister and Alternate Chairman of COMCEC for their abiding interest in the Affairs of the OIC and the much appreciated support and assistance always given to our dear organisation.

The contribution of the Republic of Turkey to the strengthening of economic and commercial cooperation among our countries continues to receive wide acclamation from all OIC countries and was given sharp focus during the 23rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministries which was held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea in December 1995.

Mr. President,

Our meeting, designed to prepare for the 12th session of COMCEC due to be held in this same city, in November is of special significance as it is meant to continue to consider the ways and means conducive to the strengthening of economic and commercial cooperation among OIC Member States at this particularly crucial juncture in the world economy characterised by the phenomenon of globalization and by the creation of giant economic groupings.

In this regard, the most important item on the agenda of COMCEC's Follow-up Committee 12th session deals precisely with the evaluation of the state of implementation of the Plan of Action designed to foster Economic and Trade Cooperation among OIC Member States.

In fact, the implementation of this new Action Plan, approved by the 10th session of COMCEC and ratified by the 7th Islamic Summit, should make it possible for our Member States to speed up their economic development process and their integration and, hence, to be better prepared to meet the challenges of the third millennium.

The world economy globalization phenomenon, marked notably by the establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), calls, as already mentioned, for the adaptation of the structures of our national economies through the adoption, if necessary, of appropriate economic legislation, which would enable our States to optimise the benefits of the New World Economic Order, in order to avoid a greater marginalisation of our countries most of which are classified as Least Development.

At this juncture, it is noteworthy that the World Economy is in a growing trend. It is expected that the average growth rate of developing countries for 1995-1996 will be 6%, almost twice the growth rate of the industrial countries.

It is to be observed in the context that the performance of the East Asian Countries has been impressive. This is largely due to the structural harmonisation and liberalisation programmes and the expanding volume of Trade among the countries of the region.

We in the OIC and within the framework of COMCEC should make all efforts to catch up with this trend of development. We must continue all efforts to intensify and diversify our economic cooperation. To do this must strive to increase the volume of trade among our countries to reach the level of least 20% by the next millennium. It is to be recalled that the volume of trade, despite a slight increase in recent times, still stands at about 10-11%.

Mr. Chairman, the best way to make way for meeting all these challenges is by implementing the New Plan of Action, which has been so diligently prepared and which offers vast possibilities for the development of our countries.

I would therefore use, on behalf of the Secretary General, this platform, to once again appeal to all Member States to lend their support to the implementation of the Plan of Action.

We do hope that Member States which have been kind enough to offer to host the intersectional and/or sectoral meetings considered as part of the follow-up and implementation mechanism of the Plan of Action; will soon be able to honour their promise. We also hope we shall receive more offers in this regard.

In this same framework, the reinforcement of cooperation in so far as investments and trade exchanges are concerned will constitute an important step in the execution of the OIC Plan of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

Within the framework of COMCEC several schemes and instruments have been established in order to boost investments and trade within the OIC Member Countries. The latest is the establishment of the Islamic Investment and Export Credit Corporation which became operational last year. We pay special tribute to the Islamic Development Bank for realising this project, just like the several others, launched within the framework of COMCEC.

Mr. Chairman, another important item we shall be considering during this meeting is the preparation for the exchange of views on the experiences of OIC Member States with regard to privatisation which will be organised during COMCEC's 12th Session to be held in Istanbul in November 1996.

The General Secretariat is already in contact with OIC Member States and Institutions for the successful organisation of this important discourse. In fact the Ankara Centre is organising an International Seminar on Privatisation in Pakistan next month, in preparation for the exchange of views during the November COMCEC Session.

I have no doubt that the Follow-up Committee and all OIC Member States and Institutions concerned will continue to give due attention to this important issue.

At this point, we must stress that the OIC continues to accord high priority to the private sector. Both the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Islamic Shipowners' Association have been undertaking laudable initiatives, to make the private sector within the OIC more dynamic and more vibrant.

We congratulate the Islamic Chamber for the successful trade mission it organised last December to some countries in West Africa. We understand the next trade mission will be organised very soon in the newly independent Central Asian States. We welcome this move as the OIC is committed to help these states overcome their economic difficulties in the transition from a centrally guided economy to a Market Economy.

We also congratulate the Islamic Shipowners' Association for the positive developments towards the establishment of an Islamic Shipping Company. We understand that we are only waiting for the approval of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Headquarters of the Company to be established in Jeddah in accordance with the wish of the Members of the Islamic Shipowners' Association, for the Company to take off. The setting-up of this Company will immensely contribute to economic and commercial cooperation among Member States.

Finally Mr. Chairman, I wish to extend to the Government and people of Turkey on behalf of the Secretary General of the OIC, our best wishes for the successful organisation of the HABITAT II Conference in Istanbul next month. We do hope all OIC Member States will participate actively in this very important World Event.

I thank you all.

Wa Salamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh.

V

**AGENDA
OF THE TWELFTH MEETING
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 11-13 May 1996)

Original: English

**AGENDA
OF THE TWELFTH MEETING
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 11-13 May 1996)

1. Opening Session
 - Statement by the Chairman of the Follow-up Committee.
 - Statement by the OIC Secretary General.
 - Statements by the Heads of Delegations.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat.
4. Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States.
5. Progress Report by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on Activities of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC).
6. Preparations for the Exchange of Views on "Privatization Experiences of the OIC Member Countries" to be organized during the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC.
7. Draft Agenda of the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC.
8. Any Other Business.
9. Adoption of the Report.
10. End of the Meeting.

VI

**BACKGROUND REPORT
BY THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE**

**Twelfth Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 11-13 May 1996)

Original : English

**BACKGROUND REPORT BY THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE**

**Twelfth Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 11-13 May 1996)

This report of the Secretary General to the 12th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee cover the following points:

Development of economic and trade cooperation;

Status of the signing and ratification of the Agreements/Statutes within the framework of economic cooperation among OIC Member States;

Summary review of the activities of subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions of the OIC in the field of economic cooperation.

I- DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION.

a) Implementation of the New Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among Member States.

The Sixth Islamic Summit had entrusted COMCEC to draw up and implement a new strategy for the Plan of Action, taking into consideration the changes that took place in the world since the adoption of the first Plan in 1981. After a series of meetings organized under the aegis of COMCEC, a new Plan was drawn up. That Plan was then approved by the 10th session of COMCEC, in October 1994, and endorsed by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, December 13-15, 1994.

The Seventh Islamic Summit, has, inter alia,

- 1- ENDORSED the Strategy and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States adopted at the Tenth COMCEC Session.
- 2- NOTED WITH APPRECIATION that the Plan of Action was 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.

- 3- APPEALED to the Member States to host, as soon as possible, the Inter-Sectoral Experts' Group meeting envisaged in the chapter on Follow-up and Implementation of the Plan of Action.

The General Secretariat presented a progress report on the implementation of the New Plan of Action to the Eleventh COMCEC held in Istanbul in November 1995.

During the deliberations on the subject, the Committee considered the technical and organizational issues related to the holding of an inter-sectorial meeting that would cover all the Ten areas of the Plan of Action. In this context, the Committee recommended that, instead of holding one inter-sectorial meeting to start the implementation of the Plan of Action, a more practical approach would be to hold more than one meeting to deal either with one area or a number of interrelated areas at a time, on a priority basis. The Committee invited all Member States to host both sectorial and inter-sectorial meetings.

b) Cooperation for the Promotion of Trade
Among OIC Member States

COMCEC has taken the necessary initiatives and coordinated action for the designing and establishment of the follow up mechanism which covers cooperation in the field of trade in particular.

It will be recalled that it was during the first COMCEC Session held in November 1984, that the Trade Ministers of OIC Member States got together for the purpose of exploring ways and means for strengthening cooperation in areas falling under their responsibility.

During the Session, the Trade Ministers identified a number of priorities in the field of trade and adopted a resolution on the "Implementation of the Short Term Programme for the Promotion of Trade Among OIC Member States", which includes recommendations for the establishment of particular projects/schemes.

At its first Session, COMCEC discussed and approved the proposals to draw up three multilateral financial schemes aimed at enhancing trade among Member States, namely, a Longer-term Trade Financing Scheme, an Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit, and a Multilateral Islamic Clearing Union. The progress achieved in the establishment and operation of each of these schemes as well as the other efforts for the enhancement of Intra-Islamic trade is summarized herebelow:

(i) Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme

The project had been initiated by COMCEC which approved the scheme and entrusted the IDB with its implementation. The Longer-Term Trade Financing Scheme was approved by the Tenth IDB Annual Meeting, held in Amman, Jordan, in March 1986. This Scheme was set up within the IDB as a vehicle for the bolstering of trade in non-conventional commodities within the OIC, with a particular emphasis on exports.

This Scheme, which took effect in 1407H (1987) supplements the import financing scheme and aims at promoting exports of non-conventional commodities among OIC Member States by providing the necessary funds for periods ranging between 6 and 60 months for exports from the Member countries of the Scheme to any other OIC Member State. As of April 1994, 23 countries had joined the Scheme and their subscriptions totalled ID 159.00 million. Together with the ID 150 million IDB participation, the amount thus committed has reached ID 309.00 million. The Scheme's paid up capital stood at ID 120.60 million out of which ID 75 million had been paid up by the Bank. During the same period 149 transactions for an aggregate of ID 328.62 million (US\$ 448.39 million) were approved under this Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme.

(ii) Establishment of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit.

Another important project introduced in the field of the promotion of trade exchange, is the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit. At COMCEC's request the IDB undertook a feasibility study and prepared the Agreement for the establishment of the said Corporation, which was approved by COMCEC in October 1991. Subsequently, the IDB Board of Governors approved this agreement and appealed to Member States to subscribe to the capital of the Scheme. The Bank's subscription is ID 50 million (i.e. half of the Scheme's total capital).

It should be recalled that the objectives of the Scheme are to increase the volume of transactions and the flow of investments among Member States. The services, however, will be limited only to the signatory States of the Agreement that will have ratified it, submitted their ratification instruments to the Bank and paid up their shares.

It is also worth recalling that the Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit is a subsidiary of the IDB.

It may finally be recalled here that the Corporation was officially inaugurated on July 26, 1995.

At the 11th Session of the COMCEC, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in November.1995, the IDB representative briefed the 11th COMCEC Follow-up Committee meeting on the progress regarding the setting up of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit under the aegis of the IDB.

The COMCEC expressed its thanks and appreciation to the IDB for its efforts in successfully finalizing this important COMCEC project, and appealed to the Member States which had not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Articles of Agreement of the Corporation and subscribe to its capital so as to ensure that most OIC Member States will benefit from it. The IDE will submit a comprehensive report on this issue to the 12th Session of the Follow-up Committee.

(iii) Islamic Multilateral Clearing Union

This is another scheme designed to ensure trade promotion among OIC Member States. The IDB undertook a study of this project at the request of COMCEC.

The 8th COMCEC Session, held in 1992, had noted with appreciation the finalization by the IDB of the "Agreement on the Multilateral Islamic Clearing Union" as well as its submission to the 8th Meeting of the Governors of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States held in Cairo, Egypt, in 1990. The same COMCEC Session approved, in principle, the proposed Agreement and endorsed the recommendation of the Governors of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of Member States regarding this scheme.

The Tenth COMCEC Session held in Istanbul, October 22-25, 1994 had, inter alia,

Noted that the OIC General Secretariat had distributed to Member countries the "Model of a Multilateral Islamic Clearing Arrangement" prepared by the IDB and approved at the Seventh COMCEC Session.

Invited Member Countries to consider working out clearing arrangements among themselves, provided that these agreements be flexible in the goods covered and that joining them be on a voluntary basis and given the differences existing among the economic and commercial systems and the monetary legislations in force in Member States, provided also that clearing agreements be concluded among sub-groups of Member States willing to join, with the ultimate goal of setting up a multilateral Islamic Clearing Union.

Appreciated IDB's readiness to provide the needed technical assistance to member countries wishing to work out such arrangements among themselves".

iv) Establishment of a Trade Information Network (TINIC)

The First COMCEC Session, held in 1984, adopted a resolution on the "Short term implementation Programme for trade promotion" also recommended the setting up of a trade information network among Member States to facilitate the collection, treatment, analysis and propagation of trade information for the benefit of users.

The Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT) was entrusted with preparing a feasibility study on the modality of such a network, in cooperation with the concerned OIC institutions and other international organizations.

Consequently, the ICDT submitted a feasibility study to the second COMCEC session. A study group was set up to revise that study with a view to developing a "database system" for collecting and propagating, inter alia, maximum trade information within OIC Member States, eliminating duplication and ensuring an optimal utilization of means already existing in Member Countries.

The Tenth COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meeting held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, in May 1994, noted with satisfaction that the first meeting on TINIC Focal Points jointly organized by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the IDB was held from 19 to 21 April 1994 in Casablanca to examine cooperation problems among Focal Points and set up the required databases.

The Committee requested the ICDT to pursue its preparations for establishing a database in close cooperation and coordination with TINIC Focal Points and the IDB and to submit a progress report on the issue to the 10th COMCEC Session.

The Tenth COMCEC Session held in Istanbul, October 22-25, 1994:

Appreciated the efforts made by the ICDT and the IDB in carrying out relevant studies on the TINIC and OICIS-NET projects and;

Agreed that COMCEC be kept informed of the progress regarding the implementation of both projects through the OIC General Secretariat.

v) Establishment of a Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States (TPSOIC)

In implementing the relevant decisions of the First and Second COMCEC Sessions, the ICDT carried out a study on a trade preferential system within OIC Member States. The documents of this system were approved by the Sixth COMCEC Session held in Istanbul from 7 to 10 October 1990 which requested the General Secretariat to pursue the implementation of the system in question.

COMCEC requested the OIC General Secretariat to contact Member States to expedite the formalities of their joining the Framework Agreement and urged Member States to start in the meantime, exchanging the lists of respective concessions made, to do so bilaterally or through COMCEC and to initiate informal consultations on them as a prerequisite for their future negotiations on the said concessions.

The Tenth COMCEC Session, held in Istanbul in October 1994:

"Noted with satisfaction that the Framework Agreement for the Establishment of a Trade Preferential System Among OIC Member States (TPSOIC) stood ready for signing and ratification by Member States".

Noted also with appreciation that 14 member countries had signed and 5 of them ratified the Framework Agreement. It urged member countries that had not yet signed/or ratified it, to do so at their earliest convenience.

It is to be noted that according to information available at the OIC General Secretariat by September 30, 1995, 16 member States have signed the Framework Agreement so far, namely: Senegal, Turkey, Chad, Indonesia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Guinea, Tunisia, Jordan, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Cameroon and Pakistan and that six among them, namely: Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and the Republic of Senegal have ratified it. The Agreement will come into force once it has been signed and ratified by ten Member States. The General Secretariat continues to try to convince Member States to speed up the signing and ratification of the Agreement.

vi) Harmonization of Standards

It was during its first session in 1984 that COMCEC decided to prepare a methodology aimed at harmonizing the norms in force in Member States with a view to eliminating the obstacles in the way of trade promotion among OIC

countries. The Turkish Standardization Institute (TSI), which now plays the role of Coordination Committee, was requested to prepare the project document.

The General Secretariat submitted a progress report on the issue to the 11th Session of COMCEC, held in Istanbul, in November 1995.

The COMCEC noted with satisfaction the distribution to Member States of the report of the Sixth Meeting of the Group of Experts in the field of harmonization, held in Istanbul, on 26 and 27 April 1994 and of the draft Statute of the Standards and Metrology Organization for Islamic Countries (SMOIC).

The Eleventh Session of COMCEC further:

Requested the OIC General Secretariat to circulate a new as soon as possible the text of the Draft Statute to the Member States and the Islamic Chamber for their consideration and comments;

Urged the OIC Member Countries to send their comments on the Draft Statute to the OIC General Secretariat by the end of February 1996;

Requested the OIC General Secretariat, in collaboration with the Turkish Standards Institute, to organize an Experts' Group meeting to review the Draft Statute of Standards and Metrology Organization. In preparation for this meeting the OIC General Secretariat may write to Member States for their views on the draft Statute, and also provide to the Experts' Group the views expressed in the Senior Officials Meeting which was held prior to the 12th COMCEC Session on the subject. The revised Draft Statute may be submitted to the 12th meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

The General Secretariat again distributed to Member States the draft Statute for consideration and observations.

The General Secretariat also circulated the Draft Statute to the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The General Secretariat has received a note dated 17.09.1995 from the Government of the Sultanate of Oman expressing its views on the Draft Statute.

vii) Organization of Islamic Trade Fairs

The Eleventh COMCEC Session held in Istanbul, from 5 to 8 November 1995 noted with satisfaction that the Fifth Islamic Trade Fair was successfully held from July 16-21, 1994 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Eleventh COMCEC Session having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary General of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the subject, noted with satisfaction that the Sixth Islamic Trade Fair would be organised from 22 to 27 October 1996 in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, and the 7th Islamic Trade Fair by 1998, in Lebanon in cooperation with the ICDT, the ICCI, the IDB, and other relevant institutions. The COMCEC appealed to Member States to actively participate in the said Islamic Trade Fairs.

Concerning the 6th Islamic Trade Fair, preparations are still underway and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade has convened a coordination meeting in Jakarta to ensure its full success.

viii) Cooperation Among the Private Sectors of the OIC Member Countries.

The COMCEC also took decisions to facilitate business contacts among economic operators of Member States, either concurrently with COMCEC meetings or during Islamic Trade Fairs or during meetings especially organised to this end.

The Eleventh Session of COMCEC, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 5 to 8 November 1995, among others:

Expressed thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federation of the Egyptian Chambers of Commerce for hosting and organizing the Second Private Sector Meeting, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Islamic Chamber, which was held from 30 September to 02 October 1995 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt;

Noted with appreciation that a large number of businessmen participated in the Second Private Sector Meeting where initial contacts were made, leading to trade exchanges and the establishment of joint-venture projects;

Took note with appreciation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Second Private Sector Meeting and in the Cairo Declaration;

Urged the governments of OIC Member countries to encourage their Federations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry to develop a framework of cooperation with the Islamic Chamber and contribute to its programmes to enhance trade and investment among Islamic countries;

Appreciated the offer of the Republic of Uganda to host the Fourth Private Sector Meeting.

It should be noted that a delegation of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, headed by its Chairman Sheikh Ismail Abu Dawood, visited four African countries: the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Republic of the Gambia and the Republic of Senegal during November/December 1995.

This visit enabled to further strengthen the perspectives of economic and commercial cooperation between the African business community and that of the other Member States of our Organization.

On the other hand, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organised its 13th General Assembly and 26th Session, of its Executive Committee in Bamako, Republic of Mali, from 4 to 6 December 1995.

On that occasion another exhibition fair was organised in Bamako.

- ix) Exchange of Views on "Implications of the Uruguay Round of the Trade Negotiations on the External Trade of OIC Member Countries"

The Tenth COMCEC Session agreed that a separate item allowing delegates to exchange views on current world economic issues of interest to Member Countries be put on the COMCEC Agenda in its subsequent Sessions.

The Tenth COMCEC further agreed that the topic "Implications of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations and the Establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the External Trade of OIC Member Countries", be the theme for the Eleventh COMCEC Session.

The COMCEC Coordination Office presented to the Eleventh COMCEC Follow-up Committee a working paper on the arrangements being made for the organization of "exchange of views" sessions on the effects of the Uruguay Round.

After considering the matter in-depth, the Eleventh COMCEC Follow-up Committee requested that background papers be presented by relevant OIC and Other international organizations such as the SESRTCIC, the ICDT, the IDB, the ICCI, UNCTAD and WTO on the subject. The Committee also decided that the presentations by these organizations could, inter alia, cover the following topics:

- i) General Evaluation of the Results of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations and the Developments Regarding the Establishment of the World Trade Organization;

- ii) General Evaluation of the Uruguay Round Agreements from the Standpoint of the Trade Relations Among the Developed and Developing Countries;
- iii) Implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements on the External Trade of OIC Member Countries.

After noting and discussing the various communications on this issue, the Eleventh Session of COMCEC, among others, expressed thanks and appreciation to SESRTCIC, ICDT, IDB, WTO and UNCTAD for preparing and presenting reports assessing the various aspects of the Uruguay Round Agreements and their eventual impact on OIC Member States.

The COMCEC welcomed the establishment of the World Trade Organization in January 1995.

The COMCEC further welcomed the fact that participation in the Uruguay Round was considerably wider than in any previous multilateral trade negotiations and, in particular, that developing countries played a notably active role in bringing about a more balanced and integrated global trade partnership.

The COMCEC appreciated that a large number of Member States took part in the Uruguay Round and noted that the Uruguay Round Agreements have significant implications for the economic development and external trade of the OIC Member countries.

The COMCEC welcomed the establishment of the World Trade Organization to implement the Uruguay Round Agreements with a more effective dispute settlement mechanism to allow for a speedier resolution of trade disputes between its member states.

The COMCEC called upon the world community to resist protectionist measures and pressures of all kinds to be able to live in a fairer and more open multilateral trading system for the benefit and welfare of their peoples in the new era of global economic cooperation.

The COMCEC recalled with satisfaction that the negotiations embodied provisions conferring differential and favourable treatment on developing economies, including special attention to the particular situation of the least developed countries.

The COMCEC stressed the importance of implementation of market-oriented economic policies and structural reform programmes for an effective participation

in a more liberalized and more competitive world trade system that would result from the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements.

The Eleventh Session of COMCEC also:

Recognized that the Uruguay Round Agreement will have different impacts on member countries depending on the differences in their productive capacities and structures of foreign trade;

Recognized also that effective implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement would necessitate adjustments in the economic and administrative structures of the Member countries to safeguard their interests and to take maximum advantage from the opportunities to be created thereby;

Recognized further that if the OIC community is to become an active participant in global economic decision making and commercial relations, coordinated efforts would be the most effective means for mitigating losses and turning losses into profits;

The COMCEC agreed on the need to closely monitor the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement and to request the General Secretariat and related OIC Institutions to design and propose for implementation of technical assistance programmes to assist those among the Member countries which might have difficulties in responding to the new challenges.

The COMCEC decided that "Privatization Experiences of the OIC Member Countries" be the theme for the exchange of views session to be organized during the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC.

The COMCEC requested the Follow-up Committee, at its Twelfth Meeting, to draw up the draft agenda of the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC and to recommend alternative themes on which an exchange of views would take place during subsequent sessions of the COMCEC.

The conclusions and recommendations of the 11th Session of COMCEC on this issue have been circulated to Member States.

Having examined the report of the Secretary General on the activities undertaken by the OIC under the auspices of the COMCEC, the 23rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea from 17-20 Rajab 1416H (9-12 December 1995) has inter alia:

Noted with appreciation that starting with its Eleventh Session, COMCEC serves as a platform where the Ministers of Economy could exchange views on

current world economic issues and, that the topic "Implications on External Trade of Member Countries of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations" was the theme for the 11th COMCEC.

Also noted with satisfaction that the theme "Privatization Experiences of the OIC Member Countries" will be the theme for the exchange of views sessions of the 12th Session of COMCEC to be held from 2-5 November 199G in Istanbul.

The General Secretariat has circulated the pertinent resolution to Member States urging them to implement its provisions and revert to the General Secretariat on any development on the same.

c) Cooperation in the area of Food Security and Agricultural Development.

Food Security is one of the top priorities in the OIC Plan of Action.

However the problem of food security remains unresolved in a number of OIC Member countries, particularly the African ones.

In fact, the General Secretariat, in cooperation with the IDB, the African Development Bank and the Government of Senegal, organized in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, a symposium on Food Security in the Islamic Countries in December 1991, in conjunction with the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference.

The Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, having considered the report of the Dakar Symposium:

Expressed satisfaction for the recommendations adopted by the said Symposium and the resolutions appended to its final report.

Requested Member States and all financial, economic and technical organizations of the Ummah to assist the African States concerned to ensure the effective implementation of these recommendations.

Appealed to Member States to extend additional resources to the relevant financial institutions so that they may increase their assistance to OIC African Member States for the speedy and effective implementation of their national strategy for food security."

The Sixth Islamic Summit also adopted a declaration on "the Food Security Decade" in OIC Member Countries.

The General Secretariat immediately after the Summit, circulated to Member States the document on the Dakar Symposium and the resolutions of the Dakar Summit, urging Member States to implement the resolutions.

An Ad-hoc Follow-up Committee of the Symposium, established during the Symposium and chaired by His Excellency the Minister for Rural Development and Hydrology of the Republic of Senegal, is doing its best to implement the recommendations of the Dakar Symposium on Food Security in African countries which are Members of the OIC. Two meetings at expert level and two at senior official level have already been held. A mission comprising the Government of Senegal, the Islamic Development Bank and the African Development Bank, has already visited a number of countries to evaluate their respective programmes in the area of food security.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted from 14 to 16 January 1995, in Tehran, the Fourth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development. The meeting was well attended and achieved fruitful results.

The conclusions of the Ministerial Conference were distributed to Member States and submitted to the 11th Session of COMCEC.

The Committee stressed the vital importance to Member States of the development of Food Security and Agriculture.

The General Secretariat also communicated the decisions of the Fourth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development to the Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers which was held at Conakry, Republic of Guinea in December 1995.

d) Cooperation in the area of Industry

A series of Ministerial Meetings on Industrial Cooperation among OIC Member States have been held over the past few years.

Several Joint Venture Projects have been identified, studied and approved for Member States in cooperation with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations Industrial Development Programme (UNIDO).

Conclusions of the Ministerial Meetings as well as the sectorial studies and recommendations of seminars organized by the IDB, UNIDO and the ICCI are always circulated to the Member States.

The General Secretariat, subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions, in collaboration with the relevant UN institution (UNIDO) continue to work together to strengthen cooperation among Member States in the field of industrial development and joint investment.

In pursuance of the decisions of the Third Ministerial Consultation on Industrial Cooperation held in 1987, a meeting of the "Task Force for the Promotion of Joint Ventures" was convened by the IDB in Jeddah in November 1987, which considered in detail the mechanism for the promotion of joint ventures among Member countries as outlined by the Ministers.

The Fifth COMCEC Session invited Member States that had not yet done so, to examine the recommendations of the Task Force on the proposed mechanism and communicate their views and comments thereon to the OIC General Secretariat to facilitate their consideration by the Fourth Ministerial Consultation, and appealed to Member States to host the Fourth Ministerial Consultation in order to finalize this scheme.

The General Secretariat has so far received no reply from Member States on this question.

The Ninth COMCEC Session held in Istanbul on 01 to 04 September 1993 invited Member States that had not yet done so, to examine recommendations of the Task Force on the proposed mechanism and communicate their views and comments thereon to the OIC General Secretariat so as to facilitate their consideration by the Fourth Ministerial Consultation, and appealed once more to Member States to host the Fourth Ministerial Consultation in order to finalize the scheme.

e) Cooperation in the area of Transport

The First OIC Ministerial Meeting on Transport was held in Istanbul, September 7-10, 1987, concurrently with the Third COMCEC Session. The Ministers, during the meeting, expressed their conviction that transport is an important element of the development of commercial and

economic cooperation among Islamic countries and, among other things, decided to cooperate in the development of the following sectors:

- (a) Road Transport,
- (b) Maritime Transport,
- (c) Railway Transport, and
- (d) Training in the field of Transport.

The General Secretariat is in close contact with the Member States and concerned agencies for the implementation of the decisions of the Ministers of Transport.

The Eleventh Session of the COMCEC, held in Istanbul, from 5-8 November 1995 urged Member States and the OIC organs concerned to take measures needed for the implementation of the resolutions of the First Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of Member States, and appealed to Member States to host the Second Meeting of Ministers of Transport.

The Islamic Shipowners Association is pursuing its efforts for the establishment of an international maritime company whose promoters would be able to service the majority, if not the entirety of the said States' seaports. Such an achievement would contribute to the promotion of Intra-Islamic trade.

f) Cooperation in the field of Telecommunications

The First Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications was held concurrently with the Fourth COMCEC Session in Istanbul, Turkey, in September, 1988.

The Twenty-first ICFM noted with satisfaction that the Second Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications in Bandung, Indonesia, November 5-8, 1991 had been convened successfully.

The General Secretariat circulated the documents of the Bandung Meeting to Member States inviting them to implement the recommendations and keep it informed of any results achieved.

The General Secretariat is in close contact with the Indonesian Government (Chairman of the Follow-up Committee of the OIC Second Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications) for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Second Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications.

The Tenth COMCEC Session, held in Istanbul, from 22 to 25 October 1994:

"Noted, in the light of the Report of the OIC General Secretariat, that the report and resolutions of the Second Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications, held in Bandung, Republic of Indonesia, November 5-8, 1991 had been circulated, for implementation, to the Member States and agencies concerned.

Called upon Member States and the relevant OIC organs to take the measures needed for the implementation of the resolutions of the First and Second Ministerial Meetings on Telecommunications.

Welcomed with appreciation the offer made by the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Third Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications at a date to be communicated later.

The General Secretariat is maintaining close contact with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran which has just indicated that the 3rd Islamic Conference on Telecommunications will be held in July 1996.

g) Cooperation in the field of Energy

Energy is one of the priority areas of the Plan of Action. It was in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 6 September, 1989 that the First Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Member States on Energy was held concurrently with the Fifth COMCEC Session.

The Ministers of Energy of Member States, recognizing that energy issues are important elements of cooperation in various fields among the Member States and that the development of energy resources and power networks will lead to progress and contribute to the general welfare of the Islamic countries and to their mutual interest, the OIC Energy Ministers adopted a comprehensive resolution on this subject.

This resolution recommends, inter alia, that Member States improve the performance of energy installations, speed up technology transfer among themselves in the energy sector, encourage research in new and renewable energy resources and establish inter-linked regional networks in the field of electric energy.

The Tenth COMCEC Session held in Istanbul on 24 and 25 October, 1994 called upon Member States and the OIC organs concerned to take the measures needed for the implementation of the Resolutions of the First OIC Ministerial Meeting and appealed to Member States to host the Second Ministerial Meeting on Energy.

h) Cooperation in the field of Infrastructure and Public Works.

The First OIC Ministers of Infrastructure and Public Works Meeting was held from 8 to 9 October, 1991 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, concurrently with the Seventh COMCEC Session,

Noting with satisfaction that Islamic countries had considerable potentialities and cooperation prospects in the field of Infrastructure and Public Works capable of meeting the present and future needs of OIC Member States.

Noting further that there was an immense field of cooperation among OIC countries in the Infrastructure and Public Works sector and in awareness of the need to pursue action on numerous projects and suggestions submitted by Member States, the Ministerial Meeting has, inter alia:

"Urged Member States to use all ways and means to enhance their cooperation.

Requested that a separate section of the budget be devoted to public works and infrastructure among the priority sectors of the "Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among Member States".

Recommended the development of existing potentialities and projects within the OIC System in this field."

The OIC General Secretariat and the Government of the Republic of Turkey circulated the report and resolutions of the First Ministerial Meeting on Infrastructure and Public Works to Member States urging them to implement the decisions taken by the said Conference.

The Tenth COMCEC Session, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 22 to 25 October 1994:

Having taken note of the Resolutions adopted at the First Ministerial Meeting on Infrastructure and Public Works, held in Istanbul from 6 to 9 October, 1991.

Called upon Member States and the OIC organs concerned to take the measures needed for the implementation of the resolutions of the First Meeting of the Ministers of Infrastructure and Public Works.

Also took note of the proposals made by the Republic of Indonesia for the incorporation in the Plan of Action of the provisions pertaining to cooperation in the area of urban infrastructure and rural development.

Requested the OIC General Secretariat to follow up the implementation of the resolutions of the First Meeting of the Ministers of Infrastructure and Public Works and to submit progress reports thereon to OIC Conferences and the COMCEC".

The Syrian Arab Republic offered to host a seminar on low-rent housing. This matter is being considered jointly by the General Secretariat, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Government of the Republic of Turkey (as Chairman of the Follow-up Committee) for the implementation of recommendations on the First OIC Ministerial Meeting on Infrastructure and Public Works.

i) Cooperation in the field of Labour and Social Security.

The Second Experts Group Meeting on Labour and Social Security, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October, 1994 set up two Working Groups - one for finalizing the "Draft Bilateral Agreement on Social Security" and the other for the "Draft Model Bilateral Agreement on Labour and Manpower Exchange". The Working Group on Social Security met in Amman, Jordan, in 1985 and finalized the Draft Agreement. The Meeting of the Second Working Group on Labour and Manpower Exchange was held in Istanbul, Turkey from 27 to 29 May 1989. It also finalized the Draft Agreement.

The General Secretariat, in forwarding the Reports of the Working Group on Labour and Manpower Exchange along with the Draft Agreement to Member States informed them that the two Draft Agreements would be submitted to the Third Expert Group Meeting on Labour and Social Security for their consideration.

The Twenty-first ICFM expressed satisfaction for the offer made by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the meeting of the working group on Employment and Manpower Exchange.

However, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has, since informed the General Secretariat that it was no longer in a position to host the Expert Group Meeting on Labour and Social Security.

j) Cooperation in the field of Tourism

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 9 to 13 December 1995 adopted a resolution to strengthen cooperation among OIC Member States.

The Conference convinced that tourism constitutes a main pivot in economic development and rapprochement between nations and referring to resolution No. 28/7-E(IS) adopted by the Seventh Summit Conference recommended "the convening, as soon as possible, of an Expert Group Meeting in the field of Tourism within the framework of COMCEC and the New Plan of Action to Strengthen the Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States . "

The Conference also "recommended that, meanwhile, Member States may cooperate in the following fields:

"provision and exchange of publicity and advertising materials on tourism in different languages.

organizing special tourism weeks and popular art exhibitions in the Islamic world.

preparation and exchange of tapes on main touristic landmarks in the Islamic world.

organizing group travel among Islamic countries.

encouraging tourist investments in Islamic countries and directing investors to realize tourist projects in these countries.

facilitating contacts among experienced tourist offices in Islamic countries."

The General Secretariat forwarded this resolution to Member States urging them to implement it and keep the General Secretariat informed.

k) Technical Cooperation among OIC
Member States

The First Ministerial Meeting on Technical Cooperation was held concurrently with the Sixth Session of COMCEC in Istanbul, Turkey, October 7-10, 1990.

Five National Focal Points Meetings for Technical Cooperation among Member States were held in Istanbul between 1990 and 1994, thanks to the funding of the Turkish Government.

The above meetings reviewed the state of technical cooperation among OIC Member States and adopted recommendations aimed at strengthening that cooperation. The meetings stressed the need to promote the administrative and financial capabilities of national focal points on technical cooperation. During bilateral contacts, cooperation programmes were updated and new ones drawn up.

The Twenty-First ICFM and Ninth COMCEC recommended that Member States strengthen their technical cooperation with special emphasis on training in the economic, cultural and social fields as well as on the training of instructors.

The Twenty-first ICFM noted with satisfaction the enthusiastic response of Member States, national and regional agencies and their readiness to cooperate with the OIC General Secretariat and its organs in the implementation of technical cooperation programmes.

The Tenth COMCEC Session held in Istanbul from 22 to 25 October 1994 has, inter alia:

"Noted with satisfaction that the Meetings of Focal Points for Technical Cooperation (FOPTCIC) were being held annually on a regular basis, in Istanbul and thanks the Republic of Turkey for hosting them. It also appreciated the ongoing support extended by Turkey and by OIC institutions such as the IDB, SESRTCIC, ICDT, IIT and IFSTAD which contributed to the success of these meetings.

Called upon Member States and the OIC organs to implement the resolutions of the First Ministerial Meeting on Technical Cooperation held in Istanbul from 7 to 10 October 1990.

Noted with satisfaction that the Fifth Focal Points Meeting on Technical Cooperation (FOPTCIC-V) was held, May 13-16, 1994, in Istanbul.

Noted with appreciation that the Sixth Focal Points Meeting on Technical Cooperation (FOPTCIC-VI) would be held in 1995 in Turkey on a date to be communicated in due course".

The General Secretariat is keeping in touch with the Government of the Republic of Turkey concerning the organization of the Sixth National Focal Points Meeting for Technical Cooperation.

The General Secretariat has submitted comprehensive reports, both at the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC and at the 23rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held respectively on November 1985 in Turkey and in Conakry on December 1995, on the progress made in various fields of cooperation among OIC Member States.

Having examined the Secretary General's report on the ways and means to the strengthening of inter-Islamic economic cooperation, the 23rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers has, inter alia:

Urged the Member States to pursue efforts aimed at strengthening economic cooperation among them so as to examine the complementarities in their economies and avoid further marginalization.

Exhorted Member States to take necessary steps within the framework of their economic policies in order to adopt them to the new trade rules provided for within the WTO framework and encouraging thus a quick development of trade between Member States, so as to attain the target of 20% by the end of the decade.

Invited Member States to revitalize their actions in order to increase their share in the world economy notably by a sustained improvement of their international competitiveness at the level of the goods and services exports, by adopting a series of policies meant to improve their economic infrastructures, master the services sector, increase the value added and the quality of products, diversify the productive base and provide the required conditions likely to attract foreign investments.

The 23rd ICFM has Emphasized the growing importance of the services sector in the world economy and called on Member States to increase technical cooperation in this field.

The Conference also invited Member States to endeavour to reinforce sub-regional and regional markets and relaunch the existing economic integration projects among Islamic countries, with a view to methodically prepare the establishment of an Islamic Common Market or any other suitable form of economic integration among themselves.

The 23rd ICFM further Affirmed that in order to achieve the above objectives the private sector in Islamic countries should play a prominent role through giving impetus to inter-Islamic economic relations and in this context invited the Governments of Member states to support the promotional economic actions undertaken by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in particular, concerning the establishment of direct contacts between private investors and businessmen in the Islamic countries.

The General Secretariat forwarded the resolutions adopted by the Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to the Member States and the concerned institutions exhorting them to implement them and to keep the General Secretariat informed.

II. STATUS OF THE SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF STATUTES AND AGREEMENTS.

The General Secretariat submitted a detailed report on the question of signing and ratification of the following Agreements and Statutes approved under the auspices of COMCEC to the Eleventh Session of COMCEC and to the 23rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held respectively in November 1995 in Istanbul (Turkey) and in December 19 95 in Conakry (Guinea):

- i) General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States.
- ii) Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments Among Member States.
- iii) Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Among OIC Member States.
- iv) Articles of Agreement on Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit.
- v) Statute of the Islamic Telecommunications Union.
- vi) Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council

A table summing up the situation regarding the signing and ratification of the Agreements/Statutes was also circulated to Member States. The table is attached to this report.

ii) Accord sur la promotion, la protection et la garantie des investissements

L'Accord sur la Promotion, la Protection et la Garantie des investissements entre les Etats membres a été adopté par la douzième Conférence islamique des Ministres des Affaires étrangères en 1401H (1981). L'Accord détermine les principes de base de la promotion du transfert de capitaux entre les Etats membres et protège leurs investissements contre les risques non commerciaux tout en garantissant le transfert à l'étranger du capital et de ses produits. L'Accord a été jusqu'à présent signé par 22 Etats membres et ratifié par 17 pays. Étant ratifié par plus de dix pays, il est entré en vigueur en février 1988.

iii) Système de Préférences commerciales entre les Etats Membres

Dix huit Etats membres ont déjà signé cet Accord cadre et cinq parmi eux l'ont déjà ratifié comme cela a déjà été indiqué dans la première partie de ce rapport.

La neuvième session du COMCEC a prié le Secrétariat général de l'OIC de contacter les Etats membres en vue d'accélérer les formalités de leur adhésion à l'Accord-cadre et a invité les Etats signataires à commencer à échanger, à titre bilatéral ou par le biais du COMCEC, les listes de concessions respectives qu'ils auront dressées et d'engager des consultations informelles à leur sujet en guise de préalable à leurs futures négociations sur lesdites concessions.

iv) Système de la Société islamique d'Assurance-credit à l'exportation et de garantie des investissements

Cet accord que la Banque islamique de développement est chargée de mettre en œuvre a été signé par 30 Etats et ratifié par 10 Etats membres comme indiqué dans la première partie de ce rapport. Il est entré en vigueur.

v) – Statuts de l'Union des télécommunications des Etats Islamiques (UTEI)

Les statuts de l'Union des télécommunications des Etats Islamiques (UTEI) ont été approuvés par la quinzième Conférence islamique des Ministres des Affaires étrangères en 1405H (1984). Les statuts de l'UTEI, ont été signés par 12 Etats et ratifiés par neuf Etats seulement. Ils ne sont pas encore entrés en vigueur.

v) Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union (ISTU)

The Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union (ISTU) was approved by the Fifteenth ICFM in 1405H (1984). The Statute has been signed by 12 and ratified by 9 Member States; which means that the Statute is not yet in force.

vi) Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council.

The Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council has been signed by 10 Member States, ratified by 4 only; which is not sufficient for the Statute to come into force.

During the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in November 1995 a special session of the signing of Statute and Agreements of economic cooperation among Member States had organized.

During the session, the following Statutes and Agreements have been signed:

a) The Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union was signed by the Republic of Tunisia.

The Islamic Republic of Iran signed:

The General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States;

The Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments,

Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System;

Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council.

c) The Republic of Guinea signed:

The Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments;

Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council;

Statute of the Islamic Telecommunications Union.

The Republic of the Gambia signed:

Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System;

Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council;

Statute of the Islamic Telecommunications Union.

The Eleventh Session of the COMCEC has "urged all Member States which have not yet signed and/or ratified the various Statutes and Agreements on Economic Cooperation prepared and signed within the framework of the COMCEC, to do so as quickly as possible.

Having examined the resolution of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC and the report of the Secretary General on this issue, the Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab 1416H (9-12 December 1995) has, inter alia:

1. Expressed satisfaction at the efforts of the Secretary General, the IDB and the COMCEC to speed up the implementation of the Agreements and Statutes aimed at strengthening economic cooperation among Member States.
2. Also expressed satisfaction over the initiatives taken by COMCEC to effect the signing of the Agreements/Statutes that fail within the framework of Inter-Islamic Cooperation among COMCEC Sessions and recommends that this practice be pursued.
3. Noted with satisfaction that 16 Member States have already signed the Framework Agreement and that Seven have ratified it and urged those who have not yet done so, to do it as soon as possible so as to enable the required negotiations to start.
4. Called upon Member States which have not yet signed and/or ratified the above mentioned Agreements/Statutes to do so, at an early date.

5. Also noted with satisfaction that the Agreements for the establishment of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit have come into effect as of 1 August 1984.
6. Expressed its thanks and appreciation to the IDB for its efforts to establish the Corporation.
7. Invited Member States which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Agreement of the Corporation and pay their respective subscriptions to its capital to make it possible to draw the expected benefits at the widest scale possible within the QIC system,

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE QIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS, SPECIALIZED AND AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS ACTING FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER STATES.

The Seventh Islamic Summit Conference has "urged these Member States to honour their regular mandatory contributions to the budgets of these bodies and to settle their arrears at their earliest convenience in view of the current financial difficulties being faced by these organs which made them unable to fulfil their responsibilities and even threatened their very existence."

The Summit also "urged the Member States to benefit from the special services to be rendered by the subsidiary organs, over and above the tasks assigned to them in their work programmes."

The General Secretariat circulated this resolution to the Member States requesting them to kindly implement it and keep it informed.

The Eleventh Session of COMCEC has, inter-alia:

Taken Note of the Report of the Sessional Committee on the Activities of the OIC Subsidiary and Affiliated Organs which was held during the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC and the recommendations thereon.

Noted that the subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions have taken steps towards increased cooperation and systematic coordination among themselves to improve their methods of sharing information with each other and with Member States in order to avoid duplication of work.

Appealed to the Member States to take the measures needed for a greater involvement in the work of the OIC subsidiary and affiliated organs and specialized institutions.

Noted with concern the increasing serious financial difficulties faced by the subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions due to the non-payment of the mandatory contributions by most Member States and their accumulated arrears.

Urged Member States and National Chambers of Commerce who have not yet done so to pay their mandatory contributions regularly and settle their arrears to the budget of the subsidiary organs, and the ICCI, respectively.

The General Secretariat submitted a report on the activities of the OIC organs and institutions working in the field of economic cooperation to the Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on December 1995. The 23rd ICFM has adopted resolutions similar to those already adopted by the Islamic Summit's, the previous ICFM and the COMCEC to the benefit of these organs and institutions.

All these resolutions have been circulated to Member States, organs and institutions concerned in view of their implementation.

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TABLE I

LIST OF MEMBER STATES WHO SIGNED AND RATIFIED THE DIFFERENT
AGREEMENTS AND STATUTES ON ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES

NAME OF MEMBER STATES	General Agreement on Economic and Commercial Cooperation		Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments		Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System		Statute of Islamic Civil Aviation Council (ICAC)		Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunication Union (ISITU)	
	Adopted as per Res. No. 1/8-E of the 8th ICRM Tripoli / LIBYA 16-22/5/1977		Adopted as per Res. No 7/12-E of the 12th ICRM Baghdad / IRAQ 1 - 5/6/1981		Adopted as per Res. No.1 of the 6th COMCEC Istanbul/TURKEY 7-10/10/1980		Adopted as per Res No 16/13-E of the 13 ICRM Niamey / NIGER 22-26/8/1982		Adopted as per Res No 17/15-E of the 15 ICRM Sena'a / YEMEN 18-22/12/1984	
	Signed	Ratified	Signed	Ratified	Signed	Ratified	Signed	Ratified	Signed	Ratified
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Algeria	20/05/80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Azerbaijan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bahrain	21/05/80	30/08/80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bangladesh	05/12/77	18/04/78	-	-	-	-	10/09/83	-	.../.../...	15/04/88
Benin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burkina Faso	23/12/85	-	-	19/05/92	14/09/93	-	-	-	-	-
Cameroon	23/01/78	02/08/83	25/10/94	-	25/10/94	-	-	-	-	-
Comoros	28/04/78	16/01/81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Djibouti	21/04/79	-	25/08/82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt	08/11/77	06/06/78	-	16/12/86	-	-	-	-	11/05/87	07/05/88
United Arab Emirates	29/12/77	1979	12/02/89	14/01/89	-	-	30/05/89	21/03/89	30/05/89	21/03/89
Gabon	23/01/78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Gambia	21/05/80	-	04/09/93	-	09/11/95	-	08/11/95	-	08/11/95	-
Guinea	26/12/77	10/02/81	08/11/95	-	15/09/93	-	08/11/95	-	08/11/95	-
Guinea-Bissau	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	30/04/79	08/01/80	01/05/83	03/12/83	04/02/92	-	-	-	-	-
Iraq	02/07/78	1978	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iran	08/11/95	07/11/95	08/11/95	15/09/94	08/11/95	12/05/93	08/11/95	-	04/09/93	06/10/93
Jordan	29/12/77	10/05/79	-	-	11/02/93	-	25/10/94	-	12/03/88	08/04/86
Kuwait	05/12/77	10/05/80	18/11/81	12/04/83	-	-	-	-	-	-
Likatan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	05/12/77	16/04/78	25/10/94	-	15/02/92	02/11/92	-	-	.../.../...	04/01/89
Malaysia	18/05/78	14/01/81	30/09/87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maldives	17/12/77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mali	27/04/78	08/08/81	.../.../...	24/05/82	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morocco	23/01/78	16/04/79	02/11/80	07/05/90	29/09/93	-	-	-	30/12/85	-
Mauritania	08/11/77	09/05/79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Niger	18/05/78	07/08/78	-	-	-	-	08/12/84	-	-	-

NAME OF MEMBER STATES	General Agreement on Economic and Commercial Cooperation		Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments		Rabat-Cairo Agreement on Trade Preferential System		Statute of Islamic Civil Aviation Council (ICAC)		Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union (ISIU)	
	Adopted as per Res. No. 1/8-E of the 8th ICRM Tripoli/ LIBA 16-22/5/1977		Adopted as per Res. No 7/12-E of the 12th ICRM Baghdad / IRAQ 1 - 5/6/1981		Adopted as per Res. No. 1 of 8th COMCEC Istanbul/ILREY 7-10/10/1990		Adopted as per Res No 16/13-E of the 13th ICRM Niamey / NIGER 22-26/8/1982		Adopted as per Res No 17/15-E of the 15th ICRM Sana'a / YEMEN 18-22/12/1984	
	Signed	Ratified	Signed	Ratified	Signed	Ratified	Signed	Ratified	Signed	Ratified
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oman	15/04/80	28/04/81	25/10/84	10/12/84	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda	08/06/78	-	26/11/87	12/02/87	05/09/93	-	-	-	-	-
Pakistan	14/01/78	1978	20/12/81	10/07/82	25/10/94	11/10/93	-	1989	-	30/04/99
Palestine	28/04/78	18/03/80	15/03/82	15/03/82	10/09/92	-	22/05/83/..	03/01/87	11/11/85
Qatar	24/05/79	09/09/80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	14/01/78	27/06/79	23/09/85	17/09/84	10/09/92/..	-	-	-	-
Senegal	25/12/77	28/02/79	17/06/87	30/06/84	01/09/91	30/06/94	17/06/87	04/02/89	17/06/87	04/02/89
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sri Lanka	24/12/78	-	19/12/83	25/11/84	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sudan	14/01/78	-	20/12/81	-	13/05/92	-	04/09/93	-	04/09/92	-
Syria	04/06/78	15/07/80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tchad	27/04/78	-	-	-	14/01/92	-	-	-	-	-
Tunisia	27/01/79	13/04/80	10/06/82	11/11/83	21/01/93	-	06/01/83	11/11/83	08/11/95	-
Turkey	29/12/77	02/07/82	16/07/87	09/02/88	23/09/91	28/11/91	-	-	-	-
Yemen	29/12/77	-	12/06/82	-	-	-	25/10/94	-	25/10/94	-

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VII

**REPORT OF THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT
ON THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO STRENGTHEN
ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
AMONG MEMBER STATES**

**Twelfth Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 11-13 May 1996)

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT ON THE REVIEW
OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO STRENGTHEN
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The Sixth Islamic Summit had entrusted COMCEC to draw up and implement a new strategy for the Plan of Action, taking into consideration the changes that took place in the world since the adoption of the first plan in 1981. After a series of meetings organized under the aegis of COMCEC, a new Plan was drawn up. That Plan was then approved by the 10th session of COMCEC, in October 1994, and endorsed by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, December 13-15, 1994.

The Seventh Islamic Summit, has, inter alia,

- 1- ENDORSED the Strategy and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States adopted at the Tenth COMCEC Session.
- 2- NOTED WITH APPRECIATION that the economic cooperation strategy adopted by the COMCEC allowed for cooperation among sub-groups of Member countries and was based on the principles putting emphasis on the private sector, economic liberalization, integration into the world economy, the sanctity of the economic, political, legal and constitutional structures of the Member Countries and their international obligations.
- 3- ALSO NOTED WITH APPRECIATION that the Plan of Action was 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.
- 4- AGREED on the need to urgently implement the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States in compliance with the principles and operational modalities of the Strategy and procedures set forth in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.
- 5- APPEALED to the Member States to host, as soon as possible, the Inter-Sectoral Experts' Group meeting envisaged in the chapter on Follow-up and Implementation of the Plan of Action.

The General Secretariat presented a progress report on the implementation of the New Plan of Action to the Eleventh COMCEC held in Istanbul in November 1995.

During the deliberations on the subject, the Committee considered the technical and organizational issues related to the holding of an inter-sectoral meeting that would cover all ten areas of the Plan of Action. In this context, the Committee recommended that, instead of holding one inter-sectoral meeting to start the implementation of the Plan of Action, a more practical approach would be to hold more than one meeting to deal either with one area or a number of interrelated areas at a time, on a priority basis. The Committee invited all Member States to host both sectoral and inter-sectoral meetings.

The Eleventh Session of COMCEC further:

Appreciated the offer by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the 2 Sectoral Meetings of the groups of experts respectively in the field of transport and communications, and in food, agricultural and rural development contained in the Plan of Action.

Welcomed the offer by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host a sectorial meeting within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action.

The General Secretariat is in contact with the governments of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan respectively concerning the fixing of the dates of these meetings.

The General Secretariat submitted a progress report on the question to the 23rd ICFM held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, in December 1995. The Conference welcomed the efforts deployed within the framework of the preparation of the new Plan of Action and urged Member States and OIC concerned institutions to spare no effort to guarantee a rapid and effective implementation of the Plan for the good of the Islamic Ummah.

VIII

**DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE TWELFTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

**as recommended
by the Twelfth Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 11-13 May 1996)

Original: English

**DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE TWELFTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 2-5 November 1996)

1. Opening Session.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Report by the OIC General Secretariat
4. Report of the Follow-up Committee.
5. Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States.
6. Report by IDB on the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit.
7. Report by ICCI on the Third Private Sector Meeting Among OIC Member Countries.
8. Report of the Sessional Committee.
9. Draft Statute of the Standards and Metrology Organization for Islamic Countries (SMOIC).
10. Exchange of Views on 'Privatization Experiences of the OIC Member Countries.
11. Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries.
12. Any Other Business.
13. Adoption of the Resolutions of the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC.
14. Date of the Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC.
15. Closing Session.

IX

**CLOSING STATEMENT OF H.E. UFUK SÖYLEMEZ
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
OF THE COMCEC**

**Twelfth Meeting of the
Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 13 May 1996)

Original: Turkish

**CLOSING STATEMENT OF H.E. UFUK SÖYLEMEZ
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 13 May 1996)

Distinguished Members of the Follow-up Committee,
Distinguished Delegates,

We have come to the conclusion of the Twelfth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee sitting for the past three days. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the distinguished members of the Committee for their spirit of cooperation and valuable contributions to the success of this Meeting.

I would also like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the OIC General Secretariat for their interest in and support to our Meeting and to the OIC institutions who have fulfilled the tasks entrusted to them with full dedication and success.

I believe that the recommendations we have agreed upon as the result of our deliberations during the meeting will enhance the effectiveness of the COMCEC activities and will contribute to finalizing the projects and items of its agenda.

Another issue which I would like to underline in this context is the necessity to implement, as early as possible, the new Plan of Action in line with the

principles embodied in the economic cooperation Strategy. Therefore, it is of importance to convene sectoral experts' meetings for project determination. I take this opportunity to thank the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for their offers to host sectoral meetings this year.

We have also reviewed, the preparations for the exchange of views' meetings on "Privatization Experiences of the OIC Member Countries" to be held at the next COMCEC Session. I regard this event as a very useful occasion to share experiences in this area of global interest.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate my thanks to all the participants for their keen interest and active participation. I would also like to express my thanks to all the technical and administrative staff, the interpreters and the translators for their dedicated work.

Hoping to see you again at the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC in November, I wish you a safe journey back home.