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REPORT  
OF  
THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
ON  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIC TEN-YEAR PROGRAMME  
OF ACTION  
SUBMITTED  
TO  
THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE  
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF STANDING COMMITTEE FOR  
ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC  
(COMCEC)

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## **I. INTRODUCTION:**

1. The General Secretariat has continued to follow-up, and coordinate, the various operations of the OIC relevant OIC institutions working in the domain of economic cooperation, in line with the pertinent OIC resolutions, agreements and decisions. This report shall cover the various outcomes of these coordination efforts, including the series of demarches made by the General Secretariat with the competent authorities of the OIC member states as well as international partners towards implementing OIC programmes and projects upon drawing inspiration from the various feedbacks received in this connection.

2. The major activities covered in the Report include the various intercessions made by the Secretary-General with a view to obtaining the relevant concession documents required for the take-off of the TPS-OIC. In the same connection, efforts to ensure that regional economic blocs participate effectively in the OIC trade facilitation mechanism informed the contacts with such regional groups as WAEMU, ECOWAS, IGAD, D-8, among others. In addition to the meeting of regional groups held during the year of this Report, priority attention was also given to the creation of a Single Window modality among OIC member states, in order to fast-track intra-OIC trade through non-tariff and administrative mechanisms.

3. During the year under review, interventions under the relevant trade financing and poverty alleviation funds and programmes were robust, as almost all the targeted funding of development projects has been deployed as appropriate. The Special Programme for the Development of Africa (SPDA) has run its full course with effect from 2012 and a successor programme is being worked out, while the ISFD is also undertaking new projects in the housing sub-sector. Similarly, new research and development implementation framework is being worked out with regard to the OIC Cotton Action Plan, while the re-packaging of the West African regional project on sustainable tourism development has also featured in on-going collaboration with OIC international partners.

4. In the agricultural sector, member states have been deliberating on the policy framework document prepared by COMCEC, while projects bearing on capacity-building for agriculture extension workers are being undertaken with noticeable progress. In addition, activities aimed at enhancing the role of the Private Sector have also witnessed the scheduling of a stakeholders' meeting to work out modalities for the creation of a platform for cooperation among OIC agro-processing ventures, while contacts are being intensified to ensure adequate reactions by the Private Sector to the proposition for establishment of a database for angel capital investors as well as a network of technology and business incubators. This is in addition to the various trade promotion activities of the relevant OIC institutions in this domain.

5. In evaluating the extent of successful implementation of the various projects undertaken, the Report concluded that intervention actions by way of project funding have improved considerably, while capacity-building programmes are also on the increase. There is, however, the need to increase capacity-building for project-design among OIC member states, even as efforts should be intensified to convene investment forums to move most of the projects from the current elaboration phase to the implementation phase.

## **II. COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF TRADE**

6. The implementation of the OIC strategy on promotion of intra-OIC trade has continued to feature prominently in the Organization's scheme of work. In addition to the on-going activities on trade promotion, trade financing and export credit insurances, the OIC institutions in the domain of economic and trade cooperation exerted greater efforts with a view to diversifying their programmes, adopting and promoting new mechanisms and initiatives to further facilitate trade exchanges among the Member States. This includes a renewed focus on proposing programmes and initiatives aimed at removal of non-tariff barriers along with current activities on harmonization of tariff procedures.

7. In addition to the following traditional activities of OIC General Secretariat, ICDT, IDB, ITFC, ICIEC, ICD, and ICCI, the regular coordination and evaluation meeting was held among the OIC institutions on the implementation of various activities in the area of intra-OIC trade promotion. The Fifth Meeting of Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade, was held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco on 27-28 February 2013. Representatives of 10 Member States, OIC institutions working in the domain of economic cooperation and relevant regional and international partners participating at the meeting reviewed the implementation of the Executive Programme of the Road Map for Achieving Intra-OIC Trade Targets. The presentations and discussions were also focused on developing an evaluation and assessment modalities for the Executive Programme and the way forward.

8. The Meeting emphasized on the important role of member states in supporting the implementation of the Executive Programme through their participation in the identified activities of the Programme and recommended to: (i). invite the major intra-OIC trading member states including LDCs to participate in the meetings of the Consultative Group Meetings with a view to contributing to various programs and activities of the Executive Programme; (ii). invite member states to establish a Trade Finance Support Scheme; (iii). foster implementation of Aid for Trade (AfT) initiative; (iv). convene a Conference of the OIC Trade Promotion Organs (TPOs) Network with the main objective of enhancing their role in the implementation of the Executive Programme; and (v). deliberate and create a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Executive Programme.

### ***a) Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPS-OIC)***

9. Efforts aimed at securing Member States execution of the multilateral instruments for the Trade Preferential System of OIC (TPS-OIC) continued to feature prominently in the activities of the Organization. In line with the demarche to exhort Ministers of Member States on finalization of participation process in TPS-OIC, the Secretary General addressed specific letters to Ministers of Bahrain, Cameroon, Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Iran, Kuwait, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, and Nigeria respectively in January 2013.

10. Since 28<sup>th</sup> Session of COMCEC on 8-11 October 2012, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire and Niger signed PRETAS and Rules of Origin of TPS-OIC, while Mauritania and Benin signed the three TPS-OIC Agreements. Similarly, the General Secretariat received instruments of ratification from The Gambia on PRETAS, Djibouti on Framework Agreement, and Iran on TPS-OIC Rules of Origin. The status of signing and ratification of OIC economic agreements as of 31 March 2013 is annexed to this Report.

11. In this context, Member States which are yet to complete the signing and ratification processes of TPS-OIC or forward their lists in line with the relevant provisions of COMCEC resolutions are requested to do so as early as possible. This includes the submission of their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of products (schedules of concessions), sample of certificates and specimen impression of stamps used in their customs and to complete internal and legislative and administrative measures.

12. In line with the foregoing, the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) needs to convene at the earliest convenience in 2013 as soon as the required number of ratifications and lists of concessions is available.

***b) Consultations with Regional Economic Blocs:***

13. In line with on-going preoccupation to harmonise the implementation of the OIC tariff regimes along with those of other regional economic blocs with common membership with OIC, the General Secretariat has established contacts with Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). In this context, the Secretary General addressed a letter of 2 February 2013 to the Secretary General of the ECCAS together with a briefing on TPS-OIC and proposed the creation of a joint mechanism to discuss TPS-OIC along with other relevant economic issues. Similarly, the General Secretariat continued its consultations with West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) in this regard. The Secretary General and the President of WAEMU Commission, during their meeting at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 13 January 2013, emphasized on the importance of accession of WAEMU countries to TPS-OIC, while the President of the Commission of WAEMU underscored the need for conducting an impact assessment of TPS-OIC on the WAEMU countries before they join the system.

*Expert Group Meeting on Inter-regional Economic Cooperation*

14. To step up the collaborative work with the sub-regional trading blocs in advancing the implementation of Executive Programme, the IDB Group organized in its Headquarters, on 25-26 September 2012, the first Expert Group Meeting on Inter-regional Economic Cooperation: Harnessing Inter-regional Trade Potential through Enhanced Cross-regional Cooperation. In addition to relevant OIC institutions, representatives of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), League of Arab States (LAS), Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) attended the meeting.

15. The meeting came up with a number of ideas and recommendations such as: (i). establishing a working group to identify priority sectors and themes for cooperation and sharing information amongst parties; (ii). encouraging and promoting cooperation between regions in

trade in services and facilitating the cross-regional sharing of knowledge and best practices in this area; (iii). facilitating private sector cooperation across regions for the promotion of trade and investment, and support private sector participation in business for a and trade exhibitions; (iv). promoting knowledge sharing and technology transfer between regions to harness inter-regional trade potential; (v). promoting the use of research to tackle joint problems and design effective trade promotion programmes; and (vi). extending the use of tools and mechanisms of trade facilitation such as single windows, electronic data exchange and modernized custom clearance. The meeting requested the IDB and other international and regional financing institutions to give priority to projects that have the potential of enhancing inter-regional trade within the OIC and recommended joint resource mobilization efforts across regions in the area of trade development, especially the regional Aid for Trade (AfT) initiatives.

***c) Single Window Initiative for Enhanced Regional Economic Cooperation***

16. The OIC High Level Forum on Trade Facilitation and Single Window Initiatives for Enhanced Regional Economic Cooperation was jointly organized by the Government of Morocco, ITFC and ICDT in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 25-26 February 2013. Representatives of 25 Member States, relevant international organizations such as United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), League of Arab States (LAS), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Global Coalition for Efficient Logistics (GCEL), International Road Transport Union (IRU), and African Alliance for e-Commerce (AACE) actively participated at the Forum and made presentations on best practices in the area of Single Window modalities. The Forum reviewed the ways and means for implementation of Single Window initiative in the OIC Member States.

17. The Forum agreed to set up a task force within the framework of the Consultative Group for Enhancing intra-OIC trade to study the possibility, and follow up the issue, of the Single Window initiative in OIC Member States and designated the ICDT and the ITFC as the joint focal point within the task force, with the participation of General Secretariat of the OIC and COMCEC, IDB, and relevant international partners such as UNECE and UNCTAD. The task force will elaborate a roadmap and Terms of Reference (ToR) for the implementation of this initiative, The recommendation of the Forum includes the proposal that the implementation of the project could start with those OIC Member States which have signed and ratified the TPS-OIC and setting up of the OIC Single Window on a sub-regional basis, as a first step towards a broad based implementation of the project.

***d) Standards and Metrology:***

18. Since its establishment in August 2010, the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) highly succeeded in completing its infrastructure work and introduced its dynamic web page. The Membership of the Institute rose significantly from 10 in year 2010 to 23 in year 2013. Having adopted the three documents prepared by the OIC Standardization Expert Group (SEG) on Halal Standards, the SMIIC has established seven technical committees under

Standardization Department including a committee on Halal Food Issues. The other committees deal with Halal Cosmetic Issues; Service Site Issues; Renewable Energy; Tourism and Related Services; Agriculture Process; and Transportation. The Institute also established an independent SMIIIC Accreditation Committee.

19. The SMIIIC Forum 2012 was successfully held in Antalya, Republic of Turkey on 6-9 November 2012. The Forum, provided an appropriate platform to bring together national and international players, within and outside the OIC, in the field of Standardization, Accreditation and Metrology, in order to promote cooperation and networking among them , particularly through exchange of experience and knowledge sharing. Over 160 delegates from 35 countries, regional and international organizations including relevant OIC Institutions, International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC),European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) participated in the Forum.

20. Similarly, the 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors and 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meetings of SMIIIC, which was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 15-17 April 2013, approved the scale of assessment and annual mandatory contributions of SMIIIC members to the Budget of SMIIIC.

### **III. AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### ***a) Seventh OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development***

21. The Government of the Republic of Senegal has confirmed 14-16 November 2013 as the dates for holding of the Seventh OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCF SAD) in Dakar, Senegal. To this end, the General Secretariat has notified all member states of the dates and sought their relevant suggestion and comments on the draft agenda of the Conference. The Conference is expected to consider the implementation of the resolutions of the previous Conferences, OIC Cotton Action Plan as well as latest developments with regard to the establishment of an OIC Food Security institution in Kazakhstan and OIC Agro-Industrial Association, among others.

#### ***b) Establishment of an OIC Food Security institution in Kazakhstan***

22. With regard to the establishment of an OIC Food Security institution in Kazakhstan, the 39th Session of the OIC CFM, which was held in Djibouti on 15-17 November 2012 approved the creation of the proposed institution in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan and, to this end, requested the OIC Secretary General to convene in consultation with member states, an Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting (EGM) to finalize its constituent instrument. In a similar vein, the 12th Islamic Summit held in Cairo, Egypt on 2-7 February 2013 endorsed the decision of the 39th Session of the OIC CFM to establish an OIC Food Security institution in Kazakhstan and called for the speedy convening of the above said EGM.

23. Pursuant to these decisions, the General Secretariat is finalizing arrangements in collaboration with the Government of Kazakhstan to convene the said EGM in Astana, Kazakhstan on 11-13 June 2013. The General Secretariat has completed the compilation of the

views of member states on the previous draft, which will serve as a working document for the experts meeting. Both the new draft of the constituent document of the proposed institution and the date of the EGM have been communicated to all member states.

***c) OIC Cotton Action Plan***

24. In line with the resolutions adopted by the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the OIC General Secretariat and its concerned Institutions carried out several activities in the areas of trade promotion, capacity building, promoting the role of Centers of Excellence on Cotton and project financing.

25. Towards the implementation of the OIC Cotton Action Plan (2007-2016), the General Secretariat has addressed a communication to the Centers of Excellence and the relevant OIC institutions, identifying the various actions that should be considered in 2013. These actions include the actualization of the relevant targets of the Plan with regard to the creation of a Cotton Gene Bank, a Databank on cotton for easy access to information and statistics; and the development of an exchange system for cotton marketing.

26. In line with the desire to increase the capacity of the designated Centers of Excellence, the Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute/Development and Textile Fabrics Company (SODEFITEX), Center of Excellence of Senegal, has submitted a project on Capacity Building and Enhancing Production Efficiency on Regional Basis. The project aims at enhancing the productivity of cotton cultivation for about 80,000 smallholdings in Senegal to fight poverty for rural dweller. The total project cost is about Euros 190,150. As previously reported, the General Secretariat forwarded the project to OIC national and international donors and has not received any positive consideration from any of them. It is therefore appropriate here to renew the request for the funding of this project.

27. The Sixth Steering Committee Meeting on the OIC Cotton Action Plan which was held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey, on 3 April 2013, has reviewed the above mentioned plan for 2013 and agreed to organize a meeting in June 2013 with the participation of the Cotton Centers of Excellence and the relevant OIC institutions to discuss the above mentioned priority areas. In addition, the 6th Steering Committee Meeting welcomed the willingness of the IDB Group and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) to provide technical support to the project owners to complete necessary documentation regarding the already approved projects, totaling 27 within the framework of OIC Cotton Action Plan.

28. On its part, the SESRIC has organized, within the framework of its capacity building programmes, five training courses on agronomy and fiber technology of cotton in a number of OIC countries, namely Uganda, Mozambique, Togo and Mali since October 2012.

***d) Establishment of an OIC Agro-Food Industries Association***

29. Further to earlier reports on this project, the General Secretariat has received submissions from member states to the draft Statute of the proposed Association and has resubmitted the latter to member states to guide discussions during the scheduled 1<sup>st</sup> Stakeholders' Meeting of



the proposed Association in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013, on the sidelines of the 6<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Agribusiness in OIC member states, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman on 13-16 May 2013.

30. The Meeting is expected to attract public officials at the level of experts and heads of private companies working in the field of Agro-food industry and food processing in OIC countries as well as OIC partners working in this domain. The main objectives of the Association as espoused in its draft Statute include contribution to increasing OIC member states' export revenue through value-added industrial processes; facilitation of intra-OIC trade in OIC processed food; helping small and medium-sized agro-food producers to penetrate international markets; and building strong linkages with agro-food support institutions such as banks, vocational and research institutions, standardizations agencies, farmers' associations.

*e) Workshop on “Enhancing the Capacity of the Member States in Wheat Production*

31. Pursuant to the resolutions adopted by the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the delegates from 11 OIC countries attended the above-named Workshop, organized by Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey, in collaboration with COMCEC Coordination Office, in Izmir, Turkey, on 15-16 January 2013. The objective of the Workshop was to review the current situation in wheat production and explore possible ways and means to enhance cooperation among the OIC Member States in this area.

32. The Workshop came up with a number of recommendations, which highlighted the importance of enhancing institutional and human capacity in the member states for increasing wheat production and the role of investments in enhancing wheat production through developing sound policies to encourage investments and develop joint investment programs and projects in this area, among others. The General Secretariat has circulated the outcome of the Workshop to all member states and requested them to take due note of its recommendations.

*f) Training of Agricultural Extension Experts*

33. In line with the relevant resolutions on developing technical capacity in agricultural sector, the General Secretariat interceded with the Islamic Development Bank, which provided appropriate funding for the organization of a training workshop for agricultural extension experts in OIC member states. In this regard, SESRIC, in collaboration with Islamic Development Bank, has perfected arrangements to organize the said training programme in OIC member states in Izmir, Turkey on 21-24 May 2013. The main objectives of the training programme are to introduce new techniques and best practices to agricultural extension experts and to identify the needs and capacities as well as to enhance intra-OIC cooperation in the field of agriculture.

#### **IV. COOPERATION IN TRANSPORTATION SECTOR**

*OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project*

34. Within the framework of the consultations between OIC and African Union (AU) on the implementation of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project, IDB participated at the

Validation Workshop on the Final Report of Pre-Feasibility Studies on the Missing Links on the AU/NEPAD Dakar - Djibouti corridor, which was held in Djibouti on 18-19 December 2012. The Workshop noted the completion of the pre-feasibility studies of the above corridor and recognized the need to move quickly to the next implementation stages. It also urged the participating countries to include the missing links in their national development programmes.

35. In view of the fore-going, a Time Table is being worked out with all stakeholders, including IDB, African Union and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to develop the various segments on the rail corridor in the following manner:

- Preparation of bankable projects by October 2013;
- Submission of projects to potential donors by June 2014;
- Organization of Stakeholders' Conference during the second half of 2014.

36. In this regard, participating OIC member states are being sensitized on the need to commence national actions in line with the Time Table.

37. In a related development the General Secretariat has reached an understanding with the United Nations' Office for South-South Cooperation on the extension of necessary technical and consultancy support through its Global Assets and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE) to needy project-owners among OIC member states during the implementation phase of the Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project. This support would be in the form of assistance to OIC member states in packaging their respective projects for their segments along the proposed transport corridor. Such action would facilitate the mobilization of funds from OIC traditional partners.

## **TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT**

### ***a) Regional Project on Sustainable Development of Tourism in a Cross-Border Network of Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa***

38. In an effort to proceed to the implementation phase of the project, the General Secretariat has repeatedly called on participating Member States to submit details on their respective segments of the Project to facilitate mobilization of funds for their implementation. Essentially, Member States were urged to submit the re-packaged projects expeditiously and report on the status of implementation of other recommendations of earlier Donor's Conference, including the following:

- The need for the participating member states to prioritize the project in their development plans and provide for an allocation of internal resources for the launching of activities identified in their national territory;
- The recommendation for the participating member States to build the capacity of National Focal Points (NFPs) in order to implement this project;
- The need for the participating member states to explore ways and means for a greater involvement of the private sector in the management of parks and protected areas.

39. In the light of the recent commitment given by UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) on the possibility of assisting project owners in OIC member states to carry out this re-modeling of the projects, the General Secretariat is reverting to participating member states and the partner UN institution, UNWTO on the way forward for the speedy implementation of the project.

***b) 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum***

40. The General Secretariat participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held in Izmir, Republic of Turkey 7-8 December 2012. The meeting succeeded in addressing the policies, strategies and tools underpinning sustainable and community based tourism in the world and the OIC region. This was achieved through presentation of specialized papers by both UNDP and SESRIC and through presentation of model projects in this field by Member States such as Turkey and Malaysia. Emphasis was also placed on the importance of developing joint tour and marketing programmes among OIC Member States.

41. While the Meeting provided the required platform for public and private sector agencies working in the field of tourism to exchange ideas and experiences, few Member States participated owing to the short notice given by the organizers. In this connection, the General Secretariat has undertaken to compile and share its database on Private Sector establishments among OIC Member States, so as to facilitate more inclusive participation in such activities.

***c) 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Health Tourism in Islamic Countries (CHTIC) – Recast as discussed.***

42. The General Secretariat participated in 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Health-Tourism in Islamic Countries (CHTIC) held in Mashhad, Islamic Republic of Iran- 18-19 December 2012. The meeting was able to highlight the enormous potential of OIC Member States in the field of health tourism and its role in spurring sustainable economic growth among countries.

43. The meeting resolved, among other things, to establish an open-ended expert committee comprising of the OIC Member States to explore possibilities for an OIC Accreditation System - taking into account national accreditation systems- so as to facilitate this important branch of the service sector. It also called upon the insurance companies and authorities to devise means and ways of mutual collaboration in providing joint medical insurance services to boost health tourism among OIC Member States.

***d) The Forthcoming 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of Tourism ministers (ICTM)***

44. Following a communication from the Government of the Sudan that it has stood down its earlier offer to host the 8<sup>th</sup> OIC Conference of Tourism Ministers, the General Secretariat requested member states to volunteer to host the said session. Consequently, the next session of this Conference will be held in Banjul, The Gambia on 3-5 December 2013.

45. The agenda of the session will feature, among others, consideration of the report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> coordination Committee meeting for the implementation of the framework for development and cooperation in the domain of tourism among OIC member states; the mechanism and criteria for the selection of OIC city of tourism and the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the establishment of “the Heritage Centre for Islamic Countries.

## **VI. COOPERATION IN FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL SECTORS**

### ***a) Promotion of social finances***

46. The General Secretariat continues to interface with its institutions and other partners with a view of devising ways and means of mainstreaming the cooperation in the financial sector among Member States. In this connection, the General Secretariat is exploring with the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI) modalities for sharing best practices among OIC member states for promotion of traditional social finance, namely: the institutions of Zakat and Awqaf, thereby making them part of the broader framework of financial sector reforms in OIC member states.

47. Similarly, the intensification of contacts with national stakeholders and institutions for the implementation of this cooperation framework informed recent demarches with King Abdulaziz University Jeddah, an institution that is closely involved in the organization of the past eight International Conferences on Islamic Economics and Finance (ICIEF). The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of ICIEF is scheduled to take place on 9-11 September 2013, in Istanbul, Turkey, under the theme “Growth, Equity and Stability: An Islamic Perspective” of which the latter is a co-organizer with both IDB and SESRIC.

48. In the same connection, the General Secretariat continues to attend and follow-up on the outcome of the OIC Meetings of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States whose sessions for 2013 and 2014 will be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Indonesia respectively. It is giving due visibility to the activities of the OIC Stock-Exchange Forum in its coverage of OIC events; much as it continues to encourage relevant authorities in Member States to partake in the various capacity building programmes organized by SESRIC in this domain.

### ***b) Third Session of the OIC Statistical Commission***

49. The Third Session of the OIC Statistical Commission will be co-organized by SESRIC and IDB in Ankara, Turkey, on 10-12 April 2013. This session will review reports of three Working Groups on 1) list of indicators specific to OIC countries; 2) OIC-Statistical Commission Strategic Vision Document; and 3) Terms of Reference for the Accreditation of Statisticians; and of five Technical Committees Of Experts on 1) Islamic Banking and Finance Statistics; 2) Executive Work Plan (EWP) for the Short, Medium and Long Term Implementation of the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision; 3) Procedural Details of Accreditation Programme for Statistical Professionals in OIC member states; 4) Gender Related Issues; and 5) Population Census Experiences and Practices of OIC member states. It will also discuss the

issues relating to developing a comprehensive system of labour statistics and labour productivity index, as well as building capacity of the relevant institutions in OIC countries.

## **VII. ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR**

50. Efforts to mainstream the Private Sector in the activities of the OIC are evident in the on-going establishment of an OIC Network of Business and Technology Incubation Centres; as well as a database of Business Angel Investors in OIC member states. These mechanisms are aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, particularly among the youthful populations in OIC member states and to thereby address the increasing unemployment problems therein.

51. Other programmes involving the Private Sector is the proposed establishment of an OIC Agro-Food Industries Association, which is aimed at bringing together both Private and Public stakeholders for the promotion of agro-industries, within a value-chain approach to agricultural development and food security. This meeting is scheduled to be held in Muscat, Oman on 13-16 May 2013, as earlier mentioned elsewhere in this Report.

52. As a major representative of the private sector, the programmes of ICCIA are feature prominently in capacity building, entrepreneurship development, value addition, and SMEs. It is also working in collaboration with relevant Institutions in the area of promoting Halal products, as well as related issues of ethics and quality control. The projects of the Islamic Chamber cover diverse sectors, however the ultimate focus of each being, to promote greater economic cooperation among the OIC Countries, through the private sector.

### *Private Sector Meetings*

53. The most recent Private Sector Meeting, organized by Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) was the 14<sup>th</sup> edition held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates on 24-26 April 2011. A major recommendation of this meeting includes the holding of a sensitization event for the OIC Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC) for private sector establishments in Khartoum, Sudan at a yet-to-be-specified date.

### *Islamic Shipowners' Association*

54. In a recent communication, the Organisation of the Islamic Shipowners Association has announced its impending two new initiatives; namely; the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Turkish Shipbuilders' Association (GISBIR), aimed at increasing relations between the Association and OISA; and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Alexandria. These cooperation activities will be of immense benefit to OISA member-companies in the area of marine studies, training and designing of feasibility studies for building different type of vessels.

## **VIII. OIC SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

### ***a) Second Phase of the Special Programme for Development of Africa***

55. By the end of 2012, the implementation of the Special Programme for the Development of Africa has been completed. The level of funds commitment to SPDA by IDB Group reached US\$ 5.01 billion, which is 25% more than initial pledge of IDB Group. In addition, an amount of US\$ 9 billion has been mobilized from other development agencies for projects under the SPDA. The successes achieved in the course of the implementation of the SPDA underscored the need to elaborate a successor programme for OIC countries in Africa (SPDA-2) in 2013, so as to sustain the progress recorded by these countries in the various domains.

### ***b) The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD)***

56. The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) has hitherto made targeted interventions with a view to fostering sustainable economic growth and job creation, reducing illiteracy, and eradicating contagious diseases and epidemics, such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in the OIC Member States. The Fund is currently developing its second Strategy (2013-2015) in line with the current overarching themes in the OIC member states of poverty alleviation and special programs such as youth employment.

57. The ISFD has so far extended financing to the tune of US\$ 1.64 billion for various 43 projects in different sectors in 28 OIC Member States since its inception. As of 15 January 2013, the level of announced capital contributions to the ISFD stands at US\$ 2.68 billion, announced by 44 member countries (US\$ 1.68 billion) and the IDB (US\$ 1.0 billion). The total amount of received contributions so far is US\$ 1.75 billion, which constitutes only 17.5% of the approved target capital of the ISFD of US\$ 10.0 billion.

58. Within the framework of the housing component of its poverty alleviation programme, the ISFD has continued to develop its Sustainable Villages programme in collaboration with the Earth Institute of Columbia University, the MDG Center in Nairobi, Arab Bank for Development in Africa (BADEA), Qatar Red Crescent and other partners. On its part, the General Secretariat maintains a working collaboration with the Abdul Lateef Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) for the implementation of the various OIC programmes and projects in the areas of poverty eradication and social services, with the aim of identifying areas of possible technical exchanges with OIC member states in due course.

59. In the same vein, the ISFD is currently working on three new programmes, namely Basic Education for the Poor (BEP), Renewable Energy for the Poor (REP), and Social Business Initiative. The concepts for these programmes are currently under development. The Fund is also setting-up specific poverty-related Trust Funds under the umbrella of the ISFD. These funds are aimed at financing the provision of basic services to the poor, such as primary education, primary health care, microfinance, agriculture and rural development, energy for the poor, emergency relief, and institutional capacity building.

## **IX. COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

60. Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Ten Year Programme of Action on the imperative of closer collaboration with sub-regional organisations for coordinated implementation of OIC projects and programmes, the General Secretariat has intensified its interface with sub-regional organisations in the following manner:

### ***a) Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)***

61. Further to an MoU signed between OIC and IGAD during the 39<sup>th</sup> CFM in Djibouti, the General Secretariat attended the First Meeting of General Assembly of Regional Platform on Drought Resilience and Sustainability in Horn of Africa, which was organized by IGAD in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, on 23-24 February 2013. This event provided a good platform to apprise the IGAD member countries, development partners such as FAO, WFP, UNEP, UNDP, USAID, KfW, AfDB, IFRC and other stakeholders on the on-going OIC programmes and projects in the area of agriculture and food security.

62. The potential areas of cooperation between OIC and IGAD, which are being identified, include addressing food insecurity, strengthening agricultural research and extension, and combating desertification in common member states.

### ***b) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)***

63. The General Secretariat attended the 42<sup>nd</sup> Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, which took place in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire on 27-28 February 2013. The event provided a good opportunity for both sides to identify areas of cooperation and to expedite the conclusion of proposed MOU between the two institutions. The MOU aimed at increasing contacts among two organizations on joint priority projects such as trade (TPS-OIC), tourism, agriculture, rural development and food security, infrastructure development and finance and monetary policies. ECOWAS is to serve as a strategic partner for the implementation of the OIC West African regional project on tourism.

### ***c) NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency***

64. The General Secretariat has recently intensified its interaction with NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency on the implementation of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project. NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency is also involved in elaborating of a Time Table for the execution of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project. Another identified area of cooperation includes development of agriculture and enhancing food security in common member states, particularly.

## **X. ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### *Intra-OIC Trade:*

65. It is now obvious that the existing sub-regional economic blocs are unable to participate in the TPS-OIC due to the constraints arising from their previous commitments. In this regard, urgent measures must be taken to engage these countries more constructively. Already, WAEMU's request for an impact assessment of accession to TPS-OIC should be conducted with adequate emphasis on the benefits that TPS-OIC will provide to WAEMU Member States. The foregoing observation also applies to our cooperation of this issue with such regional economic blocs as ECO, ECOWAS, ECCAS, ASEAN, COMESA, etc.

66. Given these constraints, it is advisable that OIC concentrates on consolidating non-tariff measures, while still grappling with encouraging more members to the TPS tariff concessions framework. Hitherto, the support of Member States is needed for new initiatives and projects such as Aide for Trade, Single Windows modality, electronic data exchange; and modernized custom clearance.

67. There is the need to continue on-going high level consultation with Member States on accession to TPS-OIC including regional economic blocs, especially during Secretary General audiences with senior policy-makers. .

68. While commending the enormous interventions made in the area of trade financing by ITFC, ICD and ICIEC, it is apparent that Member States, Private Sector establishments and Community Based Organizations would need to be better informed on the series of projects and activities financed by these institutions. In this regard, an illustrative catalogue of past and on-going projects of these OIC institutions should be widely published and distributed among OIC Member States and relevant user institutions.

### *OIC Cotton Action Plan:*

69. All efforts aimed at increasing the involvement of the various Centres of Excellence in the R&D component of the OIC Action Plan on Cotton have hitherto not been significantly successful. The project, which was submitted by Senegal has the potential of increasing the relevance of these Centres in the entire cotton development process. Member States and their funding agencies, including the OIC institutions are hereby enjoined to consider funding such projects on research and development in support of the OIC Cotton Action Plan.

70. The creation of gene bank, and the establishment of a functional network among research institutions under the aegis of the Centres of Excellence should be addressed without further delay.

### *OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project:*

71. The positive development on the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project as evident in the conclusion of the pre-feasibility studies and the declared technical support given by the United



Nations South-South Cooperation (UNSSC) should be invested upon in our attempt to speed-up the implementation of this project.

72. Participating Member States are hereby implored to react to the message of the General Secretariat on the need to submit the relevant documents on their national segments on the railway line for further action as preparations are about for the eventual convening of a donor conference on this project.

*Tourism Sector Development:*

73. In spite of repeated reminders, participating Member States in the Regional Project on Sustainable Development of Tourism in a Cross-Border Network of Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa have not reacted positively to the request to redesign their respective projects, in such a manner as to make them bankable.

74. The offer by the United Nations South-South Cooperation (UNSSC) to assist participating Member States of the Regional Project on Sustainable Development of Tourism in a Cross-Border Network of Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa in re-package their respective national segments need to be seriously considered in order to facilitate the mobilization of the requisite funds for the implementation of the Project.

75. Participating Member States are invited to use this window in repackaging their project in order to enhance prospects of financing by regional and international donors.

*Role of Private Sector:*

76. The need to follow-up the relevant resolutions on manpower exchange and technical cooperation informed the communication by the General Secretariat on the creation of a Network of Business and Technology Incubator and Database on Angel Investors and Venture Capital Organizations. Hitherto, the responses from Member States and relevant agencies have been very modest.

77. In order to facilitate the immediate take-off of this project, Member States are hereby requested to submit their returns to the General Secretariat without further delay.

*Regional Development Programmes:*

78. In the interim, while successor programme of SPDA is being elaborated, it will not be out of place to consider the rolling over the existing programme for another year or two, so that the momentum as well as laudable achievements realized under the SPDA could be sustained. It should be emphasized that the human capital development thrust of the SPDA should be expanded to embrace regional interventions in the form of cross-border projects.

79. The Abdul Lateef Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) has expressed its readiness to collaborate with OIC to provide an evidence-based follow-up of poverty alleviation projects.

This will no doubt be beneficial to the OIC as we seek to optimize the cost benefit trade-off for our various poverty alleviation projects under the ISFD.

80. ISFD should be encourage to develop working relationship and partnership with J-PAL for proper institutional synergy for the implementation of its programme and projects, similar to an existing collaboration with Earth Institute of Columbia University.

**The General Secretariat  
Organization of Islamic Cooperation  
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
10 April 2013**

**MEMBER STATES THAT SIGNED /RATIFIED THE TPS-OIC AGREEMENTS (As of 10 April 2013)**

No.	Member States	Framework Agreement		PRETAS		TPS-OIC Rules of Origin		Submission of the Documents
		Signed	Ratified	Signed	Ratified	Signed	Ratified	
1	Bahrain	√	√	√	√	---	---	√
2	Bangladesh	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
3	Burkina Faso	√	---	√	---	√	---	
4	Benin	√	---	√	---	√	---	
5	Cameroon	√	√	√	---	√	---	
6	Chad	√	---	---	---	---	---	
7	Comoros	√	---	√	---	√	---	
8	Cot d'Ivoire	√	---	√	---	√	---	
9	Djibouti	√	√	√	---	√	---	
10	Egypt	√	√	√	---	---	---	
11	Gabon	√	√	---	---	---	---	
12	Gambia	√	√	√	√	√	√	
13	Guinea	√	√	√	---	√	---	
14	Guinea-Bissau	√	---	√	---	√	---	
15	Indonesia	√	√	√	---	√	---	
16	Iran	√	√	√	√	√	√	
17	Iraq	√	√	---	---	---	---	
18	Jordan	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
19	Kuwait	√	---	√	---	√	---	√
20	Lebanon	√	√	---	---	---	---	
21	Libya	√	√	---	---	---	---	
22	Malaysia	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
23	Maldives	√	√	---	---	---	---	
24	Mauritania	√	---	√	---	√	---	
25	Morocco	√	√	√	---	√	---	
26	Niger	---	---	√	---	√	---	
27	Nigeria	√	---	√	---	√	---	
28	Oman	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
29	Pakistan	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
30	Palestine	√	√	√	√	√	√	
31	Qatar	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
32	Saudi Arabia	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
33	Senegal	√	√	---	---	---	---	
34	Sierra Leone	√	---	√	---	√	---	
35	Somalia	√	√	√	√	√	√	
36	Sudan	√	---	√	---	√	---	
37	Syria	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
38	Tunisia	√	√	√	---	√	---	
39	Turkey	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
40	UAE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
41	Uganda	√	√	---	---	---	---	
		<b>40</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>