

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 27<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF  
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE  
(Istanbul, 22 November 2015)**

1. The 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on November 22<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Istanbul, on the sidelines of the 31<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Session of the COMCEC.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mehmet Metin EKER, Director General at the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), the following OIC Institutions attended the Meeting:

- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
- Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
- Organization of Shipowners Association of the OIC (OISA)
- Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)

3. The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items:

- Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy
  - The List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Aligned with the COMCEC Strategy
  - COMCEC Working Groups Policy Recommendations
- Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions
  - Raising Awareness of the OIC Institutions' Activities
  - Enhancing Cooperation with other Regional and International Organizations
- Any Other Business

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

4. Highlighting the significance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the realization of the COMCEC Strategy, the Committee reviewed the lists of activities of

the relevant OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy for the periods of 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation.

5. With a view to better reflect the activities of the OIC Institutions in line with COMCEC Strategy, the Committee suggested revisions on the format of the List of Activities in a way to exhibit not only quantitative but qualitative aspects as well. In this respect, the Committee asked the CCO to prepare a criterion, which may include items such as pertinency to mandates, compatibility to the COMCEC Policy Recommendations etc., with contributions of the OIC Institutions and to submit it to the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee.

*(The list of activities organized and to be organized by the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy between 2014 and 2016 is attached as Annex 1.)*

6. The Committee noting that COMCEC Working Group Policy Recommendations welcomed by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions are prepared in light of the Analytical Studies, Questionnaires and detailed discussions during the Working Group Meetings and therefore reflect the real needs of the Member Countries in the specific field of discussion. The Committee also emphasized that these recommendations could be an additional input for the OIC Institutions in planning their future activities and training programs. The Committee also underlined the potential benefits of designing multi-year programs.

7. The Committee took note of the proposal regarding enhancing the impact of the OIC Institutions' training activities through innovative ideas such as audio/visual recording of selected training programs and their publication in the websites of the Institutions and other common media & internet channels. Practical training materials, manuals, audio visual material etc. that can be used by end users and the trainers in their future training activities can also be prepared.

### **Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions**

8. Regarding the first sub-item, "Raising Awareness of the OIC Institutions' Activities", the Committee was informed by the representatives of ICCIA and IDB about the joint proposal/guideline study namely "Strategy for Raising the awareness of the OIC Institutions and their Activities in the OIC Member Countries". The Committee commended both Institutions' efforts and requested OIC Institutions to provide views, suggestions and proposals to ICCIA and IDB within a month to be included in the guideline. The Committee also discussed the possible benefits of

utilizing outsourcing for marketing related work (including branding and promotion) in future stages.

9. Regarding the second sub-item, “Enhancing Cooperation with other Regional and International Organizations”, the Committee welcomed the information provided by the OIC General Secretariat that the “contributions of the OIC to the implementation of the SDGs” will be one of the agenda items of the future OIC-UN Coordination Meetings.

10. Regarding incorporation of the OIC Member Countries as a group in the statistical databases of the relevant international organizations, the Committee was informed by representative of the SESRIC that the issue was deliberated during the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC Statistical Commission held in 12-14 May 2015 in Ankara. The Committee was also informed by the representative of SESRIC that the OIC Statistical Commission emphasized establishment of an OIC database under SESRIC and accordingly a project to that end has been initiated.

***Any Other Business***

11. The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

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