

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 26<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF  
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE**

**(Ankara, 12 May 2015)**

1. The 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Ankara, on the sidelines of the 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.
  
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Selçuk KOÇ, Director 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)
  - 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
  
  - Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions
    - Conducting Joint Activities
    - 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 2015 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation.

5. The Committee noted that the activities have mainly been concentrated on a limited number of cooperation areas and certain type of activities and invited the relevant OIC Institutions to give due importance to the research-type activities in their future efforts.

6. The Committee elaborated on the possibility of re-structuring the format of the List of Activities and requested the relevant OIC Institutions to convey their list of completed and planned activities aligned with the COMCEC Strategy to the CCO by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the latest.

*(The list of activities organized and to be organized by the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy in 2015 is attached as Annex 1.)*

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

7. Regarding the first sub-item, namely Conducting Joint Activities, the Committee was informed by the IDB Group representative of the preparations for the model project on joint activities including all the relevant OIC Institutions working in the field of economic and commercial cooperation. The Committee requested the IDB Group to finalize its work and share it with the relevant OIC Institutions two months before the next the Sessional Committee Meeting.

8. Highlighting the importance of joint activities organized by the OIC Institutions, the Committee discussed the challenges (i.e. limited financial resources, overlapping activities and logistical issues, etc.) faced by the OIC Institutions in conducting joint activities. In this respect, the Committee noted that the OIC Institutions' existing facilities (conference halls etc.) may be utilized in conducting joint activities.

9. Regarding the second sub-item, “Raising Awareness of the OIC Institutions’ Activities”, the Committee was informed by the ICCIA representative about the preparations for the guideline for increasing the awareness of the Member Countries and the private sector on their activities. It was noted that based on the preliminary findings of the survey conducted by the ICCIA, the level of awareness regarding the OIC in general and the OIC Institutions in particular is limited among the private sector of the Member Countries. The Committee asked the ICCIA to finalize the above-mentioned guideline and share it with the relevant OIC Institutions at least two months before the next Sessional Committee Meeting to get their views and comments.

10. The Committee stressed the need for coordinated efforts for long term and sustained visibility of OIC Institutions and elaborated on how to enhance awareness on the OIC Institutions’ programs/projects/activities. It was noted that preparation of high quality promotional materials (brochures, visuals, documentary, etc.), updating the web-sites of the OIC Institutions, displaying promotional materials and publications of the OIC Institutions, organizing press conferences might be important measures in this regard.

11. Regarding the third sub-item, “Enhancing Cooperation with other Regional and International Organizations”, the Committee noted that the contributions of the OIC to the implementation of the SDGs may be one of the agenda items of the OIC-UN Coordination Meetings.

12. Regarding the 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 is on the agenda of the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC Statistical Commission to be held in 12-14 May 2015 in Ankara. It was noted that SESRIC, as the Secretariat of the Statistical Commission, would follow this issue and report the outcomes to the next Sessional Committee Meeting.

### ***Any Other Business***

13. The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.