

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 28th MEETING OF
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(Ankara, 16 May 2016)**

1. The 28th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on May 16th, 2016 in Ankara, on the sidelines of the 32nd Follow-Up Committee Meeting 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)
 - Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
3. The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items for discussion:
 - 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
 - Developing Multi-Year Technical Capacity Building Programs
 - Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the SDGs in OIC Member States
 - Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025
 - Any Other Business

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

4. Emphasizing 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 period December 2015-

November 2016 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation. The Committee was also briefed by the relevant OIC Institutions on their planned activities.

5. The Committee reviewed the Sample List of Activities Format which was prepared by the CCO in line with the request of the 27th Sessional Committee Meeting. After deliberations, the Committee asked the CCO to simplify the sample format to render it more user friendly and circulate it among the OIC Institutions within one month for their final views and observations.

(The list of activities of the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy between December 2015 and November 2016 is attached as Annex 1.)

6. The Committee underlined that the COMCEC Working Group Policy Recommendations can be of benefit to the OIC Institutions in planning their future cooperation activities and programs. While discussing possible means and ways of the OIC Institutions' possible contributions to the implementation of the Policy Recommendations by the Member Countries, the Committee took note that each policy recommendation could be supported by the Institutions through training projects, conducting studies and surveys and building expertise in the Member Countries, to be financed either by the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism or institutions' own financing facilities.

Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions

7. Regarding the first sub-item, "Raising Awareness of the OIC Institutions' Activities", the Committee commended the ICCIA and IDB for presenting and circulating the final version of the study titled "Strategy for Raising the Awareness of the OIC Institutions and their Activities in the OIC Member Countries" prior to the 28th Sessional Committee Meeting. Furthermore, the Committee took note of the SESRIC's proposals particularly on sharing OIC Institutions' publications on their websites reciprocally and the active utilization of online training databases like Training Opportunities/TROP database of SESRIC.

8. Stressing the critical importance of raising awareness efforts, the Committee agreed that the Study prepared by the ICCIA and IDB as well as OIC Information Bulletin prepared by the OIC General Secretariat, could be published on the OIC Institutions' websites through using alternative methods such as sharing banners/links or creating frames embedded to OIC website for raising awareness and enhancing cooperation and coordination among the OIC Institutions. The Committee, in view of the possible benefits of using mass media and audio/visual materials, underlined the importance of airing videos of the selected training programs on the popular video sharing platforms for enhancing their impact and the number of beneficiaries.

9. Regarding the second sub-item “Enhancing Cooperation with other Regional and International Organizations”, the Committee welcomed that the contribution of the OIC Institutions and the Standing Committees to the implementation of the SDGs has become an agenda item of OIC- UN Coordination Meetings and this issue was extensively discussed during the recent coordination meeting.

10. Regarding the project on the establishment/updating of the OIC Countries’ statistical database initiated by the SESRIC, the Committee was informed by representative of the SESRIC that relevant work is being conducted in line with the decisions of the OIC Statistical Commission, and accordingly the SESRIC aims to revamp its database till the end of 2016.

11. With respect to the final sub-item "Developing Multi-Year Technical Capacity Building Programs”, taking note of the implementation of the Technical Assistance and Capacity Development projects/activities of OIC institutions under their relevant programs (such as IDB Group’s Reverse Linkages initiatives and Regional Cooperation Programs and SESRIC’s programs), the Committee underlined that flagship programs on important themes such as trade facilitation may be developed and mobilization of necessary resources for such multi-year programs is critically important for the success of any endeavor in this regard. The Committee asked the IDB Group to present key characteristics of a sample multi-year capacity building program based on their experiences and best practices, which may be utilized in the future initiatives.

Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the SDGs in OIC Member States

12. The Committee was briefed by the representative of SESRIC on their recent work on identifying the priority SDG areas and undertaking capacity needs assessment for the Member States which was requested by 31st COMCEC Session. The Committee also took note of the IDB Group’s activities on this topic including mobilization of Islamic social capital.

Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025

13. Regarding the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, the Committee was informed by the OIC General Secretariat that a draft implementation plan will be prepared in consultation with the OIC Institutions and with the Standing Committees’ inputs and views, and will be circulated among the relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, the Committee emphasized the importance of follow-up and monitoring mechanisms for successful implementation of the new Programme of Action.

Any Other Business

14. The Committee Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.
