



COMCEC

**REPORT
THIRTY SECOND MEETING
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
OF THE COMCEC**



**Ankara, 17-18 May 2016
COMCEC Coordination Office
Ankara, May 2016**



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COMCEC
Standing Committee for Economic and
Commercial Cooperation of the Organization
of the Islamic Cooperation

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OF THE COMCEC

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COMCEC Coordination Office
Ankara, May 2016

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R E P O R T

**THIRTY SECOND MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC COOPERATION**

(Ankara, 17-18 May 2016)

REPORT
THIRTY SECOND MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC COOPERATION
(Ankara, 17-18 May 2016)

1. The Thirty Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 17-18 May 2016 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

2. Representatives of the following Member States of the Committee attended the Meeting:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1- Republic of Turkey | : (Chairman, Permanent), |
| 2- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia | : (Vice Chairman, Permanent Member), |
| 3- State of Palestine | : (Vice Chairman, Permanent Member), |
| 4- State of Kuwait | : (Vice Chairman, Representing the Arab Region), |
| 5- Republic of Indonesia | : (Vice Chairman, Representing the Asian Region), |
| 6- Republic of Niger | : (Vice Chairman, Representing the African Region), |
| 7- Islamic Republic of Pakistan | : (Rapporteur), |
| 8- State of Qatar | : (Member of the Previous Bureau), |
| 9- Republic of Kazakhstan | : (Member of the Previous Bureau), |
| 10- Republic of Gabon | : (Guest). |

3. In addition, Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, 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 the Islamic Ship-owners Association (OISA) and the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC) attended the Meeting.

(The list of participants is attached as Annex I.)

Agenda Item 1: Opening Session

4. Following the recitation from the Holy Qur'an, H.E. Yusuf COŞKUN Deputy Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey, inaugurated the Meeting.

5. H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, has sent a message to the Meeting. His message was read out by Ambassador Ahmet YILDIZ, Chief Advisor to the President. In his message, H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN drew the attention of the committee to the successful organization of the 13th Islamic Summit in İstanbul on 14-15 April 2016. President ERDOĞAN also underlined the adoption of the OIC 2025, the OIC's programme of action for the next decade, as an important outcome of the Summit.

6. President ERDOĞAN then touched upon the recent outcomes of the working group meetings and project funding mechanism, two instruments of the Strategy that enable deepening joint actions in cooperation fields. HE the President also invited the member states to benefit more from these instruments.

7. In his message, President ERDOĞAN also underlined the growing importance of Islamic Finance and expressed his hope that the selection of the Exchange of Views theme of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC will contribute to the ongoing efforts in the Member States in this field.

8. President ERDOĞAN concluded his message by wishing success to the participants of the 32nd Follow-up Committee Meeting.

(A copy of the text of the Message of H.E. President Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN is attached as Annex II.)

9. Following the message of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, H.E. Yusuf COŞKUN addressed the meeting.

10. H.E. COŞKUN underlined that the global economy has not been able to fully recover from the damaging effects of 2008 crisis. However some promising positive developments were also observed in economic and financial markets in recent months.

With respect to trade of the OIC Member Countries, while commending the Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions for their active contributions in the increase of intra-OIC trade in last decade, H.E. COŞKUN stated that there is still a great room for growth in the intra-OIC trade figures. He expressed that among others various measures such as enhancing production base, diversifying economies and exports, fostering innovation and value addition and improving human capital and institutional efficiency are key to realize the potential of the OIC Member Countries.

11. Regarding the OIC-2025, H.E. COŞKUN underlined that COMCEC will be the most suitable platform for the follow-up of the implementation of the new Ten-Year Programme of Action's economic sections.

12. H.E. COŞKUN emphasized that Islamic Finance has become a popular topic in global international finance agenda in recent years. H.E. COŞKUN expressed that designation of "Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries" as the theme of exchange of views session of the next COMCEC Ministerial Meeting is highly pertinent.

13. H.E. COŞKUN concluded his remarks by wishing that the deliberations during the 32nd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC contribute to peace, prosperity and welfare of the Islamic Ummah.

(The text of the Statement of H.E. Yusuf COŞKUN is attached as Annex III.)

14. The message of H.E. Iyad Ameen MADANI, Secretary General of the OIC, was read out by Mr. Gholamhossein Darzi, Director of the Economic Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat. In his message, H.E. MADANI recalled the adoption of OIC-2025 Programme of Action by 13th Islamic Summit and emphasized on the need for re-doubling efforts to sustain the momentum and attaining far-reaching targets set by the Programme including 25% of intra-OIC trade through vigorous implementation of the various initiatives and multilateral instruments already agreed by OIC meeting.

(A copy of the text of the message of H.E. Iyad Ameen MADANI is attached as Annex IV.)

15. The Meeting was addressed by the Heads of Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait. They expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Government and the President of the Republic of Turkey for the warm welcome accorded and the excellent arrangements made at the Meeting.

They also commended the COMCEC Coordination Office for the intensive efforts contributing to the economic and commercial cooperation through working groups and project funding mechanism.

16. The Committee underlined the importance of exchanging experience and expertise among the Member States in cooperation areas.

Sideline Event

17. The 28th Meeting of the Sessional Committee was held on May 16th, 2016.

(Report of the 28th Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex V.)

Working Sessions

18. The working sessions of the Meeting were chaired by HE Ambasssador Salih Mutlu ŞEN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC.

19. The agenda of the Meeting was adopted by the Committee.

(A copy of the Agenda is attached as Annex VI.)

Agenda Item 2: The COMCEC Strategy and its Implementation

20. The Committee **welcomed** the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy, and **commended** the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. The Committee also **requested** the Member States and OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

21. The Committee **welcomed** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

22. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their fields of competence and **welcomed** the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in February and March 2016.

23. The Committee **invited** all the Member Countries to exert efforts, to the extent possible, to implement the policy recommendations and **urged** relevant OIC Institutions to support the Member States in this regard.

24. The Committee **called on** the COMCEC National Focal Points and working group focal points to work more closely with the COMCEC Coordination Office for effective coordination and communication.

25. The Committee **welcomed** the finalization of fourteen projects funded under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2015 and also **welcomed** the launching of ten new projects for implementation in 2016.

26. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, and SMIIC for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

27. The Committee **encouraged** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Working Groups to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the relevant Working Groups and benefit from the COMCEC Project Funding for realizing their cooperation projects.

28. Noting with appreciation that the number of Member Countries having registered to at least one working group has reached 49, the Committee **requested** the Member States which have not done so, to register to the COMCEC Working Groups and actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the Working Groups.

29. The Committee **welcomed** that the COMCEC Coordination Office will organize the Fourth Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points on 1-2 June 2016 in Ankara, Turkey and **called upon** the Working Group focal points and national focal points to actively participate in the meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Implementation of the OIC Ten Year Program of Action (TYPOA)

30. The Committee **welcomed** the adoption of OIC-2025: Programme of Action by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2015.

31. The Committee **took note of** the report presented by the OIC General Secretariat on the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the 10 Year-Programme of Action, as well as the report on the adoption and inception of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action.

32. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 30th and 31st Sessions of COMCEC, the Committee **underlined** the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action by the COMCEC.

33. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, the Committee **requested** the Member States to sign and ratify the agreements in the economic domain for furthering economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.

Agenda Item 4: Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade

34. The Committee **welcomed** the convening of the Seventh Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on February 12th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Strengthening the Compliance of OIC Member Countries to International Standards” and **welcomed** its following policy recommendations:

- Developing/Strengthening a National Quality Infrastructure.
- Supporting the Member States’ Efforts for their Active Participation in the work of International Standardization Bodies.
- Strengthening SMIIC for the Adoption of Harmonized Standards for the Development of Quality Infrastructure in the OIC for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade.

(The Policy recommendations document is attached as Annex VII.)

35. The Committee also **welcomed** the activities organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in the area of trade aligned with the COMCEC Strategy since the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

36. The Committee **called upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to actively participate in the 8th Meeting to be organized on October 6th, 2016 with the theme of “Improving the Border Agency Cooperation among the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade”. The

Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Trade Working Group.

37. The Committee **requested** the Member States concerned to actively participate in the trade activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC and **called upon** these institutions to send invitations to the Member States sufficiently in advance of their meetings so as to ensure their participation.

i) TPS-OIC

38. The Committee **welcomed** the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, and Islamic Republic of Iran.

39. The Committee **invited** the GCC Secretariat, on behalf of its six member states, and Morocco to convey their updated concession lists at their earliest convenience to the TNC Secretariat with a view to early realization of market access opportunities to be brought by the TPS-OIC.

40. The Committee **welcomed** the notification made by Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Morocco and Turkey to the TNC Secretariat on their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin.

41. The Committee **requested** the Member States concerned to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience.

42. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the ICDT for organizing the following sensitizing events towards increasing awareness on the benefits of TPS-OIC among the government officials and the private sector in the Member States;

- Training Seminar on (TPS-OIC) and its Protocols for the benefit of the African Countries, organized in collaboration with the IDB and held in Casablanca, Morocco on 28-30 March 2016;
- Training Seminar on “Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPS-OIC) and its Protocols for the benefit of the State of Palestine and Jordan” held in Amman, Jordan on 4-5 April 2016.

43. The Committee **requested** the ICDT, COMCEC Coordination Office, and other relevant OIC Institutions to continue organizing awareness raising and capacity building activities with regard to TPS-OIC.

ii) Islamic Trade Fairs

44. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts of the ICDT towards enhancing the quality and quantity of Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions.

45. The Committee **expressed** its thanks and appreciation to the following Member States for hosting Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT:

- The 4th “Halal Food Exhibition of the OIC Member States” held on 8th – 10th December 2015 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates;
- The 2nd “OIC Tourism and Travel Fair: Promoting family tourism”, held on 8th - 10th December 2015 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates;
- The 1st “African Halal Business Forum” under the theme "towards revitalization of trade with the Gulf countries and Asia" held on 3rd- 5th March 2016, in Dakar, Republic of Senegal;
- The 3rd “Health Expo of the OIC Member States” held on 24th – 27th March 2016 in Casablanca, Morocco;
- The 3rd Exhibition on "Higher Education Services in the OIC Member States" held on 9th – 12th May 2016 in Dakar, Republic of Senegal;

46. The Committee **requested** all the Member Countries to actively participate in the 15th Islamic Fair, to be held on 22-26 May 2016, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

47. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Iraq and the Republic of Guinea to host the 16th and the 17th editions of the Trade Fair of the Islamic Countries in 2017 and 2019 respectively.

48. The Committee **reiterated** its request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

49. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 18th session of the COMCEC on Regulations of the Trade Fairs of the Islamic Countries, the Committee **took note of** the proposal for amending the Article 2 of the said Regulations and **requested**

the referral of the proposal for the consideration of the 32nd Session of COMCEC. The Committee **also requested** the ICDT to circulate an explanatory note to the Member States in advance of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC to enable them to have background information.

(The proposed amendment for Article two of the Regulations of the Trade Fairs of the Islamic Countries is attached as Annex VIII.)

50. The Committee **requested** ICDT to submit regular progress reports on trade and tourism fairs of the OIC Member States and other specialized exhibitions to COMCEC Sessions.

iii) WTO Related Technical Assistance

51. The Committee **noted with satisfaction** the organization of “Ministerial Consultative Meeting of OIC Trade Ministers” held on 14 December 2015 on the sidelines of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

52. The Committee **expressed** its thanks and appreciation to the IDB Group and ICDT for organizing WTO- related training courses and seminars for the benefit of the Member States.

53. The Committee **called on** IDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and to enhance their efforts in sensitizing the Member States to the impact of WTO trade negotiations on their economies and **requested** IDB and ICDT to synergize and coordinate their efforts to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on an equitable and fair basis.

54. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of ICDT, in collaboration with IDB, to organize the training seminar on the “Implications of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement: Post-Nairobi and OIC Single Window Facility” to be held on May 30-June 1, 2016 in Casablanca, Morocco.

iv) Trade Financing Activities

55. The Committee **commended** the efforts of ITFC in financing SMEs and Least Development Member Countries and took note of its efforts to diversify its portfolio and extend more financing for agriculture sector that has direct and prominent impact on improving productivity, job creation, increasing export revenues and alleviating poverty.

56. The Committee **took note of** the trade promotion and capacity development initiatives being implemented by ITFC under its various flagship programs including Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS), Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program and Trade Knowledge Program.

57. The Committee **welcomed** the official launch of the Special Program for Central Asia (SPCA), with its trade financing component, during the 41st Annual Meeting of the IDB Group Board of Governors and **took note of** the preparatory efforts being undertaken by IDB Group (ITFC) for its effective implementation.

v) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

58. The Committee **welcomed** the increasing visibility of the SMIIC and **expressed** its appreciation to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence.

59. The Committee **also welcomed** the launch of SMIIC Accreditation Committee's accreditation operations.

60. The Committee **welcomed** the establishment of the Technical Committee on Halal Supply Chain.

61. The Committee **took note** with appreciation of the organization of SMIIC Halal Conference on 14-15 December 2015 in Malaysia jointly by the SMIIC General Secretariat and Department of Standards Malaysia.

62. The Committee **welcomed** the establishment of the SMIIC Committee on Standards for Conformity Assessment (SMIIC/CCA) for the development and maintenance of OIC/SMIIC Standards on conformity assessment in the 11th meeting of the SMIIC Board of Directors held on 30 November 2015 in Turkey, and **also welcomed** the organization of its 1st Meeting held on 23-24 March 2016.

63. The Committee **took note** of the following capacity building activities organized by SMIIC:

- Training programs on Scientific Metrology on 22-26 February 2016 in Turkey in coordination with SMIIC Metrology Committee Chair, SMIIC General Secretariat and SESRIC,
- SMIIC Information System Training on 19-21 April 2016 in Turkey.

Agenda Item 5: Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation

64. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 9th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries to be held on 25 May 2016 in Riyadh, along with the 15th Islamic Trade Fair.

65. The Committee **took note** of the following activities to be organized by the ICCIA in 2016 and **called upon** the private sector of the Member States to actively participate in such activities:

- Food Trade Exchange Forum among the Islamic Countries,
- Workshop on Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries to be held on 23-25 August, 2016 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey,
- Annual Halal Conference,
- Excellence Award,
- Specialized Workshop on (Food Security/Entrepreneurship Development and IT/Development of SMEs),
- Forum/Workshop for Private Sector Investors in the area of Development of Islamic Tourism.

66. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 31st Session of the COMCEC, The Committee **took note** of the report of the ICCIA assessing its organization, functions and activities with a view to better serving private sector according to its original mandate and objectives, and **requested** the ICCIA to continue its work for submitting an updated report to the 32nd Session of the COMCEC.

67. The Committee **called upon** the Chambers of the Member States to support and actively participate in ICCIA's work on the assessment of its functions and activities, and **encouraged** their Chambers of Commerce to involve actively in the ICCIA's activities.

68. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Second Workshop on "Enhancing Cooperation among the Trade Registry Agencies in the OIC Member States" in September 2016.

69. The Committee **requested** the ICCIA, in collaboration with IDB Group and ICDT to prepare a strategy for increasing trade in services in the OIC Member Countries and submit it to the 32nd Session of COMCEC.

70. Guided by the proposal made by H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC, in his opening speech at the 13th Islamic Summit, the Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) on the establishment of an OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul and **requested** ICCIA, in collaboration with the TOBB, to undertake the necessary work, and submit a report to the 32nd Session of COMCEC.

71. The Committee **underlined** the need for issuance of business visa for the businessmen of the Member Countries with a view to increasing Intra-OIC Trade.

Agenda Item 6: Improving Transport and Communications

72. The Committee **welcomed** the convening of the 7th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group held on March 24th, 2016 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey with the theme of “Enhancing Road Maintenance in the OIC Member Countries and **welcomed** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a National Road Maintenance Strategy Based on Evidence and Data
- Ensuring the Allocation of Adequate and Stable Funding for Road Maintenance and Increasing Effective Utilization of Available Road Funds through a Sound Legal Framework and Institutional Structure
- Making Use of Performance-Based Contracts in Road Maintenance
- Establishing a Road Database Management System

(The Policy recommendations document is attached as Annex IX.)

73. The Committee **called upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to actively participate in the 8th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to be held on October 27, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving Road Safety in the OIC Member States”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group.

Agenda Item 7: Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector

74. The Committee **welcomed** the convening of the 7th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on February 4th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Muslim

Friendly Tourism (MFT): Understanding the Demand and Supply Sides in the OIC Member Countries” and **welcomed** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing basic guidelines for improving the basic MFT related services
- Increasing awareness of MFT market among the travel industry stakeholders
- Developing healthcare services and facilities for the MFT market
- Launching an alliance among the Muslim-friendly travel agents/ tour operators targeting MFT market.

(The Policy recommendations document is attached as Annex X.)

75. The Committee **called upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the 8th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group to be held on September 1st, 2016 in Ankara with theme of “Muslim Friendly Tourism: Developing and Marketing MFT Products and Services in the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

76. The Committee **took note** of the report of the 4th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held on 14-15 January 2016 in İstanbul with the theme of “Promoting Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) Products and Services in the OIC Member Countries.”

77. The Committee **welcomed** the holding of the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) on 21-23 December 2015 in Niamey, Republic of Niger, and **commended** the selection of al-Madinah al-Munawwarah as the OIC City of Tourism, 2017, and Tabriz as the OIC City of Tourism, 2018 by the Conference.

Agenda Item 8: Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security

78. The Committee **welcomed** the convening of the 7th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group on March 3rd, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Reducing On-Farm Food Losses in the OIC Member Countries” and **welcomed** its following policy recommendations;

- Identifying the knowledge and information gaps regarding the levels and specific causes of on-farm food losses for key crops and food products with a view to providing solutions for each OIC Member Country

- Improving/developing agricultural extension, training and outreach activities for reducing on-farm food losses
- Developing specific programs/projects to address on-farm losses in agricultural value chains in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions.

(The Policy recommendations document is attached as Annex XI.)

79. The Committee **called upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in the 8th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to be held on October 13th, 2016 with the theme of “Reducing Post-Harvest Losses in the OIC Member Countries.” The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group.

80. The Committee **took note of** the organization of the 7th Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development and the Inaugural General Assembly of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) held on 26–28 April 2016 in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan.

81. The Committee **noted with appreciation** the efforts of the Republic of Turkey and the SESRIC in organizing training courses on different technical agricultural and food security aspects in the Member States within the framework of the OIC Agriculture Capacity Building Programme.

Agenda Item 9: Eradicating Poverty

82. The Committee **welcomed** the convening of the 7th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group held on February 11th, 2016 with the theme of “Accessibility of Vulnerable Groups to Social Protection Programmes in the OIC Member Countries”, and **welcomed** its following policy recommendations;

- Promoting formalization in the labor market through creating a regulatory environment for facilitating the transition of informal businesses to formal sector, and increasing the productivity of informally employed and long-term unemployed people via training and skill-development programs, credit and business development services
- Promoting free and universal health care coverage for vulnerable groups
- Developing specific social safety net programs to improve the access of vulnerable children to health and education services for preventing intergenerational transmission of poverty
- Designing specific social safety net programs to offer a minimum regular income to people who cannot work (disabled, poor female-headed

households, elderly without a pension) as well as developing social safety net programs (including activation programs) for people who can work.

(The Policy recommendations document is attached as Annex XII.)

83. The Committee **called upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to actively participate in the 8th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group to be held on November 3rd, 2016 with the theme of “Forced Migration in the OIC Member Countries: The Policy Framework Adopted by Host Countries”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

i) Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for the Development of Africa (SPDA)

84. The Committee **reiterated** its requests to the Member Countries which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and those who have not yet pledged to the ISFD to do so in order to enable the Fund to undertake more developmental projects in the member countries.

85. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for mobilization of resources from different financing institutions for more effective implementation of the ISFD and SPDA.

ii) OIC Cotton Plan of Action

86. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 31st Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **reiterated its request** to the IDB to finalize its consideration for the funding of the capacity building project, which combines 14 cotton projects into a single project, submitted to the IDB.

87. The Committee **took note** of the efforts of SESRIC in organizing various cotton-related training courses in the Member States within the framework of the OIC Cotton Training Programme (OIC-CTP), and **urged** the Cotton Research Centers of Excellence to accord priority to cooperation with SESRIC with a view to benefiting more from its courses.

iii) OIC-VET Program

88. The Committee **appreciated** the continuous efforts of SESRIC towards initiating and implementing various capacity building programmes and training courses in different fields and areas of interest to the Member States with a view to

enhancing the capacities and quality of human resources in these countries and **called upon** SESRIC to mobilize more financial resources towards the programme.

89. The Committee **requested** the SESRIC and IDB to continue developing and implementing new projects and initiatives under the OIC-VET sub-programmes, and **called upon** the Member States to participate in and support the various capacity building programmes of SESRIC under the OIC-VET Programme through activating the role of their National Focal Points (NFPs) in this important Programme.

90. Recalling the Joint Study conducted by the IDB and CCO on “critical success factors in implementation of the sustainable development goals (sdgs): current situation and prospects for the oic” which was submitted to the 31st session of comcec, the committee **requested** the idb and cco in collaboration with sesric to further study this matter with a view to identifying possible contributions of the relevant oic institutions to the implementation of the sdgs in the member countries and report their findings to the 32nd session of comcec.

Agenda Item 10: Deepening Financial Cooperation

91. The Committee **welcomed** the convening of the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group held on 17-18 March, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries.” and **took note** of its following policy recommendations which will be submitted to the 32nd COMCEC Session, under the following six headings:

- 1- Legal, Regulatory, Accounting and Taxation Frameworks
- 2- Shariah Governance and Supervision
- 3- Infrastructure
- 4- Products and Services
- 5- Initiatives
- 6- Talent Development

(The policy recommendations of the Meeting are integrated to the Policy Recommendations Document prepared specifically for the Exchange of Views Session of the 32nd COMCEC Ministerial Session which is attached as Annex XIII.)

92. The Committee **called upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively participate in its

Seventh Meeting to be held on October 20th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “National and Global Islamic Financial Architecture: Problems and Possible Solutions for the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.

i) OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum

93. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts carried out by the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchange Forum and its Task Forces and also invited the Member States to actively participate in the activities organized under this Forum.

94. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Borsa Istanbul as the Secretariat of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum, to host the 10th Meeting of the Forum in 4th quarter of 2016 in İstanbul and **requested** all the Member States to actively participate in this Event.

95. The Committee **also requested** the Member States and IDB to support the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index and its sub-indices.

96. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 31st Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **welcomed** the progress achieved on “Gold Exchange Initiative for the OIC Member Countries” and **requested** the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum to further extend its work on the initiative and submit a report to the 32nd Session of the COMCEC.

ii) Cooperation among Capital Markets’ Regulatory Bodies

97. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts carried out by the Task Forces of COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum on Islamic capital market challenges, database, financial literacy as well as capacity building, and **also invited** the Member States to support the efforts of the Forum through participating in its meetings, contributing to the accomplishment of the mandates of the Task Forces and appointing contact persons to follow up its work.

98. The Committee **also welcomed** the offer of the Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum in the 4th quarter of 2016 in İstanbul and requested all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

99. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 31st Session of the COMCEC, the Committee further **welcomed** the progress on “Real Estate Securities Exchange Initiative” and **requested** the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum to further extend its work on this initiative and submit a report to the 32nd Session of the COMCEC.

iii) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities

100. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 31st Session of COMCEC, the Committee **requested** the SESRIC to take necessary actions for the early convening of the 15th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States, and **urged** the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.

101. The Committee **welcomed** the training and capacity building programs organized by the SESRIC on issues relating to Central Banks and **requested** the SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the relevant institutions of the Member States.

Agenda Item 11: Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”

102. The Committee **encouraged** the Member States to prepare their country reports on the mentioned theme and convey them electronically to the CCO on November 1, 2016 at the latest.

i) Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 33rd COMCEC Session

103. The Committee **took note** of the following possible themes of the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC:

Theme 1: Improving Access to Education in the OIC Member states for Sustainable Poverty Alleviation.

Theme 2: Enhancing the Role of Free Trade Zones in the OIC Member States.

Theme 3: Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries.

Theme 4: Strategic Transport Infrastructure in the OIC Member Countries: Gateways, Hubs and Inland Transport Connections.

Theme 5: Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Regulations for Tourism Services Industry.

Theme 6: Diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments.

104. The Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to circulate a questionnaire among the Member States to explore their views on the above-mentioned themes and report the outcome to the 32nd Session of the COMCEC.

**Agenda Item 12: Draft Agenda of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC
(İstanbul, 21-24 November 2016)**

105. The Committee **prepared** and **decided** to submit the Draft Agenda to the 32nd Session of the COMCEC.

(A copy of the Draft Agenda of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex XIV.)

Closing Session

106. At its Closing Session chaired by H.E. Ambassador Salih Mutlu ŞEN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC, the Committee adopted its Report together with its Annexes.

107. On behalf of all delegations, Head of Delegation of State of Palestine expressed thanks to H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC for his high guidance to the intensive efforts carried out under the auspices of COMCEC and the government of the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality extended to the Follow-up Committee Members.

108. Mr. Gholamhossein DARZI, Director of the Economic Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat, delivered the closing remarks on behalf of the OIC Secretary General. Mr. DARZI expressed the importance of follow-up and implementation of COMCEC resolutions as well as the recommendations adopted by the 32nd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC. He concluded that the economic sections of the OIC-2025 will contribute in enhancing the cooperation among the OIC Member Countries in the next decade.

109. In his closing statement, H.E. Salih Mutlu ŞEN underlined that the Follow-up Committee successfully reviewed the implementation status of the resolutions of the 31st Session of the COMCEC. He underlined the crucial importance of the contributions and active involvement of the Member Countries in the activities, projects and programs under the umbrella of the COMCEC. H.E. ŞEN also

emphasized the importance and relevance of the designation of “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” as the theme of the Exchange of Views Session of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC.

110. H.E. ŞEN concluded his statement by expressing his thanks and appreciations to all delegations from member countries for their active participation and valuable contributions, Rapporteur, representatives of the OIC Institutions, COMCEC Coordination Office, interpreters, translators and other staff taking part in the organization of the meeting for their contributions to the success of the meeting.

(A copy of the text of the Closing Statement by H.E. Salih Mutlu ŞEN is attached as Annex XV.)

A N N E X E S

ANNEX

I

Original: English

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
THE THIRTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
OF THE COMCEC
(Ankara, 17-18 May 2016)

A. MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

- Mr. ALAMSYAH
Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Indonesia in Ankara
- Ms. TUTI WINARTI
Section Head of Non UN Organization, Ministry of Trade
- Ms. SARI HANDINI MURTI
Trade Analyst, Ministry of Trade
- Ms. IDA AYU RATIH
Assistant Deputy Director for Non ASEAN Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture
- Ms. MARTINAWATI IRENE PANGGABEAN
Assistant Deputy Director for International Non Governmental Organization,
Ministry of Agriculture
- Ms. SHITA LUKITANINDYAH
Second Secretary, Embassy of Indonesia

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

- Mr. MAULON IBRAIKULOU
Second Secretary, Embassy of Kazakhstan in Ankara

THE STATE OF KUWAIT

- Mr. MISHAL ALARDHI
Supervisor of International Organization Department, Ministry of Finance

- Ms. FATIMA ALI
Economic Researcher, Ministry of Finance
- Mr. ABDULLAH AL HERZ
Head of International Relations Department, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

REPUBLIC OF NIGER

- Mr. DAN MARADI ADAM
Ambassador, Embassy of Niger in Ankara
- Mr. HAMZA MAMAN
Education Attaché, Embassy of Niger in Ankara

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

- Dr. YOUSAF JUNAID
Consul General, Consulate General of Pakistan In İstanbul
- Mr. WAQAR AHMAD SHAH
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. MOAZZAM ALI HAIDER
Section Officer, Ministry of Commerce

THE STATE OF PALESTINE

- Mr. AZMI ABU GHAZALEH
Counsellor, Embassy of Palestine in Ankara

STATE OF QATAR

- Mr. HASSAN AL MOHANNADI
Economic Expert, Ministry of Economy and Commerce

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

- Mr. SULTAN NAIF ABOUD
Director General , Ministry of Commerce and Investment

- Mr. ANWAR BIN HASUSAH
Commercial Attaché, Embassy of Saudi Arabia in İstanbul
- Mr. HUSSIN EED AL RASHEED
Economist , Ministry of Commerce and Investment

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

- H.E. YUSUF COŞKUN
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Development
- Mr. RAMAZAN GÜVEN
Deputy Undersecretary, Ministry of Development
- H.E. Amb. SALİH MUTLU ŞEN
Ambassador, OIC Permanent Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. UFUK GÖKÇEN
Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. KORHAN KARAKOÇ
Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. TALAT ULUSSEVER
Chief Adviser , BORSA İSTANBUL
- Ms. AYLİN BEBEKOĞLU
Head of Department, Ministry of Economy
- Mr. MUSTAFA BAYBURTLU
Head of Department, TOBB
- Mr. SIDDIK KAYA
Head of Department, Ministry of Customs and Trade
- Mr. TAYLAN AYDIN
Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. SEDAT GÖNÜLLÜOĞLU
Head of Department, Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Mr. İLHAMİ AKTÜRK
Head of Department, TSE

- Ms. SEÇİL SAYIN KUTLUCA
Senior Legal Advisor, Capital Markets Board of Turkey
- Mr. MEHMET ATAŞ
Section Head, General Directorate of Highways
- Mr. YASİN EKMEK
Legal Advisor, TOBB
- Ms. TUĞÇENAZ UĞURLU
Legal Advisor, TOBB
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Branch Manager, General Directorate of Highways
- Mr. ATILLA YAYLIOĞLU
Branch Manager, General Directorate of Highways
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Expert, Ministry of Culture and Tourism
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- Ms. AYŞEGÜL DEMİR
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- Ms. EBRU ŞENTÜRK ÇİMŞİR
Expert, General Directorate Of Highways
- Ms. ELİF AÇIKPORTALI
Specialist, BORSA İSTANBUL
- Ms. ÖZGÜ EVİRGEN
Expert, TCMB
- Ms. ŞEHLA ALİ HASAN
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- Ms. ŞEYMA AKKUL
Expert, Undersecretariat of Treasury
- Ms. ŞULE ÖREN
Expert, TOBB
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Assistant Expert, Undersecretariat of Treasury
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- Ms. FİRDES DEMİRSOY
Teacher, MEB

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Engineer, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
- Mr. FARUK ZIYA ÖZTÜRK

B. OBSERVER

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- Mr. CLEMENT MASSALA MANDONGAULT
First Counsellor, Embassy of Gabon in Ankara
- Mr. THIBAUT IFOUNGA
Chief of Protocol, Embassy of Gabon in Ankara

C. THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

- Mr. GHOLAMHOSSEIN DARZI
Director, Department of Economic Affairs

D. THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

ISLAMIC CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE(ICDT)

- Mr. MOKHTAR WARIDA
Assistant Director General

**STATICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER
FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES(SESRIK)**

- Mr. NABIL DABOUR
Assistant Director General
- Mr. MEHMET FATİH SERENLİ
Director of Training and Technical Cooperation Department
- Ms. ZEHRA ZÜMRÜT SELÇUK
Director of Statistics and Information Department

- Mr. HAKAN ERYETLİ
Director of Publication

E. SPECIALIZED ORGANS OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK(IDB)

- Mr. ABDUL BASIT R. JAM
Cooperation Specialist

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC TRADE FINANCE CORPORATION(ITFC)

- Mr. AYHAN İBRAHİM KARACA
Trade Cooperation and Promotion Specialist

F. AFFILIATED ORGANS OF THE OIC

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- Ms. ATTIYA NAWAZISH ALI AYAZ
Assistant Secretary General

ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION(OISA)

- Mr. MOHAMMAD ZAFAR BHATTI
Director Finance

STANDARDS AND METROLOGY INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES(SMIIC)

- Mr. İHSAN ÖVÜT
Secretary General
- Ms. SEVDE ÖZBEY
Executive Assistant to Secretary General, General Secretariat

O. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

- Mr. MEHMET METİN EKER
Director General, Head of COMCEC Coordination Office
- Mr. SELÇUK KOÇ
Head of Department
- Mr. MUSTAFA TEKİN
Head of Department
- Mr. FATİH ÜNLÜ
Senior Expert
- Ms. VİLDAN BARAN
Expert
- Mr. UTKU ŞEN
Expert
- Mr. EKREM KARADEMİR
Expert
- Mr. E. EMRAH HATUNOĞLU
Expert
- Ms. ASLI DADAKOĞLU
Expert
- Mr. İBRAHİM EMRE İLYAS
Expert
- Mr. ALPER BAKDUR
Expert
- Mr. ALİ İŞLER
Expert
- Mr. GÖKTEN DAMAR
Expert
- Mr. OKAN POLAT
Assistant Expert

- Mr. KAĞAN AKDOĞAN
Assistant Expert
- Mr. AHMET OKUR
Assistant Expert
- Mr. MEHMET FİDAN
Assistant Expert
- Mr. MEHMET AKİF ALANBAY
Assistant Expert
- Mr. NİHAT AKBALIK
Assistant Expert
- Mr. AYKUT YILMAZ
Assistant Expert
- Mr. EREN SÜMER
Assistant Expert,
- Mr. HASAN YENİGÜL
Assistant Expert
- Mr. MUSTAFA ADİL SAYAR
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- Mr. MEHMET C. AKTAŞ
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- Mr. ALİ ORUÇ
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- Mr. KEMAL ARSLAN
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- Mr. ORHAN ÖZTAŞKIN
Protocol Relations

- Ms. ÖZGÜL YÜKSEL
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Social Program
- Ms. NAZİFE GÜLGEN
Social Program
- Ms. H. GÜL SAYIN
Coordinator of Documentation
- Mr. ERCAN İBİK
Coordinator of Transportation
- Ms. EBRU ÇETİNKURŞUN KANYILMAZ
Coordinator of Meeting Rooms
- Ms. EMİNE DEMİREL
Coordinator of Documentation
- Ms. BİLGE GÜLLÜ
Executive Secretary
- Ms. HANDE ÖZDEMİR
Coordinator of Registration
- Mr. OZAN LİF
Coordinator of Documentation
- Ms. HAVVA KÖSEOĞLU
Coordinator of Registration
- Mr. ALİ VURAL
Coordinator of Meeting Rooms

ANNEX

II

Original: Turkish

**THE MESSAGE OF H.E. RECEP TAYYİP ERDOĞAN,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
THIRTY SECOND MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(Ankara, 17 May 2016)**

Distinguished Chair,
Esteemed Members of the Follow-up Committee,
My August Brothers and Sisters,
I would like to salute you all with my heartfelt feelings, affection and regards.

May the peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.

I would like to welcome you all to the Thirty Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC).

As you all know, Turkey hosted the 13th OIC Summit, the most important event of the Islamic world, in Istanbul last month.

We informed the attending heads of state and government of many political agenda items as well as the COMCEC activities in particular and economic issues, and took important decisions accordingly.

The ownership of the COMCEC activities and the COMCEC Strategy lays bare how important and valuable your efforts are.

I believe that the decisions taken during the Istanbul Summit will lend a new impetus to the economic cooperation among the member states.

At the Summit, we adopted a new Programme of Action to shed light on the efforts of the Organization for the next ten years.

The General Secretariat and all relevant institutions and organizations have vital roles to play for the successful implementation of the Programme.

I attach major importance to the implementation of the cooperation in finance and trade, which is set forth by the Programme of Action, in harmony with the COMCEC Strategy and the revised Statute, and to the COMCEC's follow-up of the implementation.

Distinguished delegates,

As you know, the efforts exerted since the inception of the COMCEC in 1984 are ongoing in a much more effective and systematic manner under the COMCEC Strategy adopted in 2012 and the revised Statute.

The 7th round deliberations of the Working Groups, which serve as one of most important instruments of the Strategy have been successfully completed.

I attach capital importance to elaborative discussions over problems in thematic areas and developing tangible policy recommendations.

I believe that both the relevant ministries and departments of the member countries and the OIC institutions will do their part for the effective implementation of the recommendations.

The implementation of the policy recommendations will enable the member states to cover a significant distance to offer solutions for structural problems they face

For the past two years, we successfully implemented 22 projects as a part of the "Project Financing Mechanism", another important instrument of the Strategy.

I welcome the selection of 10 new projects for this year and the inception of the implementation process.

Carried out in Trade, Transport and Communication, Tourism, Agriculture, Poverty Alleviation and Financial Cooperation areas, such projects provide a significant policy support to put the policy recommendations of the Working Groups into effect.

Distinguished Friends,

Thanks to the vigorous efforts exerted particularly in recent years, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation member countries have made substantial progresses in total trade

volume, trade with other Organization of Islamic Cooperation countries, and total production.

However, we have to admit that the current figures are still not at a desired level. Accounting for 11 percent in total global trade, the share of OIC Member Countries needs to be increased to a much higher level.

In the similar vein, the intra-OIC trade accounted for 19.7% as of 2015, almost achieving the 20-percent target.

However, the further increase of this percentage is essential

Necessary conditions to put the Agreement on Trade Preferential System of the OIC Member Countries (TPS-OIC) into force as the most important project of the COMCEC in trade were met by the late 2014.

I hope that the member countries will reap benefits from advantages to be introduced by the Agreement after completing necessary administrative formalities to put this momentous Agreement into force as soon as possible.

I would like to call upon all the member countries to complete their preparations for the Agreement as soon as possible, and be a part of this important system.

Distinguished Delegates,

While taking pivotal steps such as the Trade Preferential System into force, we also need to diversify our agenda with new ideas and projects.

From this point of view, I welcome the COMCEC's consideration of the suggestions I made during both the COMCEC Session and the OIC Summit.

Within this framework, the Islamic finance and in-depth and far-reaching efforts to be exerted in finance will offer us a great deal of new opportunities .

In the wake of the global financial crisis, the importance and potential of the Islamic Financial instruments have begun to attract financial markets a lot more.

The fact that the Islamic finance industry grew by an annual average of 16 percent between 2009 and 2014 is the most important testament to this argument.

However, the Islamic finance instruments constitute only one percent of the financial assets across the world.

It is clear that there is a significant potential for growth in this respect.

The main theme of the COMCEC Session to be held in November is designated as "Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries".

I believe that our deliberations and decisions will contribute to the development of the Islamic finance industry in the member countries.

I would like to call upon all the member countries to make active contributions to the efforts exerted for financial cooperation.

With such thoughts in mind, I hope that the 32nd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC will lead to fruitful conclusions, salute all the participants with heartfelt regards.

May Allah, the Almighty, bless you all in your noble endeavours.

ANNEX

III

Original: English

**OPENING STATEMENT BY H.E.YUSUF COŞKUN,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
TURKEY
THIRTY SECOND MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(Ankara, 17 May 2016)**

As-Salamu Alaikum,

Esteemed Members of the Follow-up Committee,
Distinguished Guests,

I would like to express my pleasure in meeting with you on the occasion of the 32nd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC. I welcome you all in Ankara with my sincerest regards.

Keeping in mind the importance of Committee's responsibilities including drawing up the agenda of COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, I would like to express our full confidence in your dedication and quality of your work. I wish you every success in your deliberations and noble work.

Esteemed Participants,

While the global economy has not been able to fully recover from the damaging effects of 2008 crisis, overall, some promising positive developments were observed specifically in economic and financial markets in recent months. After seeing declines in value, the commodity and real estate prices have been shifting upwards beginning with 2016 mainly due to supportive monetary policies of major economies. On the other hand, despite these improvements, average global economic growth is still expected to remain weak in 2016 and 2017. In January 2016, IMF lowered its previous growth expectations to % 3,4 and % 3,6 respectively for 2016 and 2017¹. Another recent negative development is the declining growth of the Chinese economy which could potentially become a setback for the global economy.

¹ Dünya Ekonomisindeki Son Gelişmeler Bülteni, EMSA, Küresel Ekonomik Gelişmeleri İzleme Değerlendirme Dairesi, Ocak-Mart 2016

As an important export item for the OIC Member Countries, oil prices is still far below its previous values five years ago² due to a number of complex implications of both demand and supply factors. International Energy Agency's forecasts shows a stable trend in the oil prices in 2016 and expect that prices will remain around 37 USD per barrel for the rest of the year. Since the share of mineral fuels in total OIC exports was 60.2 percent in 2014³, it is much likely that this decrease in value of oil will have unfavorable effects for many OIC Member Countries as well as total trade volumes of OIC Group.

Dear Colleagues,

I firmly believe that there is still a great room for growth in the intra-OIC trade figures. Having said that, I would like to thank all Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions for their active contributions in achieving a much higher ratio of intra-OIC trade in comparison to its modest levels a decade ago. According to ICDT figures, ratio of intra-OIC trade in total trade of Member States has reached to % 19,7 in 2015. We are now very close to % 20 target set by the previous Ten Year Programme of Action of the OIC. In this respect, Trade Preferential System of OIC (TPS-OIC) presents great opportunities to raise intra-OIC trade volumes. The System waits for some final steps to be taken by the relevant participating countries for the implementation.

Distinguished Guests,

For realizing our untapped trade potential, we need not only to encourage trade among ourselves and with the world, but also take various measures for enhancing our production base, quality of products, diversifying our economies and exports, fostering innovation and value addition, networking effectively with global value chains and most importantly improve our human capital and institutional efficiency continuously.

Esteemed Participants,

As you are kindly aware, Republic of Turkey assumed the Chairmanship of OIC with successful conclusion of the 13th Summit for the forthcoming two years. With your contributions and support, we would like to exert every effort for realizing an active chairmanship during our term. Economic and commercial issues would definitely constitute one of the most important aspects of our endeavors. During the Summit, the new OIC Ten Year Programme of Action (2016-2025) was also adopted drawing a suitable framework for all dimensions of OIC cooperation including economic issues for

² <http://www.nasdaq.com/markets/crude-oil.aspx?timeframe=10y>

³ ITC Trademap

the forthcoming decade. I sincerely believe that COMCEC will be the most suitable platform for the follow-up of the implementation of the new Ten Year Programme of Action's economic sections. It goes without saying that the implementation of the new Ten Year Programme of Action and the COMCEC Strategy will successfully complement each other through valuable endeavors and active contributions of the Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions.

As Chairman of the COMCEC H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN underlined before, problems and challenges faced by the OIC Member Countries could only be solved by themselves. OIC Member Countries need to find solutions to the challenges of the Ummah. Therefore, enhancing economic and technical cooperation among the brotherly Islamic countries will certainly help us in developing efficient solutions to our common problems.

In this sense, being the Ministerial policy dialogue platform for economic and commercial cooperation, COMCEC aims to facilitate sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices through its implementation instruments namely the COMCEC Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism.

I am very pleased to observe that 49 out of 57 OIC Member Countries have now registered to at least one of the COMCEC Working Groups. I would like to invite all member countries to benefit more from the potential of the COMCEC Working Groups and Project Funding Mechanism.

Within our second implementation instrument, Project Funding Mechanism, 22 projects were funded and implemented successfully. During its third implementation year, 10 new projects were selected for implementation in 2016. I believe that the Project Funding Mechanism facilitates the mobilization of the institutional and human resources of the Member Countries.

Seizing the opportunity, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the immense support of Member countries to the work of COMCEC and Implementation of its Strategy during the 13th Summit Session held in Istanbul last month. We have to enrich this successful experience with new dimensions and initiatives.

Esteemed Members of the Follow-up Committee,

Recurrent crises have been a problem of world economy for decades. While trying to take collective preemptive measures for preventing economic crises at the global level, as individual countries, we need to also take necessary measures to make our economies more resistant to external shocks and crises. In the global economic crises, structural

problems certainly play a critical role. Moreover, speculative actions for maximizing profits without adequate productive efforts and lack of assets are some of the reasons that trigger the global economic and financial problems we all suffer from.

In this respect, Islamic economy with its asset based approach and emphasis on ethical principles presents us extremely valuable insights. Islamic Finance has become a popular topic in global international finance agenda especially after the 2008 financial crisis. Based on ethical values of our divine religion, Islamic Finance presents more secure, fair and consumer friendly financing products compared to traditional highly speculative financial instruments and options. Accordingly, many developed and developing countries, foremost Western Countries, have shown great interest to Islamic Finance instruments. According to the forecasts⁴, potential size of the global Islamic Financial services is approximately US\$6.4 trillion while the actual figure was around US\$1.9 trillion in 2014. In this regard, while some OIC Member Countries have made substantial strides on the subject and there is still an encouraging potential, yet it is also observed that non-Muslim countries are very active to take the lead in shaping Islamic Finance's future.

I am of the view that since the concept emanates from our Holy Religion and our own traditions, OIC Member Countries should take a leading role on the issue. In this sense, developing advanced and successful Islamic Finance Strategies and Instruments by the Member Countries is crucially important.

In this regard, the selection of "Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries" as the theme of exchange of views session of the next COMCEC Ministerial Meeting is highly pertinent. InshaAllah, some concrete resolutions will be taken and fruitful outcomes will be realized after intensive deliberations of our Member Countries in a way to shed light on future endeavors.

Distinguished participants,

As I conclude my remarks, I sincerely wish that your deliberations during the 32nd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC contribute to peace, prosperity and welfare of the Islamic Ummah.

Thank you very much.

⁴ Global Islamic Finance Report 2015

ANNEX

IV

Original: English

**MESSAGE OF H.E. IYAD AMEEN MADANI,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC COOPERATION
THIRTY SECOND MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(Ankara, 17 May 2016)**

Your Excellency Mr. Yusuf COŞKUN, Deputy Minister of Development of Turkey,
Honorable Delegates,
Distinguished Participants

Assalamu Alaikum wa-Rahmatu Allah wa Barakatuhu

I am pleased to address the 32nd Meeting of the Follow- up Committee of COMCEC, which is taking place in beautiful city of Ankara, Republic of Turkey. Allow me, first and foremost to express my due appreciation to the Government and people of Turkey for hosting this meeting on regular basis and for the excellent hospitality extended to all participants.

Today's Follow-up Committee Meeting of COMCEC is taking place, immediately after the successful convening of the 13th Islamic Summit, which was hosted by His Excellency, Mr. Recep Tayeb Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey. This situation has added to the importance of the proceedings of this session as you all seek to consider the various but crucial decisions taken during this historical Summit.

It is gratifying to note that, among the landmark decisions taken at the Summit on issues bearing on socio-economic cooperation among OIC member states, was the adoption of the OIC:2025. This Plan of Action is a successor to the Ten Year Programme of Action, the report on which has always formed a permanent agenda of COMCEC meetings, considering the need for proper coordination and synergy by the various implementing agencies, which participate in COMCEC activities.

In addition to endorsing several targets and goals in other cooperation areas, the OIC-2025 Programme of Action among other far-reaching targets undertakes, to attain 25% of intra-OIC trade by 2025. Other economic goals are in the domain of agriculture, rural development and food security, transportation, energy, industry, tourism, employment and the development of Small and Medium Enterprises. This meeting would recall that the total value of intra-OIC trade in 2015 amounted to US\$ 878 billion, which constitutes 19.78 % of total trade of OIC Member States compared to 14,5% in 2014.

Notwithstanding the near-attainment of the set trade target of 20%, there is the need to re-double our efforts so as to sustain the momentum through vigorous implementation of the various initiatives and multilateral instruments already agreed by the OIC meetings. In this regard, the Trade Preferential System of the OIC (TPS-OIC) would need to remain at the center of our trade facilitation agenda, even as we seek to remove non-tariff barriers among OIC member states through exchanging best practices including the Single Window Modality, among other initiatives.

Similarly, the holding of the 15th Islamic Trade Fair in Riyadh and the two side meetings of trade promotion and investment agencies will respectively seek to popularize OIC products among the 1.5 billion strong citizens of OIC member states, while at the same time sharpening our focus on the implementation of the various trade cooperation frameworks. These events would also pave the way for the expeditious implementation of the twin omnibus agreements, namely: OIC General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation and Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investment among OIC Member States.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

Another pre-occupation of the OIC in the economic domain is the elaboration of a comprehensive OIC plan for infrastructure development and integration, which was the subject of a similar proposal by the President of Kazakhstan, named: “Islamic Infrastructure and Integration Initiative (Triple I’s). This initiative is aimed at developing a blueprint for cooperation in the domain of infrastructure development, such as trade, agriculture, energy and transportation. The integration component of the initiative will seek to consolidate the existing OIC resolutions on the elaboration of a successor programme for the Special Programme for Development of Africa, as well as the existing OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia. It is envisaged that dedicated infrastructure development programmes for the other two regions of the OIC, namely

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and East and South East Asia would be developed in the fullness of time.

In the area of agriculture and food security, I am pleased to inform that a few days back we witnessed a launching of the new OIC specialized institution dealing with agricultural development and food security in our member states which is Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS). Accordingly, the first General Assembly of this Organization, which was held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 26-28 April 2016, elected members of the Executive Board as well as the 1st Director General of IOFS. It also approved a short-term Plan of Action, which includes such programmes as establishing the Agricultural and Scientific-Research and SMEs Funds; creating a comprehensive database on all aspects of food security in Member States; establishing food security reserves; and elaboration of the IOFS Investment Program, among others.

Similarly, the commemoration of Al-Quds Al-Shareef and Konya as OIC Cities of Tourism for 2015 and 2016, respectively as well as the selection of Madinah Al-Monnavarah (Saudi Arabia) and Tabriz (Iran) as the OIC Cities of Tourism for 2017 and 2018, respectively are among the flagship programmes aimed at promoting tourism exchanges among Member States. It is my sincere belief that the series of these commemorative activities, along with the implementation of our joint action on Islamic tourism, would boost intra-OIC cooperation in this crucial sector.

As I wish this meeting a fruitful deliberation, I am positive that the recommendations of this Follow-up Committee Meeting will go a long way in supporting our joint action towards promoting mutually rewarding socio-economic cooperation among OIC member states, thereby representing the needed momentum to advance our common goals and objectives.

I thank you all for your kind attention,

Wassalamu Alyakum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu

ANNEX

V

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.

ANNEX

VI

Original : English



**AGENDA OF THE 32nd MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(Ankara, 17-18 May 2016)**

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation
3. The Implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action
4. Intra-OIC Trade
5. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
6. Improving Transport and Communications
7. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
8. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
9. Eradicating Poverty
10. Deepening Financial Cooperation
11. Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”
12. Draft Agenda of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC
13. Any Other Business
14. Adoption of the Report

ANNEX

VII

**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 7TH MEETING
OF THE COMCEC TRADE WORKING GROUP**

A policy debate session was held during the 7th Meeting of the Trade Working Group regarding the possible policy actions to be taken to approximate member state policies in the field of standards. The items discussed in this session were identified by taking into consideration the analytic study titled “Strengthening the Compliance of the OIC Member States to International Standards”, as well as the responses of Member States to the policy questions sent by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for the meeting.

Policy Recommendation I: Developing/Strengthening National Quality Infrastructure

Rationale:

A well-functioning quality infrastructure is a strong component of an enabling trade environment and may greatly facilitate countries’ access to international markets. Therefore, there are strong economic and competitiveness rationales for countries to develop that infrastructure. If important export markets use international standards then domestic industries will need to comply with those standards, have their products tested, and have conformity certified before they can enter the export market. Given the widespread use of international standards such as those of ISO, IEC, and the Codex, it is a common requirement for developing country firms to meet international standards as a condition of being able to export to third markets. Development of a national quality infrastructure is not just a question of financial resources, but also involves human and technical capacity that is lacking in many developing countries, including OIC member states. The agenda for building national standards and quality capacity is a broad one, covering institutions and agencies, rules and regulations, and links with global and regional institutions and rules.

One way of dealing with this issue may be regional approach, particularly for developing countries where the volume of economic activity may not support the costs of a quality infrastructure. Having a regional approach is highly important since regional cooperation and the division of labor in the field of quality infrastructure services (standardization, metrology, testing, conformity assessment, accreditation, quality assurance) will allow countries to pool their resources thereby benefit from economies of scale. It is also important that regional initiatives should also facilitate and support adoption of

international standards. Linking and aligning national quality policy and strategies of the countries with regional initiatives is another important element in this regard.

Policy Recommendation II: Supporting the Member States' Efforts for their Active Participation in the work of International Standardization Bodies

Rationale:

International standards bodies are primarily responsible for standardization at the international level. All international standardization bodies have in common that they issue norms that can then be adopted by national standards bodies. The standards issued by these bodies need to be applicable in a wide range of contexts. Countries differ substantially in terms of their level of economic development, consumer preferences in relation to various issues, level of industrialization, as well as institutional and cultural factors. For this reason, it is important for countries to participate actively in the work of international standards bodies, so that the resulting norms can be applicable to their particular circumstances. Moreover, beside participation, close cooperation of the OIC Member Countries in relevant committees/bodies of the international standardization organizations is critical especially for; i) setting standards of specific product groups that are unique or highly important for the Member Countries ii) strengthening the voting power of the Member Countries. On the other hand, participation alone represents a particular challenge for developing countries, especially those where national quality infrastructure is at an early stage of development and standardization is not well advanced at the national level. There is therefore a real risk that international standards may not adequately reflect conditions prevailing in lower income member states. In this regard, it will be necessary to initiate cooperation activities among the countries that need technical assistance and capacity building, and those countries with more developed national quality infrastructure to share experience and support their efforts to take active part in international standardization. Compliance to the international standards would increase export competitiveness of the OIC Member Countries as well as the trade among them thereby enhance the intra-OIC trade.

Policy Recommendation III: Strengthening the SMIIC for the Adoption of Harmonized Standards and Development of Quality Infrastructure in the OIC for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade

Rationale:

Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC) has an important potential for the member states, in particular as it is committed to working towards

broader international harmonization of the elements of quality infrastructure which are standardization, metrology and accreditation. In that sense, member states' support and ownership for the work of the SMIIIC will be essential for its future success for developing and disseminating harmonized standards in the fields where there are no established and well-recognized international standards as well as accreditation services specific to Muslim world such as halal food, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, tourism, etc. and other related issues. Furthermore, having harmonized standards within the OIC would facilitate the trade of goods & services among the Member Countries which will eventually enhance in the intra-OIC trade. Besides, SMIIIC can provide a forum to exchange information, experience and best practices as well as technical assistance to the Member States for the development of quality infrastructure.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:

COMCEC Trade Working Group: In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard.

SMIIIC: With its 32 members, SMIIIC's mandate is to help develop quality infrastructure among OIC member states, including through the promotion of harmonization of standards, as well as various other aspects of quality infrastructure as metrology and accreditation. Apart from harmonization of standards, through its technical committees, metrology and accreditation committees, SMIIIC is also an important forum for Member States for discussion and exchange of views and experiences on issues of common interest.

ANNEX

VIII

**PROPOSAL OF THE ICDT FOR AMENDING THE ARTICLE 2 OF
THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF OIC ISLAMIC TRADE FAIRS**

“Any applicant for hosting Islamic General Trade Fair and Specialised Exhibition shall meet the following conditions:

- ✓ The selected venue shall have a fairground with international standards;
- ✓ The co-organising company shall have a robust experience in organising international exhibitions;
- ✓ The company shall have a sound financial basis;
- ✓ The city shall be linked with regular flights;
- ✓ The applications for hosting Islamic General Trade Fair and Specialised Exhibition are examined by a “selecting committee” composed of ICDT, OIC General Secretariat and COMCEC.

ANNEX

IX

**THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE 7TH COMCEC TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP MEETING**

The COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) successfully held its 7th Meeting on March 24th, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Enhancing Road Maintenance in the OIC Member Countries.” During the Meeting, TCWG made deliberations concerning policy approximation among the Member Countries in the field of road maintenance. The Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the research report conducted for the 7th Meeting of TCWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions, was the main input for the discussions. During the Meeting, the participants discussed the policy recommendations given below.

Policy Recommendation I: Developing a National Road Maintenance Strategy Based on Evidence and Data

Rationale:

Preventive maintenance requires, almost by definition, looking into the future – the future condition of the road network needs to be anticipated and preventive actions taken to prevent serious deterioration of the road network. Doing so requires, clear goals and objectives, excellent knowledge about the current state of the road network, a realistic picture of available funds for funding maintenance works, and very importantly, accurate, timely, and relevant data for setting priorities and making trade-offs when deciding on which maintenance works to fund and which ones to defer. All of these issues should be brought together in a National Maintenance Strategy.

A national road maintenance strategy should define clear goals and objectives for the performance and “levels of service” for the different categories of roads in the road network. The performance goals and levels of service must be realistic insofar that they must be explicitly and directly linked to available resources and funding for maintenance activities. Furthermore, the national strategy should explicitly assign the responsibilities for realizing the stated performance goals and objectives, for the different categories of roads, to specific institutions and organizations. The sources and volume of revenues/funds available to each of these institutions should also be specified in this strategy. The strategy itself must be based on solid evidence and data that is regularly collected to support the continued evolution of this strategy. The Asset Management Framework is a widely used framework and can form a good basis for developing such a national road maintenance strategy.

Policy Recommendation II: Ensuring the Allocation of Adequate and Sustainable Funding for Road Maintenance and Increasing Effective Utilization of Available Road Funds through a Sound Legal Framework and Institutional Structure

Rationale:

Research and experience have shown that inadequate and unreliable funding is a major set-back for improving road maintenance in many countries. Adequate, secure, and stable funding for carrying out periodic maintenance services is of crucial importance for a well-functioning road network. The number of countries that do not have a road fund is clearly an issue for the OIC Member States. However, road funds are simply a mechanism for facilitating adequate and stable flow of funds to finance required maintenance activities. Besides, even the road funds that have been established are not all performing equally effectively. The effective performance of road funds requires a sound legal framework and institutional structure. Generally, the road funds that have been established in the OIC Member States are characterized by the following:

- The legal basis of many road funds remains weak and the independence and autonomy of the road funds is not ensured,
- The participation of stakeholders in the road funds is very limited and the accountability and transparency of road funds is mostly limited to conducting an annual financial audit,
- Road funds rarely, use data-based performance indicators for monitoring and evaluating the impact of their funding activities. Thus, there is no link of the funding to improvements in the performance of the road network.

As a result, adequate and stable funding for maintenance is often limited, and there is generally a lack of specifically dedicated funding source to financing maintenance activities. This situation generally causes what is known as the “maintenance gap”, making a detrimental impact on the performance of the road network.

Policy Recommendation III: Making Use of Performance-Based Contracts in Road Maintenance

Rationale:

Performance-based contracts have several advantages for outsourcing maintenance to private sector. For such contracts to be implemented, responsible road agencies need a competent maintenance program management, a good monitoring system, and clear and transparent procurement procedures. In this type of contract, contractor is paid monthly based on performance outputs measured against standards stated in the contract rather than inputs. Penalties are imposed if the outcomes for a specific activity fail to comply

with the contract standards, and payment may be reduced or suspended until the necessary repairs are done. The fundamental point is that the emphasis is on realizing the performance objectives in terms of the end-result, the outputs. Thus, for example, the focus is not on how many kilometers of the road network have been maintained, but rather on, for example, the cumulative delays resulting from maintenance works on the road network. This focus makes it important to no longer just do the maintenance, but do it in ways that minimize the interruptions and disturbances resulting from the maintenance works.

Policy Recommendation IV: Establishing a Road Database Management System

Rationale:

The basis of effective preventive maintenance is good information; information about the condition of the road network and the volume of traffic on this road network. Making preventive maintenance not just effective, but also cost-effective, further requires information on the costs of various maintenance works, and their beneficial effects. This information is needed not only for the current time, but also needed in models (transport demand models, pavement deterioration models, cost models) to forecast the future condition of the road network, for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of various maintenance options and strategies, for setting priorities, and for allocating resources according to these priorities. Compared to the cost of the maintenance works themselves, this data collection exercise is quite inexpensive, but the returns it provides are huge.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:

COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group: In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above-mentioned policy areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents.

ANNEX

X

THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE TOURISM WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) has successfully held its 7th Meeting on February 4th, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Understanding the Demand and Supply Sides in the OIC Member Countries.” During the Meeting, Tourism Working Group made deliberations for policy approximation among the Member Countries regarding MFT. The Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the analytical study conducted for the 7th Meeting of TWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions, was the main input for the discussions. During the Meeting, the participants discussed the policy recommendations given below.

Policy Recommendation 1: Developing basic guidelines for improving the basic MFT related services

Rationale:

The Muslim population is growing rapidly and is expected to be around 26 % of the world’s population by 2030. Growing Muslim population and its increasing disposable income would lead to millions to increasingly take up travel for leisure, adventure and exploration. With the increasing number of Muslim tourists, simultaneously there will be a huge demand for halal/muslim friendly products and services. Many Muslim travelers recently are more halal conscious, who prefer halal foods or muslim-friendly services while staying in hotels or having vacation in certain places.

Nonetheless, according to *the Analytical Study*, one of the main challenges faced by Muslim tourists is the lack of common understanding on the basic principles for the muslim-friendly services. This challenge also increases the costs of companies, since they have to follow different practices in this field. In addition, Muslim tourists also face with different practices of companies regarding MFT services. Therefore, developing basic MFT guidelines will greatly help companies to provide MFT services with better quality and to meet the needs of the Muslim travelers.

Policy Recommendation 2: Increasing awareness of MFT market among the travel industry stakeholders through standardizing terminology used in MFT, introducing market awareness and customer service training programmes and utilizing social media for promotion and marketing

Rationale:

Despite being a relatively new concept within tourism sector, understanding the MFT market and its key components is critical for the OIC member states. In recent years, there are some improvements to increase the awareness about MFT such as, halal travel

indicator was developed, more airports have been adding halal certified restaurants and prayer spaces and some airlines started offering Halal Food on board at their flights. Moreover, travel agencies and digital marketing platforms have also been evolving according to growing needs of Muslims such as the Singapore-based company, HalalTrip.com, rates hotels and resorts in terms of their Halal-friendliness since December 2013 and HalalBooking.com provides Muslim-Friendly holidays to travelers etc. Furthermore, some travel agencies have recently launched Luxury Halal Travel focusing on ‘curating’ premium travel experiences like Halal Tour of China and Hong Kong. In addition to these, several conferences have been held on Halal or Muslim Friendly Tourism to enhance awareness in this field.

Despite the existing efforts, except few countries, the awareness of MFT market is still very weak in the OIC Region. Moreover, there is an inconsistency in the use of terminology and definitions related to different aspects of MFT. Therefore, there is a need to

- standardize the terminology used in the MFT,
- introduce roll out market awareness and customer service training programs for the travel and hospitality professionals for the all aspects of MFT.
- Utilize social media and other media tools to provide a significant communication platform for marketing MFT products and services to a wider audience.

Policy Recommendation 3: Developing healthcare services and facilities for the MFT market through identifying the different strengths of the OIC Region, building specialization hubs, developing alternative/traditional treatments and wellness programs

Rationale:

Medical tourism is one of the growing markets in tourism sector. It refers to traveling to another country for the aim of obtaining medical treatment or aged care. In order to attract Muslim patients, many countries have begun to provide muslim-friendly services, such as halal food, halal pharmaceuticals, prayer facilities etc. According to the analytical study, OIC has a vast unexploited potential for muslim-friendly medical tourism with relatively more affordable costs. However, there is a lack of awareness about the muslim-friendly healthcare sector in the member countries. In this respect, muslim-friendly healthcare market in the member countries may be promoted for attracting muslim healthcare visitors through identifying the different strengths of the OIC Region, building specialization hubs, developing alternative/traditional treatments and wellness programs based on the strengths of the OIC Region.

Policy Recommendation 4: Launching an alliance among the muslim-friendly travel agents/tour operators targeting MFT market

Rationale:

Travel agents and tour operators are the key players for growing muslim friendly tourism market in the member countries. For catering to muslim clients properly, travel agents and tour operators should be aware of the preferences and needs of muslim travelers. However, according to the analytical study, only few SMEs focus on muslim-friendly tourism and they cannot compete with the global players when they enter the MFT market. In order to strengthen these key players, the member countries may launch an alliance of travel agents and tour operators targeting specifically MFT market.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:

- ***COMCEC Tourism Working Group:*** In its subsequent two meetings, the COMCEC Working Group will elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas and the sub-areas in a more detailed manner. 8th and 9th Meetings of the Tourism Working Group will be held with the themes of “Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Developing and Marketing MFT Products and Services in the OIC Member States” and “Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Regulation, Standardization and Certification”, respectively.
- ***COMCEC Project Funding:*** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for project each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas and their sub-areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. The projects may include seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.
- ***OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum:*** In its meetings, the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas and the sub-areas from the private sector perspective. In this respect, 4th Meeting of the Forum has been held on 14-15 January 2016, with the theme of “Promoting Muslim Friendly Tourism Products and Services in the OIC Member Countries.”
- ***SMIIC:*** SMIIC’s Technical Committee on Tourism and Related Services can be benefited for developing/harmonizing muslim-friendly tourism standards in the member countries.

ANNEX

XI

THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Agriculture Working Group (AWG) has successfully held its 7th Meeting on March 3rd, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Reducing On-Farm Food Losses in the OIC Member Countries”. During the Meeting, Agriculture Working Group made deliberations for policy approximation among the Member Countries regarding the on-farm food losses in the OIC Member Countries. The Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the analytical study conducted for the 7th Meeting of AWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions, was the main input for the discussions. During the Meeting, the participants discussed the policy recommendations given below.

Policy Recommendation I: Identifying the knowledge and information gaps regarding the levels and specific causes of on-farm food losses for key crops and food products with a view to providing solutions for each OIC Member Countries

Rationale:

Globally, great efforts have been exerted on improving agricultural productivity, increasing agricultural production, promoting farm activities, and encouraging entrepreneurs in agri-business investments to meet the growing demand for food. Recently, many developed countries, international organizations, multilateral platforms such as G20 have put the issue of food losses and waste on their agenda. Despite the global progress in terms of food loss assessments and food loss reduction, the endeavours for reducing food losses are not at desired levels in the OIC Region, which have vast resources such as labor, land, water, fertilizer, capital and energy.

In this regard, identifying the possible causes of on-farm losses and providing solutions for the losses of crops, animal foods and fishery products of highest interest to the OIC Member Countries would help preventing food losses and ensuring food security in the OIC Region. Nonetheless, most of the OIC Member Countries do not have necessary data/information on the levels and specific causes of on-farm food losses. Therefore, in order to reveal the exact level of on-farm losses and develop sound policies for addressing them, full scale food loss assessment studies may be conducted for the Member Countries by utilizing national and international resources. Furthermore, participation of the Member Countries to the international organizations-sponsored food loss assessment case studies may be encouraged.

Policy Recommendation II: Improving/developing agricultural extension, training and outreach activities for reducing on-farm food losses

Rationale:

Agricultural extension services, training and outreach activities and providing necessary information to farmers are very instrumental in preventing on-farm food losses. In this regard, providing necessary information to farmers about the basic practices such as integrated pest management, sanitation and hygiene, soil and water management, use of maturity indices, gentle harvesting and handling, proper curing of roots and tubers or

drying of cereals, pulses, and oilseeds is of particular importance in this respect. To illustrate, in order to properly use agrochemicals in pest management, farmers should know the proper application rates, the time and conditions for application, safety procedures, and so forth.

Agricultural extension services and training and outreach activities may also be very crucial in identifying and analysing farmers' production problems. Moreover, new farming methods and techniques can be introduced by agricultural extension, training and outreach activities so that efficiency and productivity of agricultural sector increase. Furthermore, dissemination and extension of the various technologies through demonstrations to farmers would also contribute to enhance agricultural production processes.

Policy Recommendation III: Developing specific programs/projects to address on-farm losses in agricultural value chains in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions

Rationale:

Practices or methods undertaken during the harvesting stage of the production directly affect the level of on-farm food losses and thereby agricultural productivity. For instance, if crops do not receive adequate nutrition, or suffer from pests, sun-burn or wind damages, it would lead to decrease in yield.

In this framework, OIC institutions in collaboration with the relevant international organizations and NGOs may design and provide type projects, e-learning programs and a series of workshops for farmers on food loss assessment, reduction of food losses, and the costs and benefits of making changes in harvesting and handling practices for the various food groups. These 'type projects' may describe key actions, technology packages and include budgets that could be used to develop similar projects in the OIC Member Countries on reducing losses in the value chains. Hence, developing projects which are open to collaborative efforts and feasible with the current resources can enhance collective actions to reduce food losses in the OIC Member Countries.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:

COMCEC Agriculture Working Group: In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the member countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above- mentioned policy areas, the member countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

ANNEX

XII

**THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC POVERTY ALLEVIATION
WORKING GROUP**

The COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group (PAWG) has successfully held its 7th Meeting on February 11th, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Accessibility of Vulnerable Groups to Social Protection Programs in the OIC Member Countries”. During the Meeting, Poverty Alleviation Working Group made deliberations for policy approximation among the Member Countries regarding enhancing vulnerable groups’ accessibility to social protection programmes. The Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the analytical study conducted for the 7th Meeting of PAWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions, was the main input for the discussions. During the Meeting, the participants discussed the policy recommendations given below.

Policy Recommendation 1: Promoting formalization in the labor market through creating a regulatory environment for facilitating the transition of informal businesses to formal sector, and increasing the productivity of informally employed and long-term unemployed people via training and skill-development programs, credit and business development services

Rationale:

Informal employment is predominant in many OIC Member Countries which offer little social protection in terms of income, health and safety and unemployment insurance and therefore, higher risk of vulnerability. Mostly because of high informal sector, large segments of population in the OIC countries are outside the frame of social insurance policies. These segments become target of social safety net system due to their poverty situation. To decrease the risk of poverty and therefore the need for social safety net programs, formal employment opportunities need to be improved.

Increasing the share of formal employment would both contribute to the economic growth and social welfare. For this purpose, there is need for efforts in both firm-side and worker-side. Related to firm-side, governments need to create a regulatory environment which prevents informal employment and support small businesses to involve in formal employment. On the other side, informally employed people should be enabled to be more productive in order to work in formal sector which mostly requires higher skills and abilities. For this purpose, active labor market interventions and policies (such as training and skill-development programs) as well as credit and business development opportunities may be introduced/improved.

Policy Recommendation 2: Promoting free and universal health care coverage for vulnerable groups

Rationale:

Health indicators in OIC member countries, in general, are not promising. Children and women are the most vulnerable groups in terms of inadequate access to health care services. Especially low and lower-middle income countries possess low life expectancy rates (between 45 and 60 with some exceptions), and high level of child and maternal mortality (30-150/1000 and 100-1200/100,000 respectively). The most vulnerable groups among children and women are overrepresented in the low and low-income member countries.

Some OIC Member Countries have universal health care. Besides, some OIC Member Countries (particularly upper-middle and high income countries) have ability and capacity to introduce such a system in their countries. On the other hand, in low income countries a well-functioning health system which covers the most vulnerable groups with free of charge may be introduced. That would contribute to the human capital accumulation of the country as well as the health and demographic indicators.

Policy Recommendation 3: Developing specific social safety net programs to improve the access of vulnerable children to health and education services for preventing intergenerational transmission of poverty

Rationale:

All OIC Member Countries have some type of social safety net programs. However, in many member countries these programs do not contribute to economic development at desired levels. Lack of adequate human capital is a common challenge that the member countries face. Low human capital in most of the OIC member countries creates a vicious circle. Low human capital leads to low income, low income leads to poverty and poverty leads to low human capital for the next generation.

In the OIC Member Countries, youth face risks such as lack of access to education and health services, difficulties in entering into formal labor market and thereby unemployment. In this regard, social safety net programs should be designed to support human capital and in turn economic growth. Therefore, while providing social assistance towards poor people, their children should be supported for improving their access to health and education.

Policy Recommendation 4: Designing specific social safety net programs to offer a minimum regular income to people who cannot work (disabled, poor female-headed households, elderly without a pension) as well as developing social safety net programs (including activation programs) for people who can work

Rationale:

Social safety net programs should be differentiated between people who can work and people who cannot work. For people who can work, these programs should be combined with labor market programs to decrease the dependency on social safety net programs and to decrease the poverty in a more sustained way. While those people receive social assistance they should also be prepared to enter the labor market and/or to transit to high-wage jobs. In OIC Member Countries, as far as adults are concerned, they face risks such as low human capital, usually translated into low pay due to precarious and informal labor, under employment and unemployment. For this purpose, social assistance should be provided with active labor market programs for the adults.

On the other hand, there are some people who cannot enter the labor market due to their disability, age or care responsibilities and live with inadequate income. These people need to be supported with a regular minimum income which guarantees a decent standard of living.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:

COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group: In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the member countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas, the member countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

ANNEX

XIII

DRAFT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SESSION OF 32nd COMCEC SESSION

The 31st COMCEC Session decided on “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” as the theme of the Exchange of Views of 32nd Session of the COMCEC and requested the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to come up with policy recommendations on the aforementioned topic and report it to the 32nd COMCEC Session. In this framework, the participants, in light of the discussions taken place during the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group and research report prepared specifically for this Meeting, have come up with the following challenges and problems as well as the possible policy options with regard to developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the member countries.

Challenges and Problems:

The participants, in line with the discussion took place during the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group, highlighted the following possible challenges and problems:

- Weak regulatory systems
- Lack of Shariah governance infrastructure
- Lack of necessary institutional infrastructure
- Lack of Islamic financial instruments and services
- Lack of specialized Islamic finance academic and training programs
- Lack of initiatives, i.e. campaigns on increasing public awareness, to promote Islamic finance
- Lack of diversified Islamic Finance Strategies/Policies targeting the various needs of investors
- Lack of SMEs access to finance
- Low level of integration of Islamic Finance to the global financial system
- Lack of liquidity framework for Islamic Banks
- Lack of high quality research and intellectual discussions

Policy Recommendations:

Considering the above-mentioned challenges and problems, the policy recommendations highlighted during the Meeting are as follows:

1. Legal, Regulatory, Accounting and Taxation Frameworks

- Reviewing existing Islamic financial regulations and guidelines to ensure compatibility with Shariah guidelines
- Developing an independent agency to monitor the products in secondary markets and exchanges

- Developing a legal infrastructure to foster growth of the Islamic financial system
- Developing a specific disclosure guidelines for Islamic Financial Institutions(IFIs) that increases transparency
- Ensuring tax-neutrality for Islamic financial transactions in order to provide them a level playing field

2. Shariah Governance and Supervision:

- Establishing a National Shariah Board/necessary institutional set up to provide oversight and governance to internal and independent Shariah boards of financial institutions
- Developing seminars and training programs for Shariah scholars about Islamic financial operations and product development
- Increasing collaboration between Shariah scholars and Islamic finance management

3. Infrastructure:

- Developing secondary markets for Islamic financial products
- Developing exchanges for Islamic financial products
- Adoption/adaptation of international standards issued by IFIs (i.e. IFSB, IIFM, AAOIFI, etc.)
- Developing liquidity management frameworks for IFIs
- Improving the IT capacity of Islamic financial institutions

4. Products and Services:

- Increasing range of Islamic products and services to meet the needs and demands of the Islamic finance
- Encouraging standardization of products and services of IFIs
- Encouraging innovation and adoption of new technologies, and alternate delivery channels for enhancing financial inclusion

5. Initiatives:

- Developing national and international campaigns to increase brand awareness of Islamic finance
- Creating a new campaign to focus on the positives of Islamic finance for investors
- Encouraging expansion of Islamic social finance in order to promote financial inclusion for the poor and empowerment of woman.
- Promoting collaboration among various international institutions working on development of Islamic finance

- Bringing Islamic Finance to the agenda of multilateral economic and financial platforms/institutions
- Encouraging experience sharing in Islamic Finance among the member countries through bilateral cooperation and technical assistance

6. Talent Development:

- Promoting academic researches on Islamic finance and social finance
- Promoting/Developing training and academic programs specific to Islamic finance
- Developing industry certifications for Islamic finance
- Developing certification requirements for Islamic finance Industry professionals
- Creating scholarship and grant programs that sponsor individuals who are interested in working in the Islamic finance industry
- Creating Islamic finance industry trade associations and encouraging their collaboration at international level
- Developing and hosting conferences for Islamic finance industry members, researchers, and regulators to share ideas and collaborate on ways of growing and improving the industry
- Promoting regular tour of duty/rotation for the members of sharia advisory boards in Islamic financial institutions
- Encouraging internship programs on Islamic Finance

ANNEX

XIV

Original: English



**DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE 32nd SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

(İstanbul, 21-24 November 2016)

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation
3. The OIC Ten-Year Program of Action
4. World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries
5. Intra-OIC Trade
6. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
7. Improving Transport and Communications
8. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
9. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
10. Alleviating Poverty
11. Deepening Financial Cooperation

12. Exchange of Views on “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”

13. Date of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC

14. Any Other Business

15. Adoption of the Resolutions

ANNEX

XV

Original: English

**CLOSING SPEECH BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SALİH MUTLU ŞEN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY TO THE OIC
THIRTY SECOND MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(Ankara, 18 May 2016)**

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

After intensive deliberations, we have successfully concluded the 32nd Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC. We have drawn up the agenda of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC and reviewed the issues on the agenda with a view to further enhancing cooperation among the Member Countries. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all delegations for their active participation in the Meeting as well as their valuable contributions to the deliberations.

Distinguished Delegates,

Encompassing a vast geographical area with rich natural resources as well as young and dynamic population, OIC Member Countries have a promising outlook for socio-economic development. Yet it is unfortunate to see that present reality is far from this positive outlook. In fact, some parts of our region suffer not only from economic problems but also from resilient political crises.

On the other hand, while almost half of the Least Developed Countries consists of OIC Member States, some other OIC Member Countries perform quite well in global rankings in terms of both economic and social indicators. This mixed picture, from a positive perspective, also highlights the tremendous technical cooperation and experience sharing opportunities among the Member Countries.

In this respect, serving as the highest economic and commercial cooperation platform of the OIC, COMCEC has been exerting efforts to further economic cooperation among the

Member Countries since its inception. Lastly, successful implementation of the COMCEC Strategy added a new systematic dimension to our work. Within 3 years, COMCEC Working Groups successfully held 41 expert level meetings on different technical themes under six main cooperation areas. During the meetings, key policy recommendations were developed in the light of evidence based discussions with a view to coming up with collective solutions to our common challenges.

I believe that we need to elaborate more on these policy recommendations to implement them at the national level to the extent possible. Among others, PCM is a facility for this elaboration. Seizing this opportunity, I would like to once again underline the crucial importance of the contributions and active involvement of the Member Countries in the activities, projects and programs under the umbrella of the COMCEC.

Distinguished Guests,

Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC, TPS-OIC has been on our agenda for several years long-awaiting for implementation. It gives us great pleasure that the necessary requirements for the actual implementation of the System were finally completed by the end of 2014. Relevant Member Countries' feedbacks are awaited for updating the previously conveyed concession lists and notifying the TNC Secretariat on the relevant internal measures to be undertaken for implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin. I will not miss this opportunity to call upon all relevant Member Countries to complete all these required steps at the earliest.

Esteemed Delegates,

During our Meeting, we have discussed various issues of importance for our member countries in critical sectors such as trade, transport, agriculture, poverty alleviation, tourism and financial cooperation. As we have already spent sufficient time on all these matters, it would suffice at this point to mention the importance and relevance of "Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries" as the theme of the Exchange of Views Session of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC.

In this respect, I firmly believe that the outcomes of the exchange of views sessions will provide us with strong insights and indications regarding the future of Islamic finance in the Member Countries.

Esteemed Guests,

Before concluding, I would like to thank all the Members of the Follow-Up Committee, the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, the IDB Group, ICDT, ICCIA, SMIC, and OISA for their participation and valuable contributions to the meeting. I would also like to thank our colleagues in the COMCEC Coordination Office, the staff on duty in this Organization, interpreters, revisers and translators for their untiring efforts which helped rendering this meeting a success.

I wish you all a safe trip back home.

Thank you.

ANNEX

XVI

Original: English

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE THIRTY SECOND MEETING OF
THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC**

(Ankara, 17-18 May 2016)

1.	Progress Report on the Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(1)-CCO</i>
2.	Report of the OIC General Secretariat on the Implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(2)-OIC</i>
3.	CCO Brief on Trade.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(3)-CCO</i>
4.	Proceedings of the 7 th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(4)-CCO</i>
5.	Policy Recommendations of the 7 th Meeting of the Trade Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(5)-CCO</i>
6.	Reports of ICDT on the OIC Fairs and Exhibitions.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(6)-ICDT</i>
7.	Annual Report on Trade Between the OIC Member States 2015-2016.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(7)-ICDT</i>
8.	Report on IDB's WTO-Related Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(8)-IDB</i>
9.	Report on the Issues Relating to the Activities of the World Trade Organization	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(9)-ICDT</i>
10.	Progress Report on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade..	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(10)-ITFC</i>
11.	Annual Report on the Activities of Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC).....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(11)-SMIIC</i>
12.	Report on the Activities of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA)..	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(12)-ICCIA</i>
13.	Assessment Report by the ICCIA on its Ongoing Activities.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(13)-ICCIA</i>
14.	CCO Brief on Transport and Communications	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(14)-CCO</i>

15.	Proceedings of the 7 th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(15)-CCO</i>
16.	Policy Recommendations of the 7 th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(16)-CCO</i>
17.	CCO Brief on Tourism	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(17)-CCO</i>
18.	Proceedings of the 7 th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(18)-CCO</i>
19.	Policy Recommendations of the 7 th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(19)-CCO</i>
20.	Report of the 4 th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(20)- Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey</i>
21.	Resolution of Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers on Tourism Development Among the OIC Member Countries.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(21)- OIC</i>
22.	CCO Brief on Agriculture.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(22)-CCO</i>
23.	Proceedings of the 7 th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(23)-CCO</i>
24.	Policy Recommendations of the 7 th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(24)-CCO</i>
25.	CCO Brief on Poverty Alleviation	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(25)-CCO</i>
26.	Proceedings of the 7 th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(26)-CCO</i>
27.	Policy Recommendations of the 7 th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(27)-CCO</i>
28.	Report on the Activities of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(28)-IDB- ISFD</i>
29.	Report on the Special Programme for the Development of Africa (SPDA)	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(29)-IDB</i>
30.	Progress Report on Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET)	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(30)- SESRIC</i>
31.	CCO Brief on Financial Cooperation	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(31)-CCO</i>

32.	Proceedings of the 6 th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(32)-CCO</i>
33.	Draft Policy Recommendations of the 6 th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group to be submitted to the Exchange of Views of the 32 nd Ministerial Session	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/32-16/D(33)-CCO</i>

Reports are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org)



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