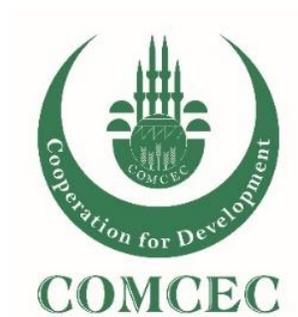


Original: English



## **ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA**

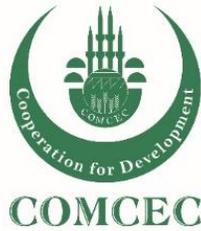
**35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC  
(Istanbul, 25-28 November 2019)**

**COMCEC Coordination Office**

**Ankara, November 2019**

[www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org)

Original: English



**DRAFT AGENDA  
OF THE 35<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMCEC  
(Istanbul, 25-28 November 2019)**

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-2025: Programme 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 “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries”
13. Date of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Resolutions

-----  
-----

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to give background information and the current status on the cooperation areas, programs and projects of the COMCEC for its 35<sup>th</sup> Session, to be held on 25-28 November 2019, in İstanbul, Turkey.

The document provides background information and the required actions on the Draft Agenda Items from 2 to 13. As the remaining Agenda Items are self-explanatory; they are not included in the Document.

The reports and studies to be submitted under each agenda item will be placed on the COMCEC's website ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org)).

## ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA ITEMS

### AGENDA ITEM 2 Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation

#### - The COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation

COMCEC has been continuing its activities in light of the COMCEC Strategy, which has become operational in 2013.

The Strategy has a well-defined implementation mechanism, which ensures active and direct involvement of the Member Countries with its two instruments. Through the Working Groups (WGs), member country experts in the cooperation areas convene twice a year with the aim of producing and disseminating knowledge, and sharing experience and good practices. The WGs also provide a solid ground for creating a common understanding and approximating policies among the Member Countries to respond their common development problems.

The COMCEC Project Funding, second instrument of the COMCEC Strategy, enables the member countries registered to the WGs and the relevant OIC Institutions, to submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO).

As of November 2019, the WGs have held 14<sup>th</sup> rounds of meetings in six cooperation areas (13 meetings for Financial Cooperation Working Group) so far and deliberated on important issues and themes in each cooperation area. The details of each working group are given under the relevant agenda item. Under the COMCEC Project Funding mechanism, in 2018, 17 projects were completed. Moreover, under the 6<sup>th</sup> project call, 24 projects have been found eligible to receive grants provided by the CCO and are expected to be implemented by the end of 2019. The CCO made the seventh project call on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The relevant documents regarding the COMCEC Project Funding are available on the COMCEC website. ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org))

Successful implementation of the Strategy requires effective coordination and communication between the member states and the CCO. In this regard, COMCEC National and Working Groups Focal Points convene annually to discuss ways and means to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the Strategy. In this respect, the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Coordination Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points was held on 15-17 July 2019, in İstanbul, Turkey.

Moreover, cooperation efforts of the OIC Institutions operating in the economic domain have particular importance for the realization of the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy. In line with the relevant resolution of the COMCEC, the OIC Institutions have been organizing activities aligned with the objectives and expected outputs of the COMCEC Strategy as well as the policy recommendations of the COMCEC Ministerial Session.

In this framework, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **welcomed** the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy; **commended** the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to its implementation and **requested** the Member States and OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy. Moreover, the Session **welcomed** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas and the research studies and sectoral

outlooks conducted by the CCO specifically for enriching the discussions in each COMCEC Working Group Meeting.

Furthermore, the Session welcomed the finalization of the 13 projects funded under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2017 and the progress achieved in the implementation of the 17 new projects under the fifth project call in 2018, and also welcomed selection of 24 projects to receive grants provided by the CCO under the sixth project call, made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in September 2018.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC held on 24-25 April 2019 in Ankara welcomed the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC. The Committee also commended the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their field of competence and welcomed the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in February-April 2019.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the COMCEC Strategy and its implementation. The Session will consider the report submitted by the CCO for necessary action.

#### - **Report of the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC**

The 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC was held on 24-25 April 2019, in Ankara, Turkey. The Committee reviewed the implementation of the programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC and prepared recommendations for the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): The 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC will be briefed by the Rapporteur of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the recommendations of the Meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3**

#### **OIC 2025: Programme of Action**

The OIC Programme of Action for the period of 2016-2025 (OIC-2025: Programme of Action) was adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 14-15 April 2016. Underlining the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action by the COMCEC, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **requested** the OIC General Secretariat to regularly submit comprehensive progress reports on the implementation of the Programme to the COMCEC Sessions and to the Follow-up Meetings.

Required Action(s): The OIC General Secretariat is expected to submit a comprehensive progress report on the implementation of the Programme. The Session will consider the General Secretariat's report on the subject for necessary action.

## AGENDA ITEM 4

### World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries

#### - Annual Economic Report on the OIC Member Countries

SESRIC, in light of the relevant decision of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, has been preparing an annual report on recent world economic developments and their implications on the OIC member countries and submit it to the annual sessions of the COMCEC.

In its Annual Economic Reports, SESRIC summarizes the global and regional economic and financial developments as well as provides some policy recommendations for the member countries.

*Required Action(s):* SESRIC is expected to submit a report on world economic developments. The Member Countries will share their experience regarding the recent economic developments.

## AGENDA ITEM 5

### Intra-OIC Trade

COMCEC Strategy identifies the expansion of intra-OIC trade as one of the important strategic objectives of the COMCEC. In this regard, trade occupies an important place in the COMCEC agenda.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation of the convening of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Trade Working Group (TWG) and welcomed the policy recommendations formulated in these meetings.

In accordance with the relevant resolution of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “*Increasing Public Availability of Customs Information in the OIC Member States.*” The Working Group has come up with a set of policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org) and [ebook.comcec.org](http://ebook.comcec.org)).

Moreover, 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was organized on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the theme of “*Improving Customs Transit Systems in the OIC Member Countries.*” The Working Group has come up with a set of policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org) and [ebook.comcec.org](http://ebook.comcec.org)).

Regarding the multilateral projects in trade domain, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts of Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan and SMIIC for the four projects within the framework of COMCEC Project Funding in 2018. Furthermore, under the 6<sup>th</sup> Project Call, four projects are being implemented by Indonesia, Lebanon, Palestine and SMIIC in 2019. In this respect, the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee commended the efforts of Indonesia, Lebanon, Palestine and SMIIC to realize these projects in 2019 under the 6<sup>th</sup> Project Call.

*Required Action(s):* The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Trade Working Group as well as the projects finalized in 2018 and being implemented in 2019 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the Trade Working Group for necessary action.

There are also several important programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC to enhance cooperation among the OIC Member States in the field of trade. Some of the ongoing programs and activities are; TPS-OIC, Islamic Trade Fairs, WTO-Related Technical Assistance, Trade Financing Activities and Trade Related Activities of SMIIC.

#### - **TPS-OIC**

TPS-OIC (Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States) is the most important project of the COMCEC in trade area. The System is based on three agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and the Rules of Origin. The legal basis of the TPS-OIC was completed in 2011. The required number of member countries for the operationalization of the System has already been reached by the end of 2014.

COMCEC, in its 34<sup>th</sup> Session, welcomed the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on behalf of its six members (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman) and **requested** the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Secretariat to communicate with the concerned participating Member States to ensure the submission of the concession lists in the same format and circulate them among the concerned Member States accordingly.

Furthermore, Republic of Sudan hosted “Regional Workshop on TPS-OIC and the Multilateral Trading System” in Khartoum on 17-18 December 2018.

Moreover, a “Training Seminar on TPS-OIC” has been organized successfully on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in Istanbul, by the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), as the co-Secretariat of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC), in collaboration with the relevant authorities of the Republic of Turkey as the Chairman of the TNC.

Required Action(s): As the TNC co-Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the progress regarding the operationalization of the TPS-OIC. The Session will consider the recent developments and take appropriate action, if necessary.

#### - **Islamic Trade Fairs**

Islamic trade fairs are held every two years in one of the OIC Member Countries by ICDT in order to promote intra-OIC trade. ICDT has organized sixteen Islamic Trade Fairs to date. In this regard, in line with the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the 16<sup>th</sup> OIC Trade Fair was held in Baghdad on 7-13 April 2019.

In addition to the Islamic Trade Fairs, sector specific exhibitions are also organized by the ICDT in the Member States.

Moreover, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC reiterated its request to ICDT to continue holding sector specific fairs in cooperation with the Member States and submit regular progress reports on the fairs to the COMCEC Sessions. The Session also reiterated its request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

Required Action(s): ICDT is expected to report the recent developments on the Islamic Trade Fairs.

## - **WTO Related Technical Assistance**

COMCEC encourages its members to join the WTO in order to benefit from the international trade system on an equitable and fair basis. For this purpose, the IDB Group and ICDT organize training courses, seminars and workshops on the WTO related issues for the benefit of the Member Countries.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **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.

Furthermore, the 35<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC **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 and underlines the need for more effectively disseminating information on training courses among all Member States. The Session **called upon** the Member Countries and the relevant OIC institutions to extend support to the Member Countries who need technical assistance on trade facilitation practices towards the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and also **underlined** the importance of raising awareness in the Member Countries about the ongoing WTO reform process.

*Required Action(s):* IDB and ICDT are expected to report their activities in this field to the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

## - **Trade Financing Activities**

Access to affordable trade financing is one of the crucial factors for the business people to engage in international trade. Trade financing activities are mainly carried within the IDB Group's trade financing organ, which is Islamic Trade Financing Corporation (ITFC). Moreover, Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) has been providing export credit insurance to mitigate the risks of trades.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC appreciated trade finance, promotion and development activities of ITFC and the mobilization of funds from the international market and development partners for funding the trade operations in the Member States, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 25 percent. The Session also called upon the Member States to complete their membership requirements for the institutions of the IDB Group (ITFC and ICIEC) so that the IDB Group implements its mandate successfully.

Furthermore, the Session took note with appreciation 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), Special Programme for Central Asia (SPCA), Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program (AATB), Trade Development Fund, West Africa SMEs Program and Trade Development Forum to raise awareness of the private sectors on the activities of the ITFC.

Moreover, the 34<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session took note with appreciation of the IDB Group's initiative called "OIC Business Intelligence Center" led by the ICIEC and **requested** the IDB Group, in particular the ICIEC, to start operationalization of this initiative as an OIC Program under one of the IDB Regional Hub, in close partnership with SESRIC and other relevant OIC institutions as required.

In line with this resolution, the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee took note of the Progress Report submitted by the ICIEC on OIC Business Intelligence Programme and **welcomed** the mutual arrangement between IDB Group, in particular ICIEC and SESRIC regarding the allocation of space location and other relevant resources by SESRIC for technical instruments for the OIC Business Intelligence Programme. The Committee **also welcomed** the IDB Group's endeavors to further the OIC Business Intelligence Programme with the necessary financial resources and process towards its implementation with the completion of studies including SWOT analysis, benchmarking study, operational processes and stakeholder expectations as well as market segmentation analysis.

*Required Action(s):* The IDB Group is expected to report its activities on trade financing and export credit risk insurance as well as inform the Session regarding the latest developments with regards to the operationalization of the "OIC Business Intelligence Center" as an OIC Program.

#### - **Trade Related Activities of SMIIC**

SMIIC, as the affiliated institution of the OIC, aims at enhancing trade among the Member Countries through realizing harmonized standards and eliminating technical barriers.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **welcomed** the activities of the SMIIC in the area of standardization, metrology and accreditation and their impact on trade facilitation and capacity building. The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **also welcomed** the increasing visibility of the SMIIC and **expressed** its appreciation to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence and **invited** Member States to support to further increase its visibility in international fora. The Session **also invited** the Member States to adopt and use the OIC/SMIIC Standards as their national standards with a view to contributing to the harmonization of standards and alleviating technical barriers to trade among the Member States and **called upon** the relevant Member States, which use OIC/SMIIC Standards, to officially adopt the standards according to SMIIC adoption guidelines.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee invited the Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Councils.

*Required Action(s):* SMIIC is expected to inform the Session on the recent developments regarding its trade related activities.

### **AGENDA ITEM 6**

#### **Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation**

##### - **Private Sector Meetings**

The strong involvement of the private sector to the COMCEC and other relevant fora under the OIC is very crucial for enhancing intra-OIC trade and investments. In this respect, Private Sector Meetings, organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), serves as a platform for the private sector of the OIC Member Countries to communicate with each other,

explore new markets and learn about best practices. Up to now, 16 private sector meetings have been held. Apart from private sector meetings, the ICCIA also organizes Businesswomen Forums.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **took note** of the efforts of the ICCIA in organizing Forums, training programs, B2B Meetings, Seminars and Workshops in order to galvanize the role of the Private Sector to expand their network and increase their trading and investment opportunities and **encouraged** the Chambers of Commerce of the Member States to be actively involved in the ICCIA's activities.

Required Action(s): The ICCIA is expected to inform the Session on the recent developments regarding private sector meetings.

#### - **OIC Arbitration Center**

ICCIA and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) have been working towards the operationalization of the OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul/Turkey. The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **welcomed** the developments regarding technical preparations and organization of two Task Force Meetings on setting-up of the OIC Arbitration Center affiliated to the ICCIA in Istanbul by TOBB and ICCIA and **requested** the ICCIA and TOBB to finalize the technical preparations for the operationalization of the OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul in 2019 and **also requested** the Member Countries to encourage their Chambers to actively participate in the activities of the Arbitration Center.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Committee **welcomed** the progress in the operationalization of OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul affiliated to ICCIA and **requested** the Member Countries to encourage their Chambers to actively participate in the activities of the Arbitration Center.

Required Action(s): The ICCIA and TOBB are expected to brief the Session the recent developments regarding the operationalization of the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul. The Session will consider the issue and take necessary action accordingly.

#### - **Financing Private Sector Development**

Islamic Corporation for the Development of Private Sector (ICD), member of the IDB Group, works efficiently towards financing private sector projects in the Member Countries.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC **requested** the ICD to regularly submit comprehensive reports regarding its efforts on financing private sector to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings to be discussed under a separate sub-item "Financing Private Sector Development."

Required Action(s): The ICD is expected to inform the Session of its efforts on financing the private sector development.

### **AGENDA ITEM 7**

#### **Improving Transport and Communications**

The development of transport and communications among the Member States is given utmost importance by the COMCEC. Since the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the Transport and

Communications Working Group (TCWG) has held its 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, with the theme of “*Improving Transport Project Appraisals in the Islamic Countries.*” The Working Group has come up with a set of policy recommendations. The relevant documents of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of TCWG can be found at the COMCEC web-site ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org) and [ebook.comcec.org](http://ebook.comcec.org)).

Moreover, 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group was organized on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 with the theme of “Improving Risk Management in Transport PPP Projects in the Islamic Countries.” The Working Group has come up with a set of policy recommendations. The relevant documents of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of TCWG can be found at the COMCEC web-site ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org) and [ebook.comcec.org](http://ebook.comcec.org)).

Regarding the multilateral projects under the transport and communications sector, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and the 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Follow-up Committee **commended** the efforts of Gambia, Iran and Jordan for three projects implemented within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2018. Under the 6<sup>th</sup> Project Call, three projects are being implemented by Gambia, Iran and Jordan in this year.

Furthermore, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **welcomed** the renewed offer of the Republic of Sudan to host the Second Islamic Conference of Transport Ministers in 2019 in Khartoum, Sudan and **called upon** the Member States and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions including the COMCEC Secretariat to actively participate in this important event.

*Required Action(s):* The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the TCWG as well as the projects finalized in 2018 and being implemented in 2019 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the WG for necessary action.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8**

### **Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector**

The modern tourism industry requires a well-designed and functioning destination management. Given the importance of the Destination Management, Tourism Working Group (TWG) devoted its three consecutive meetings to this crucial subject.

Since the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, Tourism Working Group (TWG) has held its 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the theme of “Sustainable Destination Management Strategies in the OIC Member Countries.” The Working Group has come up with concrete policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org) and [ebook.comcec.org](http://ebook.comcec.org)).

Moreover, 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group was organized on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 with the theme of “Developing Multi-Destination Tourism Corridors in the OIC Member Countries.” The Working Group has come up with concrete policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org) and [ebook.comcec.org](http://ebook.comcec.org)).

Regarding the multilateral projects under the tourism cooperation area, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **commended** the efforts of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mozambique and SESRIC for the realization of the four projects within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2018. Furthermore,

under the 6th Project Call, six projects will be implemented by Azerbaijan, Gambia, Iran, Mali, Mozambique and ICDT in 2019.

Regarding the ongoing cooperation activities in this cooperation area:

- The 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) held on 5-7 February 2018 in Dhaka/Bangladesh, approved the selection of Dhaka (Bangladesh) as the OIC City of Tourism for 2019, and Gabala (Azerbaijan) as the OIC City of Tourism for 2020. The 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) will be hosted by the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2020.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum was held on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in İstanbul, with the theme of "Prospects for Development of Health Tourism in the OIC Member States".

*Required Action(s):* The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group and the projects finalized in 2018 and being implemented in 2019 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the Tourism Working Group Meetings for necessary action.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9**

### **Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security**

COMCEC gives particular importance to enhance agricultural cooperation among the OIC Member States. Within this perspective, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **took note with appreciation** the convening of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Agriculture Working Group and **welcomed** the policy recommendations formulated in these meetings.

Since the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group (AWG) has held its 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 in Ankara with theme of "Reviewing Agricultural Trade Policies to Promote Intra-OIC Agricultural Trade. The research report on the theme of the meeting was considered by the AWG. As an important outcome of the meeting, the WG has come up with concrete policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org) and [ebook.comcec.org](http://ebook.comcec.org)).

The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AWG was held on October 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the theme of "Increasing the Resilience of the Food Systems in Islamic States in Face of Future Food Crises" as the preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session. The Working Group has come up with concrete policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org) and [ebook.comcec.org](http://ebook.comcec.org)).

Regarding the multilateral projects under the agriculture cooperation area, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **commended** the efforts of Indonesia and Turkey for two projects implemented within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2018. Furthermore, under the 6th Project Call, three projects are being implemented by Egypt, Malaysia and Turkey in this year.

Moreover, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in the last quarter of 2020 in İstanbul and called upon the Member States and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions including the COMCEC Secretariat to actively participate in this important event.

*Required Action(s):* The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Agriculture Working Group and the projects finalized in 2018 and being implemented in 2019 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the Agriculture Working Group Meetings for necessary action.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10 Alleviating Poverty**

Poverty alleviation has a particular and prioritized place in the global development agenda. In addition to various factors affecting and determining the level of poverty, being deprived of healthy living conditions and low level of access to health services make poverty more chronic and a heritance for the next generations. In this regard, the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group (PAWG) was held on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Access to Health Services in the OIC Member Countries”. The Working Group has come up with some concrete policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org) and [ebook.comcec.org](http://ebook.comcec.org)).

Moreover, 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group was organized on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the theme of “Child and Maternal Mortality in the OIC Member Countries.” The Working Group has come up with concrete policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org) and [ebook.comcec.org](http://ebook.comcec.org)).

Regarding the multilateral projects in poverty alleviation, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee **commended** the efforts of Gambia and Indonesia for the two projects implemented within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2018. Furthermore, under the 6<sup>th</sup> Project Call, five projects are being implemented by Afghanistan, Nigeria, Suriname, Turkey and SESRIC in 2019.

*Required Action(s):* The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group and the projects finalized in 2018 and being implemented in 2019 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the WG for necessary action.

Moreover, the ongoing cooperation efforts in the area of poverty alleviation have been carried out under the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA), Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **- Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA)**

Following the 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in 2005, a special fund called Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) was established under the Islamic Development Bank. The main aim of the fund is to help the reduction of poverty in the Member Countries. Another important initiative of IDB, launched in 2008, is the Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA). Along with creating more employment, this fund aims to enhance economic growth and agricultural production in African Member Countries.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **reiterated** its request to the Member States, which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and requested the IDB Group to report back to the next COMCEC Session about the shortfalls in reaching the target capital of the ISFD. The 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Follow-up Committee reiterated its request to the ISFD to take the observations of the Member States made during the previous COMCEC Sessions for improving the performance of the Fund.

Furthermore, the Session **requested** the IDB to prepare evaluation reports on SPDA and submit them to the relevant OIC fora including forthcoming meetings of the COMCEC. The Session also **requested** the ISFD to increase its efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including governmental, non-governmental resources and the private sector in the Member States.

Moreover, recalling the relevant resolutions of the 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Sessions of the COMCEC, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session **requested** IDB to finalize the allocation of the funding to the SESRIC's capacity building project for the successful finalization of the OIC Cotton Programme. In line with this resolution, the 35<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Committee **requested** the SESRIC to re-submit a revised version of the capacity building project to the IDB Group and **called upon** the IDB Group to finalize the allocation of the funding to the project as well as the OIC General Secretariat, as the main coordinator of the Program, to take necessary steps for expediting the process towards the realization of the project.

Required Action(s): The IDB Group is expected to brief the Session the status of implementation of the ISFD and SPDA as well as the aforementioned capacity building project.

#### - **OIC-VET Program**

SESRIC initiated Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) in 2009 in order to enhance the quality of vocational education and training in the Member Countries. SESRIC reports the developments regarding the implementation of the OIC-VET to the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings and the COMCEC Sessions.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **appreciated** the efforts of SESRIC towards initiating and implementing various vocational capacity building programmes and training courses in different fields. The Session also **requested** the SESRIC to conduct more training programmes focusing on entrepreneurship including women entrepreneurship within the framework of the OIC-VET.

**Taking note of** the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025 submitted by SESRIC, the 35<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Committee **requested** SESRIC to circulate the document to the member countries to get their views and comments and submit the Road Map to the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to inform the Session on the progress in the implementation of the OIC-VET Program and submit the said Road Map reflecting the member country views and comments for consideration.

#### - **Implementation of SDGs**

Following the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was announced at the UN Special Summit in September 2015, bringing a new perspective with new goals and targets to be achieved by 2030.

Taking note with appreciation of the report presented by SESRIC on Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **requested** SESRIC to prepare an annual report on the progress at the OIC level towards achieving the prioritized SDGs as decided by Member States to be submitted to the Ministerial Sessions of the COMCEC.

In addition, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **took note** of the list of SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC Institutions compiled by the COMCEC Coordination Office and called upon the Member States and relevant OIC Institutions to closely follow up and participate in these activities. Moreover, the Session **requested** the CCO to compile the SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC Institutions in the prioritized SDG areas, namely, (i) poverty, (ii) health, (iii) hunger, (iv) education, (v) gender equality, (vi) decent work and economic growth, (vii) industry, innovation and infrastructure and (viii) climate change.

In line with this resolution, the 35<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to continue compiling the relevant OIC Institutions' activities aligned with the prioritized SDG areas and submit the list to the annual COMCEC Sessions.

*Required Action(s):* SESRIC is expected to submit the above-mentioned annual report to the Session. The COMCEC Coordination Office is also expected to submit a report on the OIC Institutions' activities related to the implementation of the prioritized SDGs in the member countries.

## **AGENDA ITEM 11**

### **Deepening Financial Cooperation**

Financial cooperation is of particular importance for contributing financial stability and economic growth of the Member Countries. In this regard, the Financial Cooperation Working Group (FCWG) provides a regular platform for deepening the cooperation among the Member Countries in this field.

Within this context, the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group has been focusing on different aspects of the Islamic Finance Sector in its recent meetings. In line with the relevant resolution of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group was held on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the theme of "Infrastructure Financing through Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries." The Working Group has come up with concrete policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org) and [ebook.comcec.org](http://ebook.comcec.org)).

Moreover, the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group was held on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, with the theme of "Improving Takaful Sector in the OIC Member Countries". The Working Group has come up with concrete policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org) and [ebook.comcec.org](http://ebook.comcec.org)).

Regarding the multilateral projects under financial cooperation, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **commended** the efforts of Nigeria and Turkey for the two projects implemented within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2018. Furthermore, under the 6<sup>th</sup> Project Call, three projects will be implemented by Mozambique, Nigeria and Turkey in 2019.

*Required Action(s):* The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting and 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group and the projects

finalized in 2018 and being implemented in 2019 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will also consider the policy recommendations of the Financial Cooperation Working Group for necessary action.

Furthermore, other ongoing activities in the area of finance have been carried out under the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum, COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum and OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum.

#### - **OIC Exchanges Forum**

The OIC Exchanges Forum has been continuing its efforts for enhancing cooperation among the relevant authorities of the Member Countries towards the harmonization of the rules and regulations governing market operations. The Forum held thirteen meetings so far and developed some important projects including S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum was held on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in İstanbul. The detailed information about the efforts of the Forum is available on the Forum web-site (<http://www.oicexchanges.org/>).

The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **requested** the Borsa İstanbul as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum in cooperation with IDB to continue to work towards the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah 50 Index and its potential sub-indices and to develop effective products and services based on the Index.

Moreover, regarding the efforts towards the establishment of a gold exchange/platform among the OIC Member Countries, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **took note** of the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts of the Forum's Task Force on Precious Metals to accelerate the OIC Gold Exchange Project through utilizing the newly developed trading and safekeeping infrastructures of Borsa İstanbul as a preceding step before establishing the OIC Gold Exchange and **requested** the Forum's Secretariat to advance the technical preparations for the establishment of the OIC Gold Exchange and report to the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC. The 34<sup>th</sup> Session **also invited** the interested member states to actively support Forum's Task Force to finalize necessary work through accelerating the process of integration of exchanges and harmonization of regulatory frameworks.

*Required Action(s):* As the Secretariat of the Forum, Borsa İstanbul is expected to inform the Session of the recent developments regarding the Forum's efforts and to report the progress towards the realization of the above-mentioned gold exchange project. The Session will discuss the issue and take necessary action.

#### - **COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum**

As a regular and dedicated platform for increasing coordination and cooperation in the fields of regulatory and legal infrastructure among the Member Countries, the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum has held eight meetings till now. 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum was organized on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2019 in İstanbul. Prior to that the workshop on "Real Estate Values Platform" was organized on 24-25 September 2019. The detailed information about the endeavors of the Forum is available on the Forum web-site (<http://www.comceccmr.org/>).

Regarding the real estate exchange project, the 34<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session **took note** of the briefing by the Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum on the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate Electronic Platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange among the interested OIC Member States and requested the Forum/the Forum's Secretariat to finalize necessary legal, administrative and technological preparations for the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate Electronic Platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange before the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC. Moreover, the Session **called upon** the interested Member States to actively participate in the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate Electronic Platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange and invited them to identify their authorized bodies as well as notify them to the Forum's Secretariat before the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meeting.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, Capital Markets Board of Turkey is expected to brief the Session on the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum as well as the efforts towards the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate Exchange. The Session will discuss the issue and take necessary action.

#### - **OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum**

In the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States, the Central Banks of the OIC Member States decided to continue cooperation efforts among the member countries' central banks and monetary authorities as the "OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum". The 34<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session **took note** of the communique of the said meeting as well as the decision on the establishment of the "OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum". The first Meeting of the Forum was held on 22-24 September 2019 in Turkey.

Furthermore, **commending** the training and capacity building programs organized by SESRIC towards the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States, the Session **requested** the SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the relevant institutions of the Member States.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey, is expected to inform the Session about the outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum. In addition, SESRIC is expected to brief the Session on its aforementioned training and capacity building efforts.

### **AGENDA ITEM 12** **Exchange of Views on** **"Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries"**

Exchange of views sessions are held regularly at the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC **decided** the theme of the Ministerial Exchange of Views of the next COMCEC Session as "Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries" and **requested** the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group in its 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session. In line with the above-mentioned resolution, the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group was held on October 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the theme of "Increasing the Resilience of the Food Systems in the Islamic States in Face of Future Food Crises." The Working Group has come up with some policy recommendations to be submitted to the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

Furthermore, the 35<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Committee Meeting encouraged the Member States to prepare their country reports on the mentioned theme and convey them electronically to the CCO by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the latest.

Required Action(s): CCO will inform the Session regarding the preparations for the exchange of views session including the recommendations of the Working Group which will be submitted to Ministerial Exchange of Views Session for consideration. The Session will consider the recommendations and take necessary action.

### **Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC**

During its 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Follow-up Committee discussed on the possible themes and took note of the following themes for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC:

Theme 1: Facilitating Trade: Guidelines for Improving Border Management for OIC Member States

Theme 2: Standardization Efforts in Islamic Finance

Theme 3: Developing Livestock Production and Animal Husbandry to Foster Food Security

Theme 4: Enhancing and Sustaining Public Transport in the Rural Areas of the Islamic Countries

Theme 5: Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness

Theme 6: Housing for the Poor in the OIC Member Countries

The 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to circulate a questionnaire among the Member States to explore their views on the above-mentioned themes and any other views and report the outcome to the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office is expected to present the results of the questionnaire on the theme of exchange of views session of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC. The 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC will decide on the theme of the next year's ministerial exchange of views session.

### **AGENDA ITEM 13 Date of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC**

The Session will decide on the dates of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee. Annual sessions of the COMCEC are generally held in November and the Follow-up Committee meetings are usually held in May.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office will propose specific dates for the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee. The Session will decide on the dates of the said meetings.