



Making Cooperation Work

# COMCEC STRATEGY

For Building an Interdependent Islamic World

## *RESPONSES OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES TO THE POLICY QUESTIONS ON*

### *Improving Authorized Economic Operator Programs In the OIC Member Countries*



COMCEC

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# OUTLINE

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1. Formulation of Policy Recommendations
2. Policy Questions and Responses of the Member Countries
3. Room Document

# 1) FORMULATION OF POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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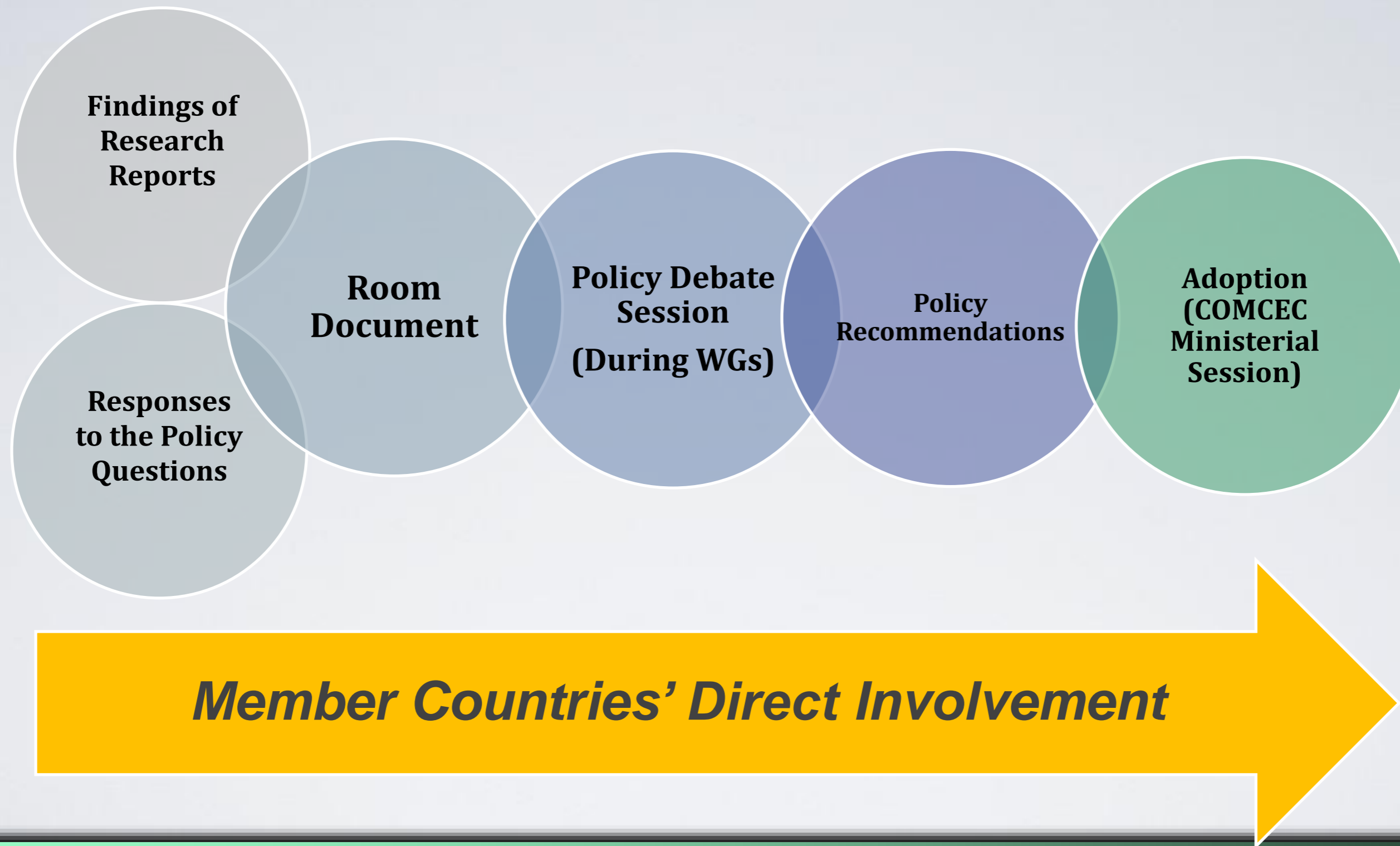
«..... **approximate policies** in the cooperation areas to address and find solutions to the economic and social challenges of the Islamic Ummah»  
**(COMCEC Mission)**

## Policy Recommendations:

- Research reports, policy questions, discussions during the WGs
- Adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions
- Serve to policy approximation

# 1. Formulation of Policy Recommendations

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## 2. Policy Questions and Responses

**Q1: Does your country have an operational Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program, Customs Compliance Program (CCP) or any other program for facilitating trade for trusted traders?**

Countries having an operational AEO /or similar program

Algeria  
Indonesia  
Iran

Oman  
Tunisia  
Turkey

Developing AEOs or at Pilot Stage

- Nigeria (only provides fast-track for trusted traders)
- Niger (the legislative framework has been developed)

Not having an operational AEO

- Lebanon
- Palestine

## 2. Policy Questions and Responses

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*Q2: Challenges in operating the current AEO program/ or establishing a new AEO Program*

### Challenges in operating the current AEO program

- Need for skilled human capacity (4 MCs)
- Limited number of Mutual Recognition Agreements (4 MCs)
- Lack of awareness about the benefits of the AEO Programs from private sector (3 MCs)

### Challenges in Establishing a new AEO Program

- Need for human resources (4 MCs)
- Inadequate technical know-how (3 MCs)
- Insufficient financial resources (3 MCs)

## 2. Policy Questions and Responses

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*Q3: Has your country received any technical assistance for developing AEO programs from international development partners?*

Yes  
(7 MCs)

- 4 Member Countries-World Customs Organization (WCO).
- 2 Member Countries received technical assistance from other countries.

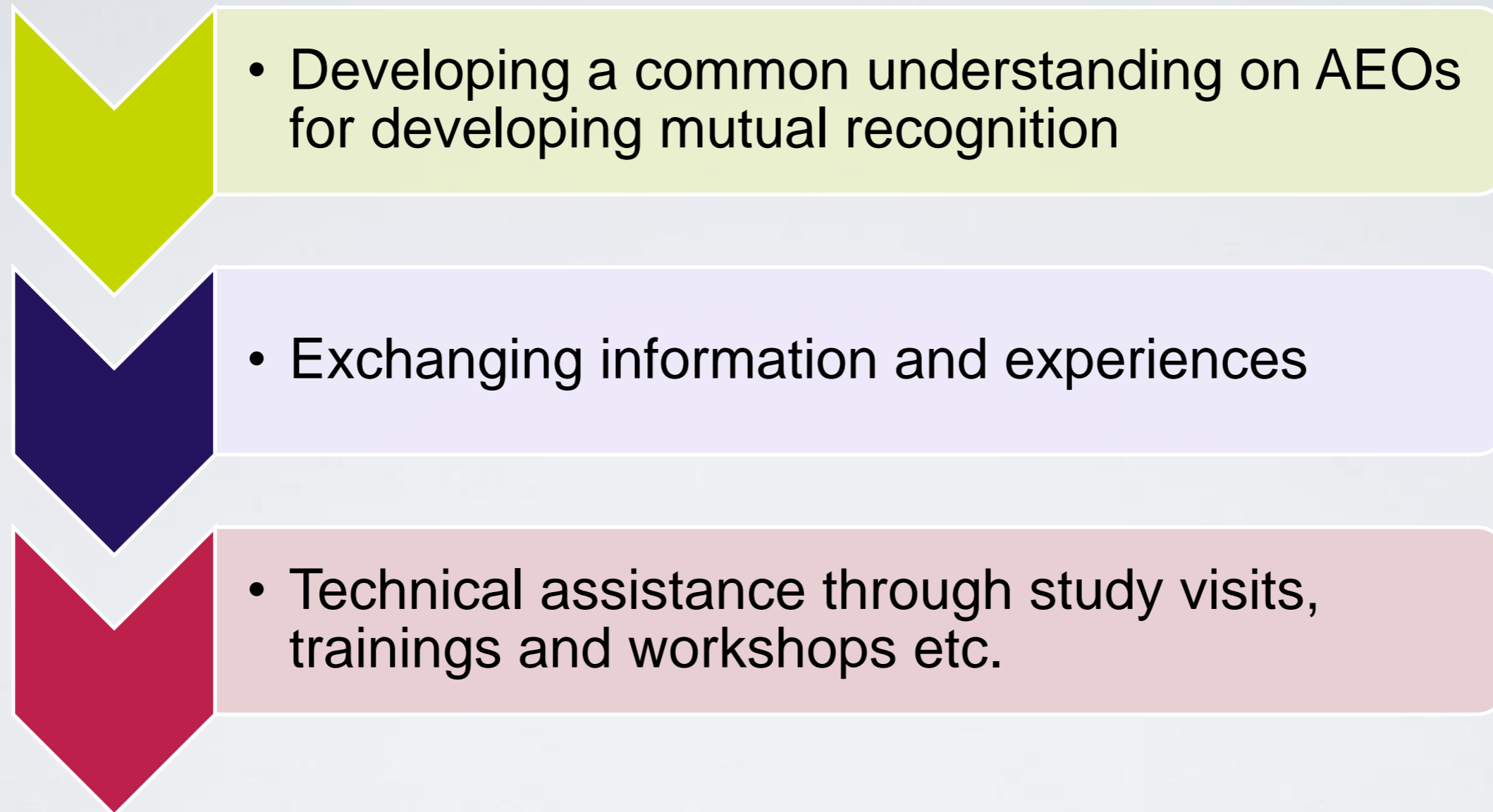
No  
(3 MCs)

- Trainings and other capacity building programmes are still required.

## 2. Policy Questions and Responses

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*Q4:* What are the opportunities for enhancing cooperation in the OIC Region on AEO Programs and increasing the number of MRAs?

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- Developing a common understanding on AEOs for developing mutual recognition
  - Exchanging information and experiences
  - Technical assistance through study visits, trainings and workshops etc.



## 3- ROOM DOCUMENT

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### Policy Advice 1

- *Designing an attractive package where benefits (e.g. deferred payment of duties and taxes) provided by the AEO program to the private sector outnumber costs (e.g. application and procedure-related fees) borne by firms and traders in order to attract companies to participate in the program*

### Policy Advice 2

- **Adopting an integrated approach in the legislative, organizational and operational dimensions with other government agencies during the design phase in order to eliminate duplications and redundancy as well as burdensome procedures**

## 3- ROOM DOCUMENT

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### Policy Advice 3

- Increasing the number of mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) as they enable AEO holders to enjoy trade facilitation benefits provided by the partner countries

### Policy Advice 4

- *Enhancing the communication with the private sector through utilizing client relations management*

### Policy Advice 5

- *Supporting the participation of SMEs in order to involve the entire supply chain for the operators to benefit from the AEO programs to their full extent*



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# THANK YOU

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