

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 25th MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(November 24th, 2014, İstanbul)**

1. The 25th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on November 24th, 2014 in İstanbul, on the sidelines of the 30th Session of the COMCEC.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. M. Metin EKER, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and COMCEC Coordination Office, 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)
 - Organization of Islamic Ship-owners Association (OISA)
3. The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items:
 - Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy
 - The List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Aligned with the COMCEC Strategy
 - The COMCEC Project Funding
 - Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions
 - Conducting Joint Activities
 - Raising Awareness of the OIC Institutions' Activities
 - Enhancing Cooperation with other Regional and International Organizations
 - Any Other Business

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

4. Highlighting the significance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the realization of the COMCEC Strategy, the Committee reviewed the lists of activities of the relevant OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy for 2014 and 2015 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation. The Committee appreciated the realization of a significant number of the activities in 2014.

5. The Committee noted that the activities have mainly been concentrated on a limited number of cooperation areas and certain type of activities. Therefore, the Committee invited the relevant OIC Institutions to give due importance to areas in which a limited number of activities were organized. Furthermore it was stressed that the type of activities also needs to be diversified i.e. research-related activities may be included in the list of activities for 2015.

6. The Committee also stressed the importance of having an integrated approach to the cooperation endeavors of the OIC Institutions and a continued dialogue and synergy among them for concerted outcomes.

7. The Committee invited the relevant OIC Institutions to consider designing activities aligned with the themes of the COMCEC Working Groups to be held in 2015.

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

8. The COMCEC Coordination Office briefly informed the Committee on the recent developments regarding the COMCEC Project Funding. The OIC Institutions shared their observations regarding the experiences in project implementation process within the framework of the first call of the COMCEC Project Funding.

Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions

9. Regarding the first sub-item, namely Conducting Joint Activities, the Committee welcomed the progress achieved in the increasing number of the joint activities organized by the OIC Institutions.

10. The Committee was informed by the IDB Group representative of the preparations for the model project on joint activities including all the relevant OIC Institutions working in the field of economic and commercial cooperation. The Committee requested the IDB Group to finalize its work and present the findings to the next Sessional Committee Meeting.

11. The Committee also reviewed possible contribution of the OIC Institutions through joint activities to the promotion and implementation of some important COMCEC Programs/Projects such as TPS-OIC, S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index and the OIC Cotton Program. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the IDB Group for their endeavors for the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index.

12. Regarding the second and third sub-items, the Committee deliberated on alternative occasions for raising the awareness in the Member Countries about the OIC Institutions and their activities and enhancing cooperation with other regional and international organizations.

13. For raising awareness; Business Forums, Trade Fairs, COMCEC Sessions, CFMs and Summits may be better utilized. MÜSIAD Business Forums and Fairs organized on the sidelines of the COMCEC Sessions, Trade Fairs and Forums to be organized in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Senegal in 2015 and 2016 respectively can also be utilized in this regard.

14. The Committee also underlined the importance of selecting the target audience such as the private sector, mass media, NGOs and other regional and international organizations for raising the awareness on the OIC Institutions and their programs/projects/activities.

15. The Committee stressed the need for combined and coordinated efforts for long term and sustained visibility of OIC Institutions and requested the ICCIA to prepare a guideline for increasing the awareness of the Member Countries and the private sector on their activities.

16. Regarding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the post-2015 period, the Committee highlighted the importance of reflecting the perspective of the OIC Member Countries to the Post-2015 development agenda. It was noted that the OIC-UN Coordination Meetings may be utilized in this regard.

17. The Committee took note of the proposal of CCO and SESRIC regarding the incorporation of the OIC Member Countries as a group in the statistical databases of the relevant international organizations and called upon the OIC Statistical Commission to consider this proposal in its forthcoming meeting.

Any Other Business

18. The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

