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**RESOLUTION
OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(İstanbul, 08-11 October 2012)

The Twenty-Eighth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) held on 08-11 October 2012, in İstanbul, the Republic of Turkey;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conference, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, in particular the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, the 4th Extra-ordinary Islamic Summit Conference, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 38th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the 27th Session of the COMCEC;

Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) adopted at the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005;

Having regard to the objectives of the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States;

Considering the progress reports, working papers and studies submitted by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic University of Technology (IUT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), and Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) on the agenda items;

Expressing its appreciation to the Member States for hosting Ministerial Conferences, meetings, workshops, fairs and other activities in the cooperation areas;

Commending the efforts made by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office and the OIC institutions working in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, namely SESRIC, ICDT, IDB, ICCIA, OISA and SMIIC.

Review of the Implementation of the OIC Ten -Year Program of Action and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 2)

i) Background Report:

1. **Takes note** of the report of the OIC General Secretariat and **reiterates** its request to highlight the challenges and progress achieved in the implementation of the resolutions in its review reports.
2. **Requests** the Member States and the OIC General Secretariat to improve the communication in order to follow-up the implementation of the resolutions effectively and also requests the COMCEC Coordination Office to circulate the relevant documents, which are submitted to the COMCEC Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings, to the Focal Points through e-mail as well.
3. **Requests** the Member States to actively participate in the activities, projects and programs, initiated by the COMCEC.
4. **Calls upon** the Member States, which have not done so, to sign the agreements in the field of economic and commercial cooperation at the earliest convenience and **also calls upon** the Member States, which have signed but not ratified these agreements yet, to do so.

ii) Recommendations of the Follow-up Committee

5. **Adopts** the recommendations of the 28th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

iii) OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia

6. **Takes note with appreciation** of the recommendations of the Workshop on “Country Partnership Models with Central Asia” organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, in collaboration with Turkish International Coordination and Cooperation Agency (TİKA) and **requests** the Executive Committee of the OIC plan of action for Central Asia to consider these recommendations in planning its future activities and **calls upon** further implementation of projects in the framework of the above-mentioned Plan.

iv) Report of the Sessional Committee

7. **Takes note** of the Report of the 21st Meeting of the Sessional Committee.
8. **Requests** the interested Member States to actively participate in the implementation process of the projects on the agenda of the Sessional Committee.

(The Report of the Sessional Committee is Attached as Annex.)

World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries (Agenda Item: 3)

9. **Takes note** of the recommendations of the Annual Economic Report 2012, submitted by SESRIC, and **entrusts** SESRIC to continue monitoring world economic developments and their implications for the Member States and to report thereon to the annual sessions of the COMCEC with a set of policy recommendations.

Intra-OIC Trade (Agenda Item: 4)

i) TPS-OIC

10. **Welcomes** the ratification of the three TPS-OIC Agreements by the State of Palestine; the ratification of the Framework Agreement by the Republic of Iraq; the ratification of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin by Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the submission of concession lists by the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
11. **Urges** the Member States which have ratified PRETAS to notify the Trade Negotiating Committee Secretariat, of their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of products and the MFN applied rate applicable on October 1st, 2003.
12. **Also urges** the Member States which have ratified the Rules of Origin to complete the necessary internal legislative and administrative measures, which include printing TPS-OIC Certificate of Origin and conveying specimen impressions of stamps to the Trade Negotiating Committee Secretariat.
13. **Calls on** the Member States that have not yet signed or ratified TPS-OIC Agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, PRETAS and Rules of Origin, to do so at their earliest convenience.

14. Welcomes the organization of the seminars by the ICDT for the benefit of Libya, the League of Arab States (in Kuwait), Morocco and Iraq on the TPS-OIC.

15. Requests the relevant OIC Institutions (OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT) to further their efforts with a view to raising awareness of the Member Countries, as well as the regional trading blocs comprising the member countries, on TPS-OIC.

16. Requests the Trade Negotiating Committee to convene at the earliest convenience when the required number of the Member States complete their ratification procedures of the TPS-OIC agreements and submit their lists of concessions at the same time.

ii) Islamic Trade Fairs

17. Welcomes the offers of the following Member States to organize upcoming trade fairs:

- United Arab Emirates (1st OIC Halal Food Expo, 10-12 December 2012, Sharjah)
- Kingdom of Morocco (1st OIC Trade Handicraft Exhibition, 11-14 April 2013, Casablanca)
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (1st Fair on Furniture, Decoration and Household Electrical Appliances, 12-16 May 2013, Medina)
- The Sultanate of Oman (6th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of OIC Member States, 13-16 May 2013, Muscat)
- The Islamic Republic of Iran (14th Islamic Trade Fair, 28 October-1 November 2013, Tehran)

18. Also welcomes the offers of Republic of Guinea, Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 15th, 16th and 17th Islamic Trade Fairs in 2015, 2017 and 2019 respectively.

19. Further welcomes the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the 2nd OIC Health EXPO 2014 in Dakar, Senegal in collaboration with ICDT and the International Centre for Foreign Trade of Senegal (CICES).

20. Calls upon all the Member States to encourage their public and private sectors to actively participate in these fairs.

21. Requests ICDT to submit regular progress reports on the trade and tourism fairs of the OIC Member States and the other specialized exhibitions which would include the evaluation of these fairs to the COMCEC Sessions.

22. Welcomes the offer of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey to share its experiences in organizing international fairs with the interested Member States within the framework of its Chamber Academy Program.

iii) Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade

23. Takes note of the follow-up report of the Executive Programme of the Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade.

24. Requests the OIC Institutions to increase their efforts for the implementation of projects and programmes in the Executive Programme and **calls upon** the Member States to lend the necessary support to the OIC Institutions for the implementation of the Program.

25. Takes note of the IDB Group (ITFC) efforts in preparing the Aid-for-Trade Initiative for Arab States, as a comprehensive trade development program and providing financial support for its implementation, taking fully into account the views expressed by the Arab Group thereon, and **encourages** the Member States to actively participate in its implementation.

26. Also takes note of the announcement of the ITFC and the ICDT concerning the organization of OIC High Level Forum on Trade Facilitation and Single Window, which will be organized in Casablanca, Morocco, in January 2013 and **urges** Member Countries to actively participate in the Forum and **requests** the organizers to submit a report to the next session of the COMCEC.

27. Calls upon the Member States to keep providing the ICDT with the most up-to-date data relating to trade statistics.

iv) WTO- Related Technical Assistance

28. Expresses its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey, IDB and ICDT for organizing capacity building programmes on WTO Related Issues for the Member States whose accession to the WTO is underway.

29. Calls on IDB and ICDT to synergize their efforts to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States so as to contribute to their

multilateral trade negotiations and accession of the Member States concerned to the WTO on an equitable and fair basis.

v) Trade Financing Activities

30. Notes with appreciation, the role being played by the IDB Group (ITFC) in enhancing and promoting intra-OIC trade.

31. Requests IDB Group (ITFC) to continue developing more innovative trade financing programmes for the benefit of Member Countries.

32. Calls upon the OIC Member States to encourage their public and private sectors to benefit from the export credit and political risk insurance services provided by the IDB Group (ICIEC) in order to further increase intra-OIC trade and investment flows.

33. Welcomes the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host a conference on “Cooperation and Collaboration among Export Credit Agencies of OIC Member States” in May 2013 in Tehran.

vi) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

34. Welcomes the increasing visibility of SMIIC in its field of competence and **requests** the Member States to actively participate in its activities on standardization, metrology and accreditation.

35. Takes note with appreciation of the finalization of SMIIC Standards and **requests** its Members to take necessary actions in their respective countries.

36. Welcomes the offer of the SMIIC to organize SMIIC Forum in November 2012 in Turkey and **invites** the Member States to participate in the Forum.

37. Requests the Member States, which have not done so, to join SMIIC to benefit from the services to be provided by SMIIC.

vii) Arbitration Mechanism

38. Requests the Member States, which have not done so, to send their views on the Study on “Relevance of Establishment of an Arbitration Mechanism” to the OIC General Secretariat at the earliest convenience.

Priority Sectors (Agenda Item: 5)

i) Cooperation in the Area of Agriculture

39. Welcomes the Draft Framework for Cooperation in Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security as an important document for cooperation in the area of Agriculture under the auspices of COMCEC. It **requests** the Member States, which have not yet done so, to present their views and comments thereon.

40. Calls upon all Member States to actively participate in the 7th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development to be held in December 2012 in Dakar, Senegal.

41. Recalling the relevant decisions of the 6th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security, Agriculture and Rural Development held in 2011, **invites** the Member States to share their knowledge and best practices in the area of agriculture with the interested member states with a view to enhancing their cooperation and solidarity in this field.

42. Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to share its knowledge and experience in the area of agriculture with the interested Member States in cooperation with SESRIC.

43. Also welcomes the initiative of SESRIC for organizing capacity building programmes in the area of agriculture and food security in collaboration with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey.

44. Further welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize a workshop on “Enhancing Cooperation Opportunities in Wheat Production Efficiency and Capacity Among the Member States” on 15-16 January 2013 and **requests** the Member States to actively participate in the workshop.

ii) Cooperation in the Area of Tourism

45. Welcomes the establishment of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum which would regularly bring together the private sector representatives of the OIC Member Countries.

46. Also welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 1st Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum on 7-8 December 2012 in İzmir and

urges the Member States to encourage their private sector representatives in tourism sector to actively participate in this important event.

47. Further welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize a training program on “Management of Hotels and Travel Agencies” in April 2013.

48. Requests all the Member States to actively participate in the 2nd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States to be held on 20-23 December 2012 in Cairo.

iii) Cooperation in the Area of Transportation

49. Calls on the Member States and the OIC Institutions to give their full support to the implementation of the Transport Cooperation Framework within OIC (İzmir Document 2011) by developing cooperation projects in line with the spirit of the said document.

50. Welcomes the efforts of relevant stakeholders towards the implementation of the Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project.

51. Welcomes the organization of the Seminar and Fair on Shipbuilding Industry in the OIC Member States, held on 31 August- 1 September 2012 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

52. Also welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to share its knowledge and experience in the areas of road transport, civil aviation and ship building industry with the Member States.

Financial Cooperation (Agenda Item: 6)

i) Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges of the OIC Countries

53. Welcomes the launching of the S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index.

54. Requests the Member States and the IDB to lend their support for the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index in the Member Countries.

55 Takes note of the recommendations of the 6th Meeting of the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum, organized by the Istanbul Stock Exchange on September 26th, 2012 in İstanbul, Republic of Turkey.

56. Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 7th Meeting of the OIC Stock Exchanges' Forum in October 2013 in İstanbul, and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

57. Requests the SESRIC to continue organizing training courses and capacity building programs for the Stock Exchanges of the OIC Member States.

ii) Cooperation among Capital Markets Regulatory Bodies

58. Takes note of the recommendations of the 1st Meeting of COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum held on 26-27 September 2012 in İstanbul, Republic of Turkey.

59. Welcomes the establishment of the Forum website (www.comceccmr.org) by the Capital Markets Board of Turkey and **calls upon** the Member States to contribute to the work of the Forum and its Task Forces.

60. Also welcomes the offer of the Capital Markets Board of Turkey to host the 2nd Meeting of the Forum in October 2013 in İstanbul; and **invites** all Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

iii) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities

61. Takes note of the recommendations of the 11th and 12th Meetings of the Governors of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States held in Malaysia and Turkey respectively.

62. Welcomes the cooperation activities and exchange of information among the Member States' Central Banks and Monetary Authorities on operation, regulation and oversight of payment systems.

63. Also welcomes the training and capacity-building programs, organized by the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey and SESRIC, within the framework of the cooperation among the Member States' Central Banks and Monetary Authorities.

64. Calls upon all the Member States to contribute to the cooperation efforts among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities and participate in its annual meetings.

65. Urges the Member States to actively participate in the 13th Meeting of the Governors of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States to be held in Saudi Arabia in 2013.

Poverty Alleviation (Agenda Item: 7)

i) ISFD and SPDA

66. Welcomes the contributions made by the Member States to the ISFD and urges countries that have pledged to contribute, to fulfill their commitments and those that have not pledged any contributions to do so, in order to enable the Fund to realize its objectives.

67. Welcomes the efforts of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for mobilization of resources from different financing institutions for the implementation of the Special Programme for the Development of Africa (SPDA) and calls upon the IDB for better management of the projects implemented under the SPDA.

68. Welcomes the contributions made by Member States and **encourages** other Member States as well as the relevant OIC Institutions to provide the necessary assistance to the Republic of Mali to address its ongoing food crisis.

ii) OIC Cotton Program

69. Requests the IDB Group to finalize its consideration of the projects which have already been submitted for financial support.

70. Further requests the IDB Group to submit regular progress reports to COMCEC Meetings on the status of the projects under consideration for funding.

71. Takes note of the Cotton Training Programmes of SESRIC and **urges** the Cotton Research Centers of Excellence to enhance their cooperation with SESRIC in implementing these programmes.

72. Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 6th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the OIC Cotton Program in the first half of 2013 in Ankara and **requests** the IDB to consider hosting the 5th Project Committee Meeting on the sideline of the Steering Committee Meeting.

iii) OIC-VET Programme

73. Requests the SESRIC and IDB to continue developing new projects under the OIC-VET sub-programmes.

74. Calls upon the Member States to participate and support the İSMEK Master Trainer Program, the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network and OIC International Students Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP).

75. Takes note with appreciation of the efforts of IDB and SESRIC towards preparing a detailed study on “Natural and Man-made Disasters in OIC countries” with a particular focus on man-made disasters.

Increasing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation (Agenda Item: 8)

76. Takes note of the holding of Training Programmes and Workshops by the ICCIA for the private sector in the areas of value addition, microfinance, and entrepreneurship development in SMEs.

77. Welcomes the organization of Chamber Academy Programs, by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), in collaboration with the IDB Group (ITFC) and ICCIA and **calls on** the private sector representatives of the member states to actively participate in the upcoming program.

78. Calls on the ICCIA to increase its capacity building programmes, professional business to business (B2B) and business to government events and its studies to enhance commercial and investment transactions among the OIC Member States.

79. Calls upon the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the 6th Businesswoman Forum on 12-14 December 2012, in Bahrain, the Second Forum for Investment for the West African States on 13-14 May 2013, in Nigeria and the 15th Private Sector Meeting to be held on 28-30 October 2013, in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

- Exchange of Views on “Enhancing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the Member States”

80. Takes note with appreciation of the recommendations of the preparatory Workshop on `Enhancing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the Member States` which was organized by SESRIC and IDB Group in cooperation with Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization of Turkey

(KOSGEB) and SME Corp Malaysia on 12-14 June 2012 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

81. Calls upon the government agencies, chambers, business associations and universities of the Member States to increase their support to the SMEs for ensuring their sustainability and competitiveness.

82. Requests the IDB group to consider proposing practical mechanisms to provide support to the SMEs in the Member Countries.

83. Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize a workshop on “Enhancing Cooperation Among the Trade Registry Institutions of the OIC Member States” in mid-2013.

84. Also welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to share its experience and good practices in supporting the SMEs.

85. Calls upon the SMEs Support Institutions of the Member States to enhance dialogue to share their best practices and experiences with one another.

- *Theme of the Exchange of Views Session of the 29th Session of the COMCEC*

86. Decides on the theme of the Exchange of Views Session of the 29th Session of the COMCEC as “Increasing FDI Flows to OIC Member Countries”, and **requests** the SESRIC and IDB Group, in cooperation with COMCEC Coordination Office and relevant OIC Institutions, to organize a workshop on this theme and submit its report to the next COMCEC Session.

Date of the 29th Session of the COMCEC (Agenda Item: 9)

87. Decides that the 29th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 14-15 May 2013 and the 29th Session of the COMCEC will be held on 18-21 November 2013 in Istanbul.

Any Other Business (Agenda Item: 10)

88. Takes note of the Report on Investment Environment in the OIC Member States, presented by the IDB Group (ICIEC) and ICCIA.

89. Welcomes the initiative of the Certification and Accreditation Programme for the Professionals of Official Statistics, developed by the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), and **requests** the IDB and SESRIC to contribute technically and

financially to the effective implementation of this important programme for the benefit of the National Statistical Institutions of the Member Countries.

90. Expresses its sincere thanks to H.E. Abdullah GÜL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, for his continuous support to the COMCEC and through him, **expresses** its gratitude to the people and government of the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality extended during the 28th Session of the COMCEC.
