

Policy Recommendations adopted by 30th Session of the COMCEC

- **Developing Tourism Workforce Development Strategies in the Member States and supporting the effective implementation of the existing ones**

Rationale: The Analytical Study specifically prepared for the 4th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group titled “Enhancing the Capacity of Tourism Workforce in the OIC member Countries for Improved Tourism Service Quality” highlighted the need to significantly invest in a tourism workforce development strategy as a means to strengthen and develop the tourism sector. Lack of long term Tourism Workforce Development Strategies is one of the challenges faced by the Member Countries. National Tourism Workforce Development Strategy can be an important tool to address the skills and labor shortages in the tourism and hospitality industry and to focus on priorities and resources for tourism development within the wider context of tourism sector. Moreover, availability of Tourism Workforce Development Strategy was one of the questions asked to the Member Countries in the Policy Questions circulated to the Member Countries by the COMCEC Coordination Office. In the responses of the Member Countries and their deliberations during the Working Group Meeting, the need for developing Tourism Workforce Development Strategies in the Member Countries and supporting the effective implementation of the existing ones was highlighted.

- **Enhancing the capacity of tourism workforce in the Member Countries**

Rationale: Capacity building and technical assistance programs are important tools for enhancing tourism workforce capacity. In the analytical study, it was pointed out that effective capacity building and technical assistance programs will result in a better qualified/skilled tourism workforce. This issue was also highlighted by the Member Countries in their responses to the Policy Questions prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office and deliberations during the WG Meeting