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ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA

30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC

(Ankara, 7-8 May 2014)

COMCEC Coordination Office

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**DRAFT AGENDA OF THE 30TH MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(Ankara, 7-8 May 2014)**

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 Ten-Year Program of Action
4. Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade
5. Improving Transport and Communications
6. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
7. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
8. Eradicating Poverty
9. Deepening Financial Cooperation
10. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
11. Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “The Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States”
12. Draft Agenda of the 30th Session of the COMCEC
13. Any Other Business
14. Adoption of the Report

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 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee, to be held on 7-8 May 2014 in Ankara, Turkey.

The document provides background information and the required actions on the Draft Agenda Items from 2 to 12. 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).

ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM 2

Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation

- The COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation

The COMCEC Strategy adopted by the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 August 2012 in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Saudi Arabia has become operational.

The COMCEC Strategy is based on three principles, namely Enhancing Mobility, Strengthening Solidarity and Improving Governance. These principles guide the cooperation efforts in the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and finance. The Strategy has a well-defined implementation mechanism. The first instrument for its operationalization is the Working Group mechanism. The Strategy ensures active and direct involvement of the Member Country experts in the cooperation areas through the regular Working Group meetings. The Working Groups aim at producing and disseminating knowledge, and sharing experience and good practices. They also provide a suitable ground for creating a common understanding and approximating policies among the Member Countries to respond to their common development problems.

The second instrument for the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy is the Project Cycle Management (PCM). The Strategy has a viable PCM through which the member countries participating in the working groups submit projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office.

Implementation phase of the COMCEC Strategy has commenced in 2013. H.E. Abdullah GÜL, the President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC submitted a comprehensive report regarding the progress achieved under the COMCEC to the 12th Islamic Summit held on 6-7 February 2013 in Cairo and informed the Summit that the COMCEC Strategy has become operational. The President has also briefed the Summit in detail on the preparations regarding the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

Within the framework of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, the first and second Working Group Meetings were held successfully with the active participation of the Member Countries in 2013. The third and fourth Meetings of the COMCEC Working Groups will be completed in 2014. The details for each Working Group are given under the related agenda items.

Regarding the second instrument of the Strategy for the implementation, the Project Cycle Management (PCM), the COMCEC Coordination Office organized two training programs on the new COMCEC Project Funding with a view to informing the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points about the details of the documents and processes for project submission. The first one was held on 19-20 August 2013, in Ankara, Turkey and the second one was organized for the West African Member Countries on August 29th, 2013 in Dakar, Senegal. In the training programs, the participants had the opportunity to make an exercise on project preparation.

Accordingly, the first project call was made in September 2nd, 2013 and the duration of the project submission has ended by November 1st, 2013. Member Countries and the relevant OIC Institutions have shown great interest to the project call. The final list of the projects was announced on March 9th, 2014 on the COMCEC website and 15 projects have been entitled to

receive the grant to be provided by the COMCEC Coordination Office. The implementation phase of the projects was launched at the signing ceremony held on April 2nd, 2014 in Ankara. The second project call under the PCM will be made in September 2014.

Moreover, cooperation exertions of the OIC Institutions operating in the economic domain would have particular importance for the realization of the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy. In this respect, in line with the relevant decision of the 22nd Sessional Committee held on May 13th, 2013 in Ankara on the sideline of the 29th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee, the OIC Institutions have communicated their list of activities aligned with the objectives and expected outputs of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Coordination Office. In this regard, they have been organizing activities which would serve to the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy.

The 29th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the progress achieved towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy in particular, the convening of the COMCEC Working Groups and the launch of the first project call within the framework of the COMCEC PCM. The 29th Session of the COMCEC also welcomed the activities of the relevant OIC Institutions, (SESRIC, ICDT, IDB, ICCIA, OISA and SMIIC) which will be organized in 2014 in line with the COMCEC Strategy. The list of activities of the relevant OIC institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy is available on the COMCEC Website (www.comcec.org).

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the COMCEC Strategy and its implementation.

AGENDA ITEM 3

The Implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action

The OIC General Secretariat regularly submits review reports on the implementation of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in 2005.

Implementation of the TYPOA was also discussed during the 29th Session of the COMCEC. The Session reaffirmed its commitment to the realization of the objectives of the TYPOA and called upon the Member States and the OIC Institutions to extend required efforts towards reaching the objectives of the TYPOA.

Required Action(s): The OIC General Secretariat is expected to brief the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the progress in the implementation of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade

Trade is defined as one of the cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy. Within the framework of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, Trade Working Group has held three meetings till now. The 1st Meeting of the Trade Working Group was held on June 20th, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of "Promoting the Small and Medium Enterprises' (SME) Exports in the OIC Member States." The 2nd Meeting of the Trade Working Group was held on October 31st, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of "Improving the SMEs Access to Trade Finance in the OIC Member States." The

analytical studies prepared specifically for these meetings and the relevant documents including the Proceedings of these Meetings are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org)

The 3rd Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was held on February 27th, 2014 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "Facilitating the Intra-OIC Trade: Improving Efficiency of the Customs Procedures in the OIC Member States." The Meeting was attended by the representatives from 21 Member States which have already registered to the Trade Working Group as well as from the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB/ITFC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), World Customs Organization (WCO) and GAINDE 2000.

The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in Customs Procedures in their respective countries. The Meeting has considered the Studies namely "Facilitating the Intra-OIC Trade: Improving Efficiency of the Customs Procedures in the OIC Member States" and "COMCEC Trade Outlook 2014" prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office. The outcomes of the Meeting were published by the COMCEC Coordination Office as the "Proceedings of the 3rd Meeting of the Trade Working Group." All the publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org).

The 4th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group will be held on October 23th, 2014 with the theme of "Preferential Trade Agreements and Trade Liberalization Efforts in the OIC Member States with special focus on the TPS-OIC."

The 29th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the convening of the First and Second Meetings of the COMCEC Trade Working Group and urged the Member States to attend actively to the Third and Fourth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be held in 2014.

Furthermore, in line with the relevant resolution of the 29th Session of the COMCEC, the Workshop on Competition Law Practices was held on 9-10 December 2013 in İstanbul. The Seminar on Competition Policies in the OIC Member Countries and the International Conference on Off-shoring Among the OIC Member States will be organized by the Republic of Tunisia in collaboration with ICDT in June and November 2014 respectively.

Moreover, in this cooperation area, the Forum on the "Trade Promotion Organs of the OIC Member States: Developing more synergies with the private sector" was held on 17-18 March 2014 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

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, Road Map for Enhancing Trade, WTO Related Technical Assistance, Trade Financing Activities and Trade Related Activities of SMIIC.

(CCO Brief on Trade: Document Code: OIC/COMCEC/30-14/D(3))

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the obstacles faced in Customs Modernization in Your Country? How can these obstacles be removed?

- TPS-OIC

TPS-OIC is the most important project of the COMCEC for enhancing intra-trade. The System is based on three agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and the Rules of Origin.

The Framework Agreement, which sets out the general rules and principles for the negotiations towards the establishment of the TPS-OIC, entered into force in 2002. The PRETAS, which complements the Framework Agreement by laying out the concrete reduction rates in tariffs, entered into force in February 2010. The Rules of Origin, which will be applied for the identification of the origin of products eligible for preferential concessions under the TPS-OIC, entered into force in August 2011. Therefore, the legal basis of the system was completed.

In order to make the TPS-OIC operational at least 10 Member Countries need to complete the ratifications of the TPS-OIC Agreements and submit their concession lists at the same time. However, the number of the Member Countries having met the two conditions is currently 9. When that number reaches 10, the TPS-OIC would be operational. Out of these 9 countries, 4 are the GCC members (United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia). There is a customs union among the GCC Member States which obligates its members to fulfill the required two conditions jointly. The GCC Secretariat has submitted the list of concessions on behalf of its six members. Nonetheless, Kuwait and Bahrain have not completed the ratification of the Agreements. For the System to be effectual in the GCC countries, the ratification of the PRETAS and the Rules of Origin by Kuwait and the ratification of the Rules of Origin by Bahrain need to be completed.

The COMCEC in its 29th Session reiterated its request to the Member States which have completed the ratification of the TPS-OIC Agreements to submit their concession lists to the TNC Secretariat and to complete the necessary internal legislative and administrative measures to make this System operational. The Session also requested the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to consider convening its session when the required number of Member States having ratified the three TPS-OIC Agreements convey their lists of concessions to the TNC Secretariat.

Moreover, the ICDT has organized a Seminar for the Private Sector on the “Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States” on 19-20 March 2014 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Required Action(s): On behalf of the TNC Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Follow-up Committee on the progress regarding the operationalization of the TPS-OIC.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) Successful implementation of TPS-OIC will be very instrumental for increasing mobility of goods among the Member Countries. What additional measures can be taken to expedite the implementation of the System as well as to attract more OIC countries to participate in the System?

- **Islamic Trade Fairs**

Islamic trade fairs are held every two years in one of the OIC Member Countries by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) in order to promote intra-OIC trade. The ICDT has organized fourteen Islamic Trade Fairs to date. The 14th Islamic Trade Fair was held from October 28th to November 1st, 2013 in Tehran.

In addition to the Islamic Trade Fairs, sector specific exhibitions are also organized by the ICDT in the Member States. In this framework, the 2nd OIC Halal Food Exhibition was held on 16-18 December 2013 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Moreover, the 7th OIC Agribusiness Expo was held on 13-16 April 2014 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In addition, following sector specific exhibitions will be organized in this year:

- The 1st Exhibition on Furniture, Decoration, Household and Electrical Appliances will be held on 11-14 May 2014 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
- The 2nd OIC Health Expo will be held on 26-29 June 2014 in Dakar, Republic of Senegal;
- The 1st OIC Hajj and Omrah Expo will be held on 16-20 November 2014 in Madinah Al-Munawwarah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
- The 3rd OIC Halal Expo will be held in December 2014 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

The 29th Session of the COMCEC deliberated on the recent developments regarding trade fairs and requested the 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.

Required Action(s): The ICDT is expected to report the recent developments on the Islamic Trade Fairs to the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) How do you evaluate the performance of the Islamic Trade Fairs? How can the trade fairs be improved?

- Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade

The Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade was adopted by the 24th Session of the COMCEC. In line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, the Consultative Group as an *ad-hoc group* composed of the OIC Institutions was established to follow-up the implementation of the Executive Program of the Road Map to reach 20 percent intra-OIC trade by 2015.

Till now, the Consultative Group has held six meetings. The last meeting was held on 3-4 February 2014 in Marrakesh, Morocco.

The 29th Session of the COMCEC requested the Consultative Group to carry out its work with the active participation of the OIC Institutions in line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC and in accordance with its mandate.

Required Action(s): The ICDT as the coordinator of the Executive Program of the Road Map is expected to report the outcomes of the 6th Consultative Group Meeting and the implementation status of the Road Map to the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the main achievements and challenges within the framework of the Road Map for enhancing intra-OIC trade?

- 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 29th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO and encourages the non-WTO Member OIC Countries, to join this organization and requested the WTO Member OIC Countries to support the new OIC acceding countries. The Session called on IDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and report their activities to the COMCEC Sessions.

Required Action(s): The IDB and ICDT are expected to report their activities in this field to the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the challenges faced by your country in implementing the WTO provisions or acceding to the WTO? In this framework, what are your country's technical assistance requirements on the WTO-related matters?

- Trade Financing Activities

Access to affordable trade financing is one of the crucial factors for the business people to engage in international trade. In this context, COMCEC has initiated Export Financing Scheme (EFS) which had been operated by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in order to enhance intra-OIC trade. Trade financing activities were mainly carried out by the IDB under the Export Financing Scheme (EFS) until the operationalization of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) within the IDB Group. Since its operationalization, all trade financing issues within the IDB Group have been incorporated into the ITFC. Moreover, in line with the relevant decision of the COMCEC, Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit has been established within the IDB Group and provides export credit insurance to mitigate the risks of the traders.

The 29th Session of the COMCEC took note of the trade finance activities of IDB Group (ITFC) and requested the IDB Group (ITFC) to consider developing new credit instruments covering both medium and long term finance for semi-capital and capital goods.

The IDB Group regularly reports its trade financing activities to the Follow-up Committee Meetings and the COMCEC Sessions.

Required Action(s): The IDB Group is expected to report its activities on trade financing and export credit risk insurance to the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the trade financing mechanisms implemented in your country? Does your country have specific policies/programs for better utilization of trade financing services of the ITFC by the business community?

- Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

Standard and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC) is an affiliated institution of the OIC responsible for harmonizing standards among the OIC countries. SMIIC aims at realizing harmonized standards and eliminating technical barriers for enhancing trade among the Member Countries.

In line with its mandate, SMIIC has intensified its cooperation efforts and activities. Recently, eight Technical Committees ranging from Halal Food issues to Service Site issues have been

established under SMIIC. There has been a growing interest by the Member States to SMIIC. The number of SMIIC's members has increased to 29 as of April 2014.

Required Action(s): The General Secretariat of SMIIC will inform the Follow-up Committee of the recent developments regarding the SMIIC's trade related activities.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) SMIIC has successfully completed its institutionalization and set-up eight technical committees for fulfillment of its mandate. What measures can be taken to enhance the visibility of SMIIC and its services in the Member States?

AGENDA ITEM 5

Improving Transport and Communications

The development of transport cooperation among the Member States is given utmost importance by the COMCEC. The COMCEC Economic Summit held in 2009 has identified transport as one of the three priority sectors. Furthermore, transport and communications has been identified as one of the cooperation areas of the COMCEC by the COMCEC Strategy.

Within the framework of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, the Transport and Communications Working Group was established and convened three times until now. The 1st Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group was held on March 28th, 2013 in Ankara, Turkey, with the theme of "Transport Infrastructure Modalities: Public Private Partnerships in the OIC Member States." The 2nd Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group was held on October 8th, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of "Developing Multimodal Freight Transport (MFT) Among the OIC Member Countries: Basic Concepts and Latest Trends." Proceedings of the Meetings as well as all the publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org)

The 3rd Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group was held on March 13th, 2014 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "Developing Multimodal Freight Transport (MFT) Among the OIC Member Countries: Current Implementations and Policy Recommendations." The Meeting was attended by the representatives of 15 Member States, which have notified their focal points for the Transport and Communications Working Group as well as representatives of the relevant OIC Institutions, international institutions and private sector. The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements, challenges and policy implementations in Multimodal Freight Transport (MFT) in their respective countries. The representatives considered the Studies namely "Developing Multimodal Freight Transport (MFT) Among the OIC Member Countries: Status of the Implementation of MFT among the OIC Member Countries" and "COMCEC Transport Outlook 2014" prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office.

The 4th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group will be held on September 11th, 2014 with the theme of "Developing Air Linkages to Sustain Tourism among the Member States."

The 29th Session of the COMCEC requested the Member States, which have not done so to notify their focal points for the Transport Working Group to the COMCEC Coordination Office and to actively participate in the subsequent meetings.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the outcomes of the 3rd Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group Meeting and the recent developments regarding the cooperation in this field.

(CCO Brief on Transport: Document Code: OIC/COMCEC/30-14/D(13))

Questions for Discussion:

- i) How do you evaluate the current status of your country regarding the MFT?
- ii) What kind of implementation barriers exist (political, legal, operational and regional) in your country in implementing the Multimodal Freight Transport (MFT)?
Does your country have a specific plan/program/strategy for the enhancing private sector involvement in MFT?

AGENDA ITEM 6

Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector

As an increasingly important source of income, employment and wealth in many countries, tourism has been defined as one of the priority sectors by the COMCEC Economic Summit held in 2009. Tourism has also been defined by the COMCEC Strategy as one of the cooperation areas of the COMCEC.

Within the framework of the operationalization of the COMCEC Strategy, the Tourism Working Group was established. It has convened three times till now. The 1st Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group was held on April 25th, 2013 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “A New Trend in Sustainable Tourism Development: Community Based Tourism in the COMCEC Region.” The 2nd Meeting of the Tourism Working Group was held on October 3rd, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of “Tourism Product Development and Marketing Strategies in the COMCEC Region.” The Proceedings of the abovementioned Meetings, which reflect the outcomes of the Meeting, were published on the COMCEC Website. The analytical studies prepared specifically for these Meetings and presentations made during the Sessions are also available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org).

The 3rd Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group was held on March 4th, 2014 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Enabling Tourism Investment Climate in the COMCEC Region.” The Meeting was attended by the representatives of 14 Member States, which have notified their focal points for the Tourism Working Group and representatives of SESRIC, Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), International Finance Corporation (IFC), representatives from private sector. The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges regarding tourism investments in their respective countries. Moreover, the Studies titled “Enabling Tourism Investment Climate: Challenges and Prospects for Tourism Investments in the COMCEC Region” commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office and the “COMCEC Tourism Outlook 2014” prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office were the main inputs for enriching the discussions during the Meeting.

The 4th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group will be held on September 4th, 2014 with the theme of “Enhancing the Capacity of Tourism Workforce in the COMCEC Region for Improved Tourism Service Quality.”

The 29th Session of the COMCEC requested the Member States, which have not done so to notify their focal points for the Tourism Working Group to the COMCEC Coordination Office and to actively participate in its subsequent meetings.

Regarding the ongoing cooperation activities in this cooperation area;

- The 4th Conference on Health Tourism was held on 26-27 November 2013 in Masshad, Islamic Republic of Iran.
- The 8th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) was held on 3-5 December 2013 in Banjul, Gambia. The meeting approved the mechanisms and criteria for the Selection of OIC City of Tourism as well as for the Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts. The meeting also agreed on the members of the Coordination Committee for the implementation of the Framework on Tourism adopted by the 6th Meeting of the Tourism Ministers held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, on June 29th- July 2nd 2008. The Meeting also welcomed the offer by the Government of the Republic of Niger to host the 9th Session of ICTM in 2015.
- The 2nd Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum was held on 16-17 December 2013 in İstanbul with the theme of "Effective Marketing Strategies for Promoting Tourism Destinations in the COMCEC Region." The Meeting was attended by the public and private sector representatives from 18 Member States as well as representatives of the COMCEC Coordination Office, OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC and Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT). The Forum highlighted that effective marketing requires utilization of full range of tools available including social media and e-marketing. It also stressed the need for training and exchange programs, B2B Meetings and workshops for the private sector representatives. On the sideline of the Forum, the private sector representatives of the Member Countries had the opportunity to conduct B2B Meetings with their counterparts.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Follow-up Committee on the outcomes of the 3rd Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group as well as the recent developments regarding the ongoing activities under the COMCEC tourism cooperation.

(CCO Brief on Tourism: Document Code: OIC/COMCEC/30-14/D(15))

Questions for Discussion:

- i) How do you evaluate the role of government agencies for attracting tourism investments? What is the situation in your country?
- ii) What are the main challenges faced by your country in attracting tourism investments? How can these challenges be overcome and how can the cooperation among the Member States be constituted in order to handle these issues?
- iii) How can the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum be utilized efficiently and the active participation of the private sector in the Forum be ensured?

AGENDA ITEM 7

Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security

Cooperation in the area of agriculture occupies an important place in the agenda of the COMCEC. The COMCEC Economic Summit, held in 2009, prioritized the cooperation in this field. The COMCEC Strategy has also identified the agriculture as one of the cooperation areas of the COMCEC. The COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was established as part of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. The 1st Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on June 6th, 2013 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Increasing Agricultural Productivity in the COMCEC Region: Improving Irrigation Capacity.”

The 2nd Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on December 19th, 2013 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Encouraging Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in the COMCEC Region for Increasing Agricultural Productivity.” In this Meeting, the participants have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in agricultural foreign direct investments in their respective countries. The analytical study titled “Increasing Agricultural Productivity: Encouraging Foreign Direct Investments in the COMCEC Region” prepared specifically for this meeting and the “COMCEC Agriculture Outlook 2013” were considered during the Meeting. The outcomes of the Meeting were published by the COMCEC Coordination Office as the “Proceedings of the 2nd Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group.” All the relevant documents submitted to the meeting and presentations made during the meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org).

The 3rd Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on April 3rd, 2014, with the theme of “Improving the Statistical Capacity of the Agriculture Sector in the COMCEC Region.” The Meeting was attended by the representatives of 12 Member States, which have notified their focal points for the Agriculture Working Group and representatives of SESRIC and African Development Bank. The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges regarding agricultural statistical capacity. The Analytical study titled “Improving Agricultural Statistics in the COMCEC Region” prepared specifically for this meeting and the “COMCEC Agriculture Outlook 2014” were considered during the Meeting. All the relevant documents submitted to the meeting and presentations made during the meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org).

The 4th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group will be held on September 25th, 2014 with the theme of “Facilitating Smallholder Farmers’ Market Access in the COMCEC Region.”

The 29th Session of the COMCEC requested the Member States, which have not done so to notify their focal points for the Agriculture Working Group to the COMCEC Coordination Office and to actively participate in subsequent meetings.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the 30th Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the outcomes of the 2nd and 3rd Meetings of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group and on the recent developments in this cooperation area.

(CCO Brief on Agriculture: Document Code: OIC/COMCEC/30-14/D(18))

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the policies/programs implemented in your country for attracting agricultural FDIs? What are the main challenges faced by your country in attracting agricultural FDIs?
- ii) What are the policies/programs implemented in your country for enhancing the agricultural statistical capacity? What are the main challenges faced by your country in collecting, compiling and processing agricultural statistics?

AGENDA ITEM 8

Eradicating Poverty

Poverty Alleviation has been occupying an important place in the COMCEC agenda and is defined by the COMCEC Strategy as one of the cooperation areas of the COMCEC. The Poverty Alleviation Working Group, envisaged by the COMCEC Strategy, convened its first meeting on June 27th, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of “Enhancing Productive Capacity of the Poor in the COMCEC Member Countries: Improving Human Capital.”

The 2nd Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on December 26th, 2013 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Targeting Mechanisms of the Social Safety Net Systems in the COMCEC Region”. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of 14 Member States, which have notified their focal points for the Poverty Alleviation Working Group, Representatives of the IDB, SESRIC, World Bank Ankara Office and Municipality of Altındağ have also attended the Meeting. The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges regarding targeting mechanisms of the social safety net systems in their respective countries. The Studies titled “Targeting Mechanisms of the Social Safety Net Systems in the COMCEC Region” commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office and the “COMCEC Poverty Outlook 2013” prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office were considered during the Meeting. The outcomes of the Meeting were published by the COMCEC Coordination Office as the “Proceedings of the 2nd Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group.” All the publications and presentations made during the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org).

The 3rd Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on April 10th, 2014 with the theme of “Monitoring Mechanisms of the Social Safety Net Programmes in the COMCEC Region.” The Meeting was attended by the representatives of 19 Member States, which have notified their focal points for the Poverty Alleviation Working Group and the representatives of the COMCEC Coordination Office, Islamic Development Bank, SESRIC, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Deniz Feneri Association and Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges regarding monitoring mechanisms of the Social Safety Net (SSN) Programmes in their respective countries. Moreover, the Studies titled “Monitoring Mechanisms of the Social Safety Net Programmes in the COMCEC Region” commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office and the “COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Outlook 2014” prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office were also considered during the Meeting. All the publications and presentations made during the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org).

The 4th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group will be held on September 18th, 2014 with the theme of “Analyzing the Institutional Structure of the Social Protection Systems in the COMCEC Region.”

The 29th Session of the COMCEC requested the Member States, which have not done so to notify their focal points for the Poverty Alleviation Working Group to the COMCEC Coordination Office and to actively participate in subsequent meetings.

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), the OIC Cotton Program and the Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET).

(CCO Brief on Poverty Alleviation: Document Code: OIC/COMCEC/30-14/D(21))

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

ISFD is a Special Fund within the IDB, which was officially launched in 2007 with the aim of reducing poverty in the COMCEC region through focusing on human development, agriculture and rural development, basic infrastructure and micro enterprises. The principle target capital of the Fund is USD 10 billion. As of April 2014, 57 projects have been approved by the IDB within the framework of the ISFD. The total allocation regarding these projects is USD 1.80 billion.

The SPDA is another Special Program within the IDB, which was initiated in 2008 with a view to spurring economic growth, reinvigorating agricultural production and creating employment opportunities in the African Member Countries. The funding for the SPDA was set as USD 12 billion for a five-year period. As of April 2014, the IDB Group has approved USD 5 billion and disbursed approximately 32% of the total approvals.

Required Action(s): The IDB Group is expected to submit a report on the implementation of the ISFD and SPDA to the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

- OIC Cotton Program

Within the framework of the OIC cotton initiative, the OIC Five-Year Cotton Action Plan (2007-2011) was prepared and endorsed by the 22nd Session of the COMCEC. The period of the Plan was extended for a further five years by the 26th Session of the COMCEC (2011-2016).

Under the Cotton Action Plan, the Project Committee and Steering Committee were formed. Until now, Six Steering Committee and four Project Committee meetings have been held. The 6th Steering Committee Meeting was held on April 3rd, 2013 in Ankara, Turkey.

Under the OIC Cotton Action Plan, twenty-seven projects were proposed by the Member States. The proposals were submitted to the IDB and other possible donors for funding. Till now, two projects have been implemented. The IDB Group has approved financing six projects, the remaining ones are under consideration.

The 29th Session of the COMCEC called upon the IDB Group to organize the 5th Project Committee Meeting in the first quarter of 2014 with the view to exploring the possibility, in collaboration with the project owners, of redesigning the cotton projects that are yet to be financed, in such a format that may render them eligible for applying for different schemes of financing as soft projects.

Required Action(s): The Ministry of Customs and Trade of Turkey, as the Chairman of the Steering Committee, and the IDB Group, as the Chairman of the Project Committee, are expected to report the current status of the implementation of the Cotton Action Plan to the 30th Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC.

- OIC-VET Program

Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) was initiated by the SESRIC in 2009 with a view to improving the quality of vocational education and training in the Member Countries. Three capacity building programmes have been initiated within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme namely, Agriculture Capacity Building Programme, Information and Communications Technology Capacity Building Programme and Capacity Building Programme on Poverty Alleviation. SESRIC reports the developments regarding the implementation of the OIC-VET to the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings and the COMCEC Sessions.

The 29th Session of the COMCEC requested the SESRIC and IDB to continue developing and implementing new projects and initiatives under the OIC-VET sub-programmes, and called upon the Member States to participate in and support the various capacity building programmes of SESRIC under the OIC-VET Programme through activating the role of their National Focal Points (NFPs).

Furthermore, in line with the relevant resolution of the 27th Session of the COMCEC, the IDB and SESRIC prepared a study entitled “Managing Disasters and Conflicts in the OIC Member Countries” and submitted it to the 29th Session of the COMCEC. The 29th Session of the COMCEC took note of the study and invited the Member States to present their views on its content within a period of 3 months to the COMCEC Coordination Office for its consideration by the next Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to submit a report to the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the implementation of the OIC-VET Program as well as the Study entitled “Managing Natural Disasters and Conflicts in OIC Countries.”

Questions for Discussion:

- i) Investing in human capital is an efficient method for poverty alleviation. What kind of specific programs, such as vocational education programs, does your country have to this end?
- ii) Does your country have specific programs/projects/activities (being) implemented in collaboration with an international/non-governmental organization with a view to targeting the poor? What are your experiences in these programmes/projects/activities?

AGENDA ITEM 9

Deepening Financial Cooperation

The recent financial crisis demonstrated the interconnectivity of financial markets and the increasing need for international cooperation among financial institutions and regulatory authorities. In this respect, the COMCEC has intensified its efforts for enhancing financial cooperation among the member states. The COMCEC Strategy has identified finance as one of the

cooperation areas of the COMCEC. The COMCEC Strategy also envisages the establishment of the Financial Cooperation Working Group, which will serve to the realization of the strategic objective and the expected outcomes defined in its Finance section. In this framework, the 1st Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group was held on December 12th, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of “Enhancing Capital Flows among COMCEC Member Countries.”

The Meeting was attended by the representatives of 14 Member States, which have notified their focal points for the Financial Cooperation Working Group as well as representatives of SESRIC, Secretariat of the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum, Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum and the relevant international institutions. The Representatives of the Member States have shared the experiences, achievements and challenges in enhancing capital flows in the COMCEC Region. The representatives also considered the analytical study titled “Barriers and Opportunities for Enhancing Capital Flows in the COMCEC Member Countries” and the “COMCEC Finance Outlook 2013” prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office. The outcomes of the Meeting were published by the COMCEC Coordination Office as the “Proceedings of the 1st Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group.” All the publications and presentations made during the Meeting are available on the COMCEC Website (www.comcec.org).

The 2nd Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group was held on March 27th, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Enhancing Financial Inclusion in the COMCEC Member Countries.” The Meeting was attended by the representatives of 17 Member States, which have notified their focal points for the Financial Cooperation Working Group as well as representatives of SESRIC, Secretariat of the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum, Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum, Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB), World Bank, World Bank Global Islamic Finance Development Center and Participation Banks Association of Turkey. The representatives of the Member States have deliberated on the institutional framework for financial inclusion in the COMCEC Countries, barriers on enhancing financial inclusion and measures for reducing financially excluded population in the COMCEC Countries and the policy recommendations for enhancing financial inclusion in the Region. The participants also considered the analytical study titled “Enhancing Financial Inclusion in the COMCEC Countries” and “COMCEC Finance Outlook 2013.” All the publications and presentations made during the Meeting are available on the COMCEC Website (www.comcec.org).

Furthermore, the 3rd Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group will be held on October 16th, 2014 with the theme of “Conducting A Risk Management Analysis on Islamic Financial Instruments in the COMCEC Member States.”

The 29th Session of the COMCEC requested the Member States, which have not done so to notify their focal points for the Financial Cooperation Working Group to the COMCEC Coordination Office and to actively participate in its subsequent meetings.

Furthermore, the 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 Meetings of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities.

(CCO Brief on Finance: Document Code: OIC/COMCEC/30-14/D(27))

- OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum

The cooperation among Stock Exchanges has been initiated by the COMCEC in 2005. Accordingly, the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum was established. The Forum

focuses on the harmonization of the rules and regulations governing market operations, as well as opening communication channels for the stock exchanges of the OIC Member Countries and relevant institutions. The Forum established its own web-site (www.oicexchanges.org) to enhance communication among Forum Members. The Forum has convened seven times till now. The 7th Meeting of the Forum was held on September 19th, 2013 in İstanbul. The 8th Meeting of the Forum will be held in İstanbul in 2014. The details regarding the Forum activities are available on the Forum web-site. (www.oicexchanges.org)

The Forum has achieved remarkable progress in deepening cooperation among the Stock Exchanges of the Member States. It has successfully finalized the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index, which has been launched on June 22nd, 2012, in İstanbul. The official launching ceremony of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index, however, was held during the 28th Session of the COMCEC. The Index was designed to measure the performance of 50 leading companies from the 19 Member States. The 29th Session of the COMCEC requested the Member States and the IDB to lend their support for the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index in the Member Countries.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, Borsa İstanbul (formerly İstanbul Stock Exchange) is expected to inform the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC of the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) The S&P OIC/COMCEC Index has successfully been launched in 2012. How can the visibility of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index be enhanced in the member states as well as worldwide?
- ii) How do you evaluate the impacts of financial inclusion on your country's economy? What are the policies and programs implemented in your country to enhance financial inclusion? What are the challenges faced by your country in this regard?
- iii) What could be effective policies to enhance capital flows among the COMCEC Member Countries?

- COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum

In line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum was established in 2011 to increase coordination and cooperation in regulatory and legal infrastructure with a view to achieving more harmonized policies and regulations among the Member Countries. In this framework, the 1st Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum was held on 26-27 September 2012 in İstanbul. The 2nd Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum was held in September 19th, 2013 in İstanbul. The 3rd Meeting of the Forum will be held in İstanbul in 2014. The details regarding the Forum activities are available on the Forum web-site. (www.comceccmr.org)

The 29th Session of the COMCEC took note of the report of the 2nd Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum and invited the Member States to support the efforts of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum through participating its meetings, contributing to the cooperation efforts of the Task Forces formed under the Forum, appointing contact persons to follow up work and using the its website effectively.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, Capital Markets Board of Turkey is expected to brief the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the challenges in your country for enhancing capital market development and diversifying products in compliance with international standards?
 - ii) Is there any policy/strategy of your country to develop market infrastructure with a view to attracting more capital flows?
 - iii) What are your country's experience regarding Islamic finance instruments?
- **Meetings of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities**

In line with the relevant resolution of the COMCEC, the cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member Countries has been revitalized. Since 2009, the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the member states have regularly convened with a view to sharing experiences and enhancing institutional and human capacity in this field. Accordingly, three working groups were established in the following areas: Payment Systems, Macro-Prudential Regulations, and Liquidity Management in Islamic Finance. The 13th Meeting of OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities was held on 27-28 November 2013 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia with the theme of "Impact of Recent International Financial Regulatory Reforms on OIC Countries." The 14th and 15th Meetings of OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities will be held in Indonesia and Suriname in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to brief the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the outcomes of the 13th Meeting of OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities and the recent developments regarding cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member Countries.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the policies/programs implemented in your country for ensuring the financial sector stability?
- ii) What are your country experiences in enhancing the institutional and human capacity of the Central Banks/Monetary Authorities?

AGENDA ITEM 10

Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation

- **Private Sector Meetings**

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) organizes Private Sector Meetings and reports their outcomes to the COMCEC Sessions. One of the main objectives of the private sector meetings is to provide a platform for the private sector representatives of the Member States to explore new opportunities and create new linkages among themselves. Up to now, 15 private sector meetings have been held. The 15th Private Sector Meeting for Promotion of Trade and Joint Venture Investments among Islamic Countries and the 7th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries were held on 28-30 October 2013 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. The 16th Private Sector Meeting for Promotion of Trade and Joint Venture Investment among the Islamic Countries was held on 20-22 March 2014 in Sharjah, UAE.

Moreover, in line with the resolutions of the 28th Session of the COMCEC, Ministry of Customs and Trade of Turkey in cooperation with COMCEC Coordination Office and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) organized a Workshop on "Cooperation and Experience

Sharing Among the Company Registration Agencies of the OIC Member States” on 11-12 September 2013, in Ankara, Turkey. The Workshop brought together the relevant agencies from 28 Member Countries.

Required Action(s): The ICCIA is expected to brief the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the recent developments regarding private sector meetings.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) In addition to ongoing efforts, what other additional steps can be taken for the active involvement of the private sector in economic cooperation efforts under the COMCEC umbrella?

AGENDA ITEM 11

Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “The Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States”

Exchange of views sessions are held regularly at the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. The 29th Session of the COMCEC decided the theme of the Ministerial Exchange of Views of the next COMCEC Session as “The Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States.”

In this respect, a Preparatory Workshop on “The Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States” will be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office and SESRIC.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to inform the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC regarding the preparations of the aforementioned Workshop.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Draft Agenda of the 30th Session of the COMCEC

The draft agenda of the 30th Session of the COMCEC will be considered by the Follow-up Committee under this agenda item.

