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**REPORT
OF THE THIRTIETH SESSION
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC
AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC**

(İstanbul, 25-28 November 2014)

1. The Thirtieth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 25-28 November 2014 in İstanbul.

2. The Session was attended by representatives of the following Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC):

- 1- Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- 2- Republic of Albania
- 3- People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- 4- Republic of Azerbaijan
- 5- Kingdom of Bahrain
- 6- People's Republic of Bangladesh
- 7- Republic of Benin
- 8- Brunei Darussalam
- 9- Republic of Cameroon
- 10- Republic of Chad
- 11- Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
- 12- Arab Republic of Egypt
- 13- Republic of Gabon
- 14- Republic of the Gambia
- 15- Republic of Guinea
- 16- Republic of Guinea-Bissau
- 17- Republic of Indonesia
- 18- Islamic Republic of Iran
- 19- Republic of Iraq
- 20- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- 21- Republic of Kazakhstan
- 22- State of Kuwait
- 23- Kyrgyz Republic
- 24- Republic of Lebanon
- 25- Libya
- 26- Malaysia

- 27- Republic of Maldives
- 28- Republic of Mali
- 29- Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- 30- Kingdom of Morocco
- 31- Republic of Mozambique
- 32- Republic of Niger
- 33- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- 34- Sultanate of Oman
- 35- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- 36- State of Palestine
- 37- State of Qatar
- 38- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 39- Republic of Senegal
- 40- Republic of the Sudan
- 41- Republic of Suriname
- 42- Republic of Tunisia
- 43- Republic of Turkey
- 44- Turkmenistan
- 45- Republic of Uganda
- 46- State of the United Arab Emirates
- 47- Republic of Uzbekistan
- 48- Republic of Yemen

3. Central African Republic, Russian Federation, Kingdom of Thailand and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus participated in the Session as observers.

4. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and Standing Committees, namely Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) and Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), the following subsidiary, specialized and affiliated OIC institutions attended the Session:

- 1- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
- 2- Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
- 3- Islamic Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)
- 4- Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
- 5- Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group
- 6- Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
- 7- Islamic University of Technology (IUT)
- 8- Organization of the Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA)
- 9- Association of National Development Financing Institutions (ADFIMI)

- 10- Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC)
- 11- Federation of Contractors from Islamic Countries (FOCIC)
- 12- Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC)

5. Representatives of the following UN and other international organizations attended the Session as well:

- 1- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- 2- Developing Eight D-8
- 3- Economic Cooperation Organization Trade and Development Bank (ECOBANK)
- 4- United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
- 5- World Bank (WB)

(A copy of the List of Participants of the Thirtieth Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex I.)

6. The Meeting of Senior Officials of COMCEC that preceded the Ministerial Session was held on 25th and 26th November 2014 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Emre YUNT, Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey. The Senior Officials deliberated on the agenda items and prepared the Draft Resolutions for consideration by the Ministerial Session.

7. During the Meeting, the representative of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum – Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC) informed the Senior Officials about its affiliated platform the Islamic Countries Young Entrepreneurs Network (ICYEN) which aims at developing youth entrepreneurship in the OIC Countries and invited the member countries to support its activities, including the implementation of the “İstanbul Youth Declaration”.

Opening Session

8. The Opening Ceremony of the Thirtieth Session of the COMCEC was held on November 27th, 2014 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC.

9. The Opening Ceremony commenced with a video screening on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of COMCEC.

10. Welcoming the delegates, H.E. ERDOĞAN underlined that the Islamic Countries have achieved significant progress in terms of trade as well as development indicators

in recent years. Sharing some figures, H.E. ERDOĞAN stated that over the last decade the share of the OIC Member Countries in the world trade has increased by about 50%. H.E. ERDOĞAN further mentioned that, during the same period, intra-OIC trade has also increased by 50%.

11. H.E. ERDOĞAN underlined that, while the above-mentioned figures undoubtedly reveal a successful economic performance, some member countries are facing greatest humanitarian and political crisis of the recent history at the same time. President ERDOĞAN also highlighted the huge disparity among the member states in terms of per capita income, with a particular emphasis on the fact that the 21 OIC Member Countries are LDCs.

12. H.E. ERDOĞAN expressed that the COMCEC Strategy which was operationalized last year envisaged a working method that Member Countries would take an active role in. In this regard, President ERDOĞAN underlined that the member countries' relevant institutions are expected to be involved in the implementation of the principles and objectives of the Strategy. H.E. ERDOĞAN called upon the all the Member Countries to actively participate in the COMCEC's efforts specifically working groups and reminded the member countries to include effectively all the relevant ministries to COMCEC cooperation efforts.

13. H.E. ERDOĞAN also touched upon some major projects and endeavours under the COMCEC agenda, namely Trade Preferential System of the OIC Member States, Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC), S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and expressed his satisfaction with the progress achieved in these fields.

14. President ERDOĞAN concluded his speech by thanking all the delegates and OIC Institutions for their contribution and support to COMCEC.

(A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN is attached as Annex II.)

15. Following the Inaugural Statement made by H.E. ERDOĞAN, H.E. Iyad Ameen MADANI, Secretary General of the OIC, made a statement at the Opening Session.

16. Thanking the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the hospitality extended to the delegates, H.E. MADANI emphasized that since the establishment of the OIC in 1969, efforts have multiplied in the direction of creating effective institutional arrangements for multilateral economic cooperation among the Member States.

17. The Secretary General also underlined that he puts special emphasis on improving synergy and coordination among various OIC Institutions with a view to avoiding waste of time, resources and energy due to the absence of institutional coordination. He went on to say that a good example of this improved inter-agency coordination is the 1st Leadership Meeting in April 2014 between the General Secretariat and IDB Group and subsequent coordination efforts between the two institutions.

18. Finally, H.E. the Secretary General stressed the vitality of early signing and ratification of the various multilateral agreements in the area of economy and trade; as well as realizing the financial commitments made for the various funds for socio-economic cooperation would go a long way in deepening cooperation among the member states.

(A copy of the address of H.E. Iyad Ameen MADANI is attached as Annex III.)

19. The Heads of Delegations of the State of Qatar, Republic of Mali and Islamic Republic of Iran made statements on behalf of the Arab, African, and Asian regional groups, respectively. They expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of the Meeting. They also congratulated the election of H.E. ERDOĞAN to the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey and exalted his wise guidance and leadership in enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.

20. The Heads of Delegations also expressed their support and commitment to the COMCEC and emphasized the need for improving cooperation under the auspices of the COMCEC.

21. H.E. Dr. Ahmed Mohammed ALI, President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group also delivered a statement at the Opening Session. H.E. Dr. ALI commended the programs and projects initiated by COMCEC and emphasized the support and contribution of IDB for enhancing cooperation among the OIC Member Countries.

(The text of the Statement of the IDB President is attached as Annex IV.)

22. H.E. Sheikh Saleh Bin Abdullah KAMEL, President of the ICCIA, also delivered a statement at the Opening Session. H.E. KAMEL emphasized the role of the private sector in promoting economic and commercial cooperation among the member countries.

(The text of the Statement of the President of the ICCIA is attached as Annex V.)

23. Rıfat HİSARCIKLIOĞLU, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), also made a speech at the Opening Session. Mr. HİSARCIKLIOĞLU underlined the importance of enhancing solidarity among the Member Countries for the expansion of intra-OIC trade and the potential role of the private sector in this regard.

(The text of the Statement of the President of the TOBB is attached as Annex VI.)

24. On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the COMCEC, a special award ceremony was held at the end of the Opening Session. Gracing the Ceremony, H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN conferred the “COMCEC 30th Anniversary Awards” in three categories:

i) COMCEC 30th Anniversary Most Active Participation Awards:

- H.E. Mustafa Jassem AL – SHAMALI
- H.E. Oumar DIAWARA
- Mr. Dr. Abdulmalik bin Abdallah AL-HINAI
- Mr. Ishaq ABDULKAREEM
- Mr. Ali Hassan AL-KHALAF
- Mr. Ahmed Saleh AL-MOHANNADI
- Mr. Abdullah bin Abdulwahab AL-NAFISAH

ii) COMCEC 30th Anniversary Special Awards:

- H.E. Iyad Ameen MADANI
- H.E. Ahmed Mohammed ALI
- H.E. Saleh Abdullah KAMEL
- H.E. Abdullatif Abdullah bin SULTAN
- H.E. Dr. El Hassane HZAINI

iii) COMCEC 30th Anniversary Academic Awards for Islamic Economics and Finance:

- Prof. Dr. Masudul Alam CHOUDHURY
- Prof. Dr. Zubair HASSAN
- Prof. Dr. Sabri ORMAN
- Prof. Dr. M. Umer CHAPRA
- Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nejatullah SIDDIQI
- Prof. Dr. Abbas MIRAKHOR
- Prof. Mahmoud A. El-GAMAL

25. Following the Opening Ceremony, H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN received the Heads of Delegation.

Ministerial Working Session

26. The Ministerial Working Session of the Thirtieth Session of the COMCEC was held on November 27th, 2014 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey.

27. The Session adopted the Draft Agenda of the Thirtieth Session of the COMCEC.

28. Following the adoption of the agenda, H.E. Ambassador Emre YUNT, as the Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting, briefed the Session on the outcome of the Senior Officials Meeting as well as the recommendations of the Preparatory Workshop on “The Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in the OIC Member States” held on 30 September-1 October 2014 in Ankara, Turkey.

29. Following the presentation of H.E. Ambassador Emre YUNT, the Exchange of Views Session of the 30th Session of the COMCEC was held with the theme of “The Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in the OIC Member States”.

30. Mr. Amr Abdel GHAFAR, Regional Director for the Middle East at the World Tourism Organization made presentation as keynote speaker.

30a. Afterwards, the Ministers discussed various aspects of the subject and elaborated on ways and means of increasing public-private partnerships in the tourism sector in the Member Countries as well as the COMCEC cooperation in this area.

Side Events/Special Sessions

31. The 25th Meeting of the Sessional Committee was held on November 24th, 2014 as a sideline event with the participation of the relevant OIC Institutions.

(A copy of the report of the 25th Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex VII)

32. Presentations on the “Promotion of Successful Projects funded by the COMCEC Project Funding” were made on November 26th, 2014. During the event, owners of the successful projects that were funded under the first project call of the COMCEC Project Funding made presentations regarding the implementation of their projects.

33. The special session on “The Role of NGOs in the Development Efforts of the Islamic Countries” was held on November 28th, 2014. The keynote speaker of the session was H.E. Bouabdellah GHAMALLAH, former Minister of Awkaf and Islamic

Affairs of Algeria. The session was moderated by H.E. Dr. Savaş ALPAY, General Director of SESRIC. Sir Fazle Hasan ABED, Founder, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC); Mr. Ziad Abdel SAMAD Executive Director, Arab NGO Network for Development; Dr. Omar Farooq Sheikh AHMED, Prof. Emeritus of International Studies; and H.E. Hameed A. OPELOYERU, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs of the OIC were the speakers of this special session.

34. The special session on “Development Challenges of Islamic Countries and Post-2015 Development Agenda” was held on November 28th, 2014. The keynote speaker of the session was H.E. Prof. Dr. Numan KURTULMUŞ, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. The session was moderated by Mr. Tarik YOUSEF, CEO of Silatech. H.E. Koutoub Moustapha SANO, Minister of International Cooperation of Republic of Guinea; H.E. Ahmed Mohammed ALI, President of the IDB Group; H.E. Dr. Abdul Halim bin Ismail Surin PITSUWAN, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Former Secretary General of ASEAN; and H.E. Tun Musa HITAM, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chairman of the World Islamic Economic Forum were the speakers of this special session.

35. The IDB organized the “Economic and Social Impact of Epidemics and OIC Response: The Case of Ebola” event on November 28th, 2014.

36. H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC officially launched the “COMCEC’s 30th Year Exhibition” on November 27th, 2014.

37. H.E. the President also launched “Palestinian Trade and Business Expo 2014” and “Exhibition of Al-Quds Al-Sharif Photographs” on November 27th, 2014.

38. The 18th International Business Forum (IBF) and 15th MUSIAD International Fair were held on 24-29 November 2014.

39. FCIC&DEİK International Engineering Forum was held on 28-29 November 2014.

Closing Session:

40. The Closing Session of the Thirtieth Session of the COMCEC was held on November 28th, 2014 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey.

41. H.E. Yousaf JUNAID, Rapporteur of the Senior Officials Meeting, summarized the outcomes of the Senior Officials Meeting and highlighted some salient points in the Resolutions.

42. The Session adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/30-14/RES.

43. H.E. Ambassador Hameed OPELOYERU, Assistant Secretary General read out the message of H.E. Iyad Ameen MADANI, Secretary General of the OIC. In his message H.E. MADANI extended his congratulations to the Republic of Turkey for hosting the 30th Session of the COMCEC and to all participants for the successful conclusion of the Session.

44. H.E. Abdellah Albert TOIKEUSSE, Minister of Plan and Development of Cote d'Ivoire made a statement on behalf of all participating Member Countries. H.E. the Minister thanked the Republic of Turkey, OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, and all OIC and other institutions for contributing to the successful conclusion of the 30th Session of the COMCEC. H.E. TOIKEUSSE also thanked Turkey for the warm hospitality extended to all delegations.

45. H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey, made a closing statement at the Session. H.E. YILMAZ expressed the role of developing countries as driving force of global growth in recent years. Mentioning the projections about developing countries' growth rate, H.E. YILMAZ stated that this tendency will continue in the foreseeable future. At this point, H.E. YILMAZ emphasized that OIC countries' share in the world total GDP remained stable at around 11% in 2013. H.E. YILMAZ stressed that as a group representing 23 percent of the world population, the OIC Member States are still significantly behind their potential. H.E. YILMAZ also underlined the importance of high value added, export oriented production to increase the national GDP and competitiveness in the international area. The share of OIC Member Countries in the global high tech exports accounted only for 4%.

45a. H.E. YILMAZ also underlined that the selection of "Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery" as the theme for the Exchange of Views at the 31st Session of the COMCEC has been quite pertinent as OIC Member Countries have an important role to play in the formulation an implementation of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

46. H.E. YILMAZ concluded his statement by expressing the significance for COMCEC Member Countries to actively participate in various cooperation programs and projects conducted under the COMCEC.

(The text of the Closing Statement of H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ is attached as Annex VIII.)

47. All documents submitted to the 30th Session of COMCEC will be available on the COMCEC web site (www.comcec.org).

