



ANNOTATED AGENDA

30TH SESSION of the COMCEC

(İstanbul, 25-28 November 2014)

**COMCEC Coordination Office
Ankara, November 2014**

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**AGENDA
OF THE 30th SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 25-28 November 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. World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries
5. Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade
6. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
7. Improving Transport and Communications
8. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
9. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
10. Eradicating Poverty
11. Deepening Financial Cooperation
12. Exchange of Views on “The Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in the OIC Member States”
13. Date of the 31st Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Resolutions

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 Session, to be held on 25-28 November 2014 in İstanbul, Turkey.

The document provides background information and the required actions on the Draft Agenda Items from 2 to 13. 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 in 2013.

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 (CCO).

Implementation phase of the COMCEC Strategy has commenced in 2013. Within the framework of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, the Working Groups have held 4 rounds of meetings so far (3 meetings for financial cooperation working group) and deliberated on the important issues and themes in each cooperation area. The details of each working group are given under the relevant agenda item.

Under the PCM mechanism, the first project call was made in September 2nd, 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 with the signing ceremony held on April 2nd, 2014 in Ankara. The second project call under the PCM was made on September 1st, 2014 and duration of the project submission ended on September 30th, 2014. The relevant documents are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org)

The implementation of the COMCEC Strategy has led to a dramatic increase in the number of yearly activities organized, and publications made by the COMCEC. In terms of meetings, the COMCEC has organized 15 meetings in 2014. Similarly, 33 publications were made by the COMCEC in 2014.

As the successful implementation of the Strategy requires effective coordination and communication between the member states and the CCO, focal points have been identified in each member state for each cooperation area. The CCO also holds annual focal point meetings to ensure that the both mechanisms of the Strategy work smoothly and efficiently.

The 2nd Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points was held on 4-5 June 2014, in Ankara, Turkey with a view to getting the experiences and the comments of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points regarding the first implementation year of the Strategy and the possible suggestions to improve the cooperation exertions under the Working Groups.

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 activities to be organized by the relevant OIC Institutions (SESRIC, ICDT, IDB, ICCIA, OISA and SMIIC) in line with the Strategy.

The 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC held on 7-8 May 2014 in Ankara welcomed the convening of the COMCEC Working Groups successfully in the cooperation areas and the progress towards the implementation of cooperation projects to be realized in 2014 under the COMCEC PCM. The Committee also expressed its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIIC for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the COMCEC Strategy and its implementation.

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

The 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC was held on 7-8 May 2014, in Ankara, Turkey. The Committee reviewed the implementation of the programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC and prepared the recommendations for the 30th Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): The 30th Session of the COMCEC will be briefed by the Rapporteur of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the recommendations of the 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

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 30th Follow-up Committee Meeting. The Committee called for 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 Session of the COMCEC on the progress in the implementation of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action.

AGENDA ITEM 4

World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries

- Annual Economic Report on the OIC Member Countries

SESRIC, in light of the relevant decision of the 12th Session of the COMCEC, has been preparing an annual report on recent world economic developments and their implications on the OIC member countries and submit it to the annual sessions of the COMCEC.

In its Annual Economic Reports, SESRIC summarizes the global and regional economic and financial developments as well as provides some policy recommendations for the member countries.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to submit a report on world economic developments with a set of policy recommendations. Member countries are expected to share their views, suggestions and expectations on the subject as well as their experience concerning the recent economic and financial developments.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade

Trade is one of the cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy. Within the framework of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, the Trade Working Group has held four meetings till now.

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

In line with the relevant resolution of the 29th Session of the COMCEC, 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 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" commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office 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 was held on October 23rd, 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 Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in the area of trade liberalization. Moreover, extensive deliberations were made on the Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC) with a view to establish policy advices for rationalization of the System. The Meeting has considered the Studies namely "Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) and Trade Liberalization Efforts in the OIC Member States with a Special Emphasis on the TPS-OIC" and the "COMCEC Trade Outlook 2014-Revised Edition" prepared by the COMCEC

Coordination Office. The outcomes of the Meeting were published by the COMCEC Coordination Office as the "Proceedings of the 4th Meeting of the Trade Working Group." All the publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org).

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. Moreover, 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).

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the 3rd and 4th Meetings of the Trade Working Group.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the obstacles faced in Customs Modernization in Your Country? How can these obstacles be removed?
- ii) What are the main characteristics of the successfully implemented Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) in the OIC Region?
- iii) What role can be played by the private sector in trade liberalization effort in the Member States? How private sector's benefits from Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) could be improved?

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.

- 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 is 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. The number of the Member Countries having met the two conditions is currently 10. However out of these 10 countries, 5 are the GCC members (Bahrain, 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 has 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 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.

Meanwhile, 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). Another training seminar titled “Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States” was organized by the ICDT on 15-16 September 2014 in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

The 30th Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC expressed its appreciation to the ICDT and the ICCIA for organizing sensitizing events towards increasing awareness on the benefits of TPS-OIC among the government officials and the private sector in the Member States.

Required Action(s): On behalf of the TNC Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the 30th Session of the COMCEC 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?
- ii) How can the awareness of the member states be increased to expedite the full implementation of the TPS-OIC?

- 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). The 7th OIC Agribusiness Expo was held on 13-16 April 2014 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, the 1st Exhibition on Furniture, Decoration, Household and Electrical Appliances was held on 11-14 May 2014 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the 2nd OIC Health Expo was held on 26-29 June 2014 in Dakar, Republic of Senegal.

The 30th Follow-up Committee welcomed the offers of Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 15th, 16th and 17th editions of the Islamic Trade Fairs in 2015, 2017 and 2019 respectively. The Committee requested the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs and also requested ICDT to submit regular progress reports on trade and tourism fairs of the OIC Member States and other specialized exhibitions to the COMCEC Sessions.

Required Action(s): The ICDT is expected to report the recent developments on the Islamic Trade Fairs to the 30th Session 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. In its 6th meeting, the Group stressed that it will conduct a comprehensive impact assessment on the activities adopted towards achieving the target of 20% of intra-OIC trade by 2015.

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 Session 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 30th Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC welcomed the decision of the WTO 9th Ministerial Conference held on 3-6 December 2013 in Bali, Indonesia on the accession of the Republic of Yemen to the WTO and requested the IDB and the ICDT to pool together and coordinate their efforts to reinforce the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on an equitable and fair basis.

Required Action(s): The IDB and ICDT are expected to report their activities in this field to the 30th Session 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 offer of the Republic of Turkey to share the experience of TürkEximbank with the other Member States and cooperate with the Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) of other member states to increase bilateral trade.

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 Session 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 October 2014.

Required Action(s): The General Secretariat of SMIIC will inform the 30th Session of the COMCEC 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 6

Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation

- Private Sector Meetings

Strong involvement of the private sector to the COMCEC and other relevant OIC meetings and activities is indispensable for achieving successful outcomes. To that end, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) organizes Private Sector Meetings and regularly

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, 16 private sector meetings have been held. The 16th Private Sector Meeting for Promotion of Trade and Joint Venture Investment among the Islamic Countries was held on 19-20 March 2014 in Sharjah, UAE.

The 30th Follow-up Committee Meeting welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize the second workshop on “Enhancing Cooperation among the Trade Registry Agencies of the OIC Member States”, in 2015 in Turkey.

Required Action(s): The ICCIA is expected to submit a report 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 7

Improving Transport and Communications

The development of transport and communications among the Member States is given utmost importance by the COMCEC. Transport and communications is one of the cooperation areas identified in the COMCEC Strategy.

Within the framework of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, the Transport and Communications Working Group was established and convened four times until now. Since the 29th Session of the COMCEC the Working Group has held 2 meetings.

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

Within the framework of the relevant resolution of the 29th Session of the COMCEC, 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 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. Proceedings of the Meeting as well as all the publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org).

The 4th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group was held on September 11th, 2014 with the theme of “Developing Air Linkages to Sustain Tourism among the Member States.” The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements, challenges and policy implementations in developing air linkages in their

respective countries. The Meeting has considered the Studies namely "Developing Air Linkages to Sustain Tourism among the OIC Member States" and "COMCEC Transport Outlook 2014 –Revised Edition" prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office. Proceedings of the Meeting as well as all the publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comceec.org).

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief 30th Session of the COMCEC on the outcomes of the 3rd and 4th Meetings of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group Meeting and the recent developments regarding the cooperation in this field.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What is the current stage of air transport liberalization in your country?
- ii) Is your country utilizing from the Public Private Partnership model in developing air transport infrastructure?
- iii) How do you assess the role of low-cost carriers in developing air service and tourism linkages?

AGENDA ITEM 8

Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector

As an increasingly important source of income, employment and wealth in many countries, tourism is defined by the COMCEC Strategy as one of the cooperation areas of the COMCEC.

As part of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, the Tourism Working Group was established and has convened four times till now. Since the 29th Session of the COMCEC, 3rd and 4th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group were organized.

The 29th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the convening of the First and Second Meetings of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group, and 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.

As per the relevant resolution of the 29th Session of the COMCEC 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 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. Proceedings as well as all the publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comceec.org).

The 4th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group was held on September 4th, 2014 with the theme of "Enhancing the Capacity of Tourism Workforce in the Member Countries for Improved Tourism Service Quality." During the Meeting, the participants have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges regarding tourism investments in their respective countries. Moreover, the Studies titled "Enhancing the Capacity of Tourism Workforce in the OIC Member Countries for Improved Tourism Service Quality" commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office and the "COMCEC Tourism Outlook 2014-Revised Edition" prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office were also considered during the Meeting. Proceedings as well as all the publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comceec.org).

Regarding the ongoing cooperation activities in this cooperation area;

- The 4th Conference on Health Tourism was held on 26-27 November 2013 in Mashhad, 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. Furthermore, the Meeting 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. The 3rd Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum will be held in January 2015 in İstanbul.
- The 4th Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism was held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, on 3 June 2014.
- The 1st OIC International Forum on Islamic Tourism was organized in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, on 2-3 June 2014.
- The 2nd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States will be held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates on 19-21 October 2015.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the 30th Session of the COMCEC on the outcomes of the 3rd and 4th Meetings of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group as well as the recent developments regarding the ongoing activities under the COMCEC tourism cooperation.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) How do you evaluate the role of government agencies for attracting tourism investments? What is the situation in your country? What are the main challenges faced by your country in attracting tourism investments?
- ii) Does your country have any "unique" experience which can be recommended to the other Member Countries to pay special attention for tourism workforce development? What kind of education and training policies and programmes would you recommend to increase the quality of tourism workforce?
- 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 9

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 Strategy has also defined the agriculture as one of the cooperation areas of the COMCEC. The COMCEC Agriculture Working Group has held four meetings so far.

The 29th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the convening of the First Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group, and 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 following meetings.

The 2nd Meeting of the 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 the 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. Proceedings as well as all the publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org).

Pursuant to the relevant resolution of the 29th Session of the COMCEC, 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 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 discussed during the Meeting. Proceedings as well as all the publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org).

The 4th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on September 25th, 2014 with the theme of “Facilitating Smallholder Farmers’ Market Access in the OIC Member Countries.” The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges regarding smallholder farmers’ market access. The analytical study titled “Facilitating Smallholder Farmers’ Market Access in the OIC Member Countries” “prepared specifically for this meeting and the “COMCEC Agriculture Outlook 2014” were discussed during the Meeting. Proceedings as well as all the publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org).

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Meetings of the Agriculture Working Group and the recent developments in this cooperation area.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the main obstacles in integrating the smallholder farmers into the Commodity Exchange Marketing System in your Country?
- ii) What steps may be taken to improve the investment climate in the Member states to attract more agricultural FDI?
- iii) What are the main challenges faced by your country in collecting, compiling and processing agricultural statistics?

AGENDA ITEM 10 Eradicating Poverty

Poverty Alleviation is 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, held 4 Meetings till now.

The 29th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the convening of the First Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group, and 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 following meetings.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 29th Session of the COMCEC, the 2nd Meeting of the 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 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. Proceedings as well as all the publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org).

The 3rd Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on April 10th, 2014 in Ankara, Turkey under the title of "Monitoring Mechanisms of the Social Safety Net Programmes in the COMCEC Region". The analytic study titled "Monitoring Mechanisms of the Social Safety Net Programmes in the COMCEC Region" commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office, and the "COMCEC Poverty Outlook 2014" prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office were considered during the Meeting. Proceedings as well as all the publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org).

The 4th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on September 18th, 2014 with the theme of "Institutional System of the Social Safety Net Programmes in the OIC Member Countries." The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges regarding institutional system of the social safety net programmes in their respective countries. The analytic study titled "Institutional System of the Social Safety Net Programmes in the OIC Member Countries" and the "COMCEC Poverty Outlook 2014: Multidimensional Poverty-Revised Edition" 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 4th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group." All the publications and presentations made during the Meeting are accessible on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org).

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Meetings of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

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).

- 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 USD10 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.

The 29th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the initiatives of ISFD aimed at achieving and intensifying the efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy. The said Session also welcomed 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). Lastly, the Session took note of the initiative of IDB Group for formulating an action plan to facilitate the effective implementation of the projects and to assess the effectiveness of the SPDA.

Required Action(s): The IDB Group is expected to submit a report on the implementation of the ISFD and SPDA to the 30th Session 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.

Referring to the relevant resolution of the 29th Session of the COMCEC, the 30th Follow-up Committee reiterated its request to the IDB to organize the 5th Project Committee Meeting as soon as possible with a 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. In this framework, the 5th Project Committee was held on November 16th, 2014 in Jeddah.

The SESRIC also organizes training and capacity building programs in the field of cotton. In this regard, the 30th Follow-up Committee took note with appreciation of the efforts of SESRIC in organizing training courses on various cotton-related aspects in the Member States within the framework of the OIC Cotton Training Programme (OIC-CTP), and urged the Cotton Research Centres of Excellence to enhance their cooperation with SESRIC in implementing these training courses.

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 Session.

- **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).

The 4th Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-VET Programme was held on 12-13 November 2014, in Ankara.

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. The 30th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC invited the Member States, other than Egypt, to present their views on the content of the study within a period of 2 months to the COMCEC Coordination Office. The Committee requested IDB and SESRIC to take into consideration these observations in the preparation of a new version of the study to be submitted to the 30th Session of COMCEC for consideration.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to submit a report to the Session on the implementation of the OIC-VET Program. Moreover, SESRIC and IDB are expected to submit the Study entitled “Managing Disasters and Conflicts in OIC Member Countries.”

Questions for Discussion:

- i) Who are the key actors in your Country’s SSN system? What are the roles of these actors in terms of policy-making and implementation processes?
- ii) What are the main challenges in institutional system of SSN programmes in the Member Countries? (lack of coordination, shortage in human resources, lack of a MIS etc.)
- iii) What are the main challenges in both supply and demand sides of the monitoring of the social safety net programmes in the COMCEC Region?

AGENDA ITEM 11

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 financial cooperation as one of the cooperation areas of the COMCEC.

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.

In this framework, upon the relevant resolution of the 29th Session of the COMCEC, 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 Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements, challenges and policy implementations in enhancing capital flows in their respective countries. The Meeting considered the Studies “Barriers and Opportunities for Enhancing Capital Flows in the COMCEC Member Countries” commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office and the “COMCEC Finance Outlook 2013” prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office. Proceedings of the Meeting as well as all the publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC web-site (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 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.” The Proceedings of the Meeting as well as all the publications and presentations made during the Meeting are available on the COMCEC Website (www.comcec.org).

The 3rd Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group was held on October 16th, 2014 with the theme of “Risk Management in Islamic Financial Instruments.” The Representatives of the Member States have deliberated on risk management in Islamic financial instruments, identified challenges faced by the Member Countries, and provided policy recommendations to enhance the cooperation in this field. The Meeting has considered the Studies namely “Risk Management in Islamic Financial Instruments” and “Financial Outlook of the OIC Member Countries 2014.” The Proceedings of the Meeting as well as all the publications and presentations made during the Meeting are available on the COMCEC Website (www.comcec.org).

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Meetings of the Financial Cooperation Working Group.

Several ongoing activities in the area of finance are carried out under the auspices of the COMCEC including the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum, COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum and Meetings of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities.

- 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 8th Meeting of the Forum was held on November 11th, 2014 in İstanbul. 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, 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. Recalling the relevant decision of the 28th and 29th Sessions of the COMCEC, the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC, in its 30th Meeting, requested the Member States and IDB to lend their support for the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index in their countries.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, Borsa İstanbul is expected to inform the Session 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) What are the main challenges and obstacles for an effective risk management mechanism in Islamic Finance industry?
- iii) How can risk management mechanisms in OIC member countries be improved?
- iv) What barriers are easier to overcome in improving enabling conditions for the Member Countries to enhance capital flows?

- 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 Forum held 2 meetings till now. The 3rd Meeting of the Forum was held on November 11th, 2014 in İstanbul. The details regarding the Forum activities are available on the Forum web-site (www.comceccmr.org).

The 30th Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC welcomed the efforts carried out by the Task Forces of COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum on Islamic capital market solutions, database, financial literacy as well as capacity building. The Committee 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 Session 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) Does your country have a particular law, regulation and directive on Islamic Financial Instruments?
- iii) How can awareness on Islamic Financial Industry in OIC Member countries be enhanced?

- 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 Meeting of OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities was held on 5-6 November 2014 in Indonesia with the theme "Financial Stability through Macro-prudential Policy and Financial Market Deepening among OIC Countries". The 15th Meeting of OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities will be held in Suriname in 2015.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to brief the Session on the outcomes of the 14th 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 12

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" was organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office and SESRIC on September 30th - October 1st, 2014 in Ankara. The recommendations of the Workshop will be submitted to the 30th Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to inform the Session regarding the outcomes of the preparatory Workshop.

- Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 31st Session of the COMCEC

During its 30th Meeting, the Follow-up Committee discussed on the possible themes and took note of the following themes for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 31st Session of the COMCEC:

Theme 1: Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of Islamic Ummah

Theme 2: Enhancing Aid Efficiency and Developing Effective Aid Strategies and Policies

Theme 3: Promoting Islamic Financial Services in the OIC Member States

Theme 4: Utilization of the Islamic Waqfs to mobilize the resources for alleviating poverty in the OIC Member States.

The 30th Follow-up Committee requested the SESRIC to circulate a questionnaire to the Member States to explore their views on the above-mentioned themes and report them to the 30th Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to present the results of the questionnaire on the theme of exchange of views session of the 31st Session of the COMCEC. The 30th Session of the COMCEC will decide on the theme of the next year's exchange of views session.

AGENDA ITEM 13
Date of the 31st Session of the COMCEC

The Session will decide on the dates of the 31st Session of the COMCEC and the 31st Follow-up Committee Meetings. Annual sessions of the COMCEC are generally held in November and annual meetings of the Follow-up Committee are usually held in May.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office will propose specific dates for the 31st Session of the COMCEC and the 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee. The Session will decide on the dates of the said meetings.

