



ANNOTATED AGENDA
31st SESSION of the COMCEC
(İstanbul, 23-26 November 2015)

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**AGENDA
OF THE 31st SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 23-26 November 2015)**

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation
3. The OIC Ten-Year Program of Action
4. World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries
5. 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 “Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery”
13. Date of the 32nd 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 31st Session, to be held on 23-26 November 2015 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 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).

Within the framework of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, the Working Groups have held 6 rounds of meetings so far (5 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, in 2015 14 projects were entitled to receive grant provided by the COMCEC Coordination Office and; project implementations are expected to be finalized by the end of the year. The CCO has made the third project call within the framework of the COMCEC PCM on September 1st, 2015. Within the framework of the third project call, 49 projects have been submitted from 17 Member Countries and 2 OIC Institutions. The relevant documents regarding the COMCEC PCM 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. To illustrate, 12 Working Group Meetings, 1 COMCEC Ministerial Session, 1 Follow-up Committee Meeting and 1 Focal Points Meeting, 15 meetings in total were organized and 33 publications were produced by the COMCEC in 2014. Similarly, by the end of 2015, 15 meetings will have been organized and 33 publications will have been produced.

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 both mechanisms of the Strategy work smoothly and efficiently. In this respect, the 3rd Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points was held on 10-11 June 2015, in Ankara, Turkey.

Moreover, cooperation efforts of the OIC Institutions operating in the economic domain have particular importance for the realization of the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy. In this respect, in line with the relevant resolution of the COMCEC, the OIC Institutions have been organizing activities aligned with the objectives and expected outputs of the COMCEC Strategy.

The 30th Session of the COMCEC took note of the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy. In this regard, 30th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the progress achieved in the implementation of the projects that were funded under the first call of the COMCEC Project Funding and commended the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their field of competence. The Session also welcomed the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in September and October 2014. The Session further welcomed the activities organized by the relevant OIC Institutions (SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIIC) in 2014 in line with the COMCEC Strategy.

The 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC held on 13-14 May 2015 in Ankara welcomed the successful convening of five rounds of COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 30th Session of the COMCEC. The Committee also commended the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their field of competence and welcomed the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in February and March 2015.

[[COMCEC Annual Progress Report: Document Code- OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(1)]

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the COMCEC Strategy and its implementation. The Session will consider the Progress Report presented by the COMCEC Coordination Office for necessary action.

- Report of the 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC

The 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC was held on 13-14 May 2015, 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 31st Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): The 31st Session of the COMCEC will be briefed by the Rapporteur of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the recommendations of the 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 3

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 Session of the COMCEC. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 41st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Session requested the OIC General Secretariat to submit a comprehensive evaluation report to the 31st Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC on the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the 10 Year-Programme of Action during the last 10 years, with specific emphasis on the achievements and challenges, as well as recommendations for the successor programme. The Session also requested the OIC General Secretariat to submit a progress report on the preparations of the successor Programme of Action to the 31st Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC. Furthermore, the Session invited the OIC General

Secretariat, in preparing the new 10-Year Programme of Action, to involve all member states and OIC Organs, to give due regard to the COMCEC Strategy in formulating the economic and commercial component to avoid duplication. The Session also underlined the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the new 10-Year Programme of Action by the COMCEC.

Recalling the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of COMCEC, the 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC invited the OIC General Secretariat, in preparing the new 10-Year Programme of Action, to involve all member states and OIC Organs, and to give due regard to the COMCEC Strategy in formulating the economic and commercial component to avoid duplication. The Committee also underlined the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the new 10-Year Programme of Action by the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): The OIC General Secretariat is expected to brief the 31st Session of the COMCEC on the progress in the implementation of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action as well as the preparations of the new 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

Intra-OIC Trade

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

In line with the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of the COMCEC, the 5th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was held on March 26th, 2015 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "Improving the Role of Eximbanks /Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) in the OIC Member States." The Meeting has considered the Study namely "Improving the Role of Eximbanks in the OIC Member States" prepared specifically for this Meeting. The Meeting has come up with a set of policy recommendations. The relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org).

The 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was held on September 17th, 2015 with the theme of “Establishing Well-Functioning National Trade Facilitation Bodies in the Member States.” The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in national coordination of trade facilitation in their respective countries. The Meeting has considered the Study titled “Establishing Well-Functioning National Trade Facilitation Bodies in the Member States” prepared specifically for this Meeting. The Meeting has come up with a set of policy recommendations. Proceedings as well as all the publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org).

Furthermore, 30th Session of the COMCEC requested the ICDT, in collaboration with IDB to organize a seminar and conduct a study on the new generation of free trade agreements (FTAs) and the feasibility of signing these agreements among the regional economic groupings consisting of the OIC Member States, including their impact on intra-OIC trade, and submit a report to the 31st Session of COMCEC.

[[CCO Brief on Trade: Document Code-OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(5)]

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 5th and 6th Meetings of the Trade Working Group. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the Trade Working Groups Meetings for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the main challenges faced by the OIC Member Country ECAs?
- ii) What measures can be taken to improve effectiveness of existing trade facilitation bodies in the OIC Member Countries?
- iii) What are the major issues faced by your country in establishing/maintaining national trade facilitation bodies?

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. By August 2011, all the three agreements of the System was ratified by at least 10 Member States; thus the legal basis of the System was completed.

The COMCEC in its 30th Session welcomed the announcement of Kuwait on its ratification of the PRETAS and the Rules of Origin and thus the finalization of the requirements for the operationalization of the TPS-OIC System.

Furthermore, in line with the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of the COMCEC, COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) in collaboration with the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) organized the Training Seminar on the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin for the Member States, which have completed the ratification of the TPS-OIC Agreements and submission of the concession lists, on 26-27 January 2015 in Ankara.

In its 31st Meeting, the Follow up Committee of the COMCEC requested the concerned Member States to update the previously submitted concession lists and convey the updated lists to the

TNC Secretariat no later than July 31st, 2015 to be circulated among the participating states, and requested the TNC to consider its convening upon the circulation of the concession lists by the TNC Secretariat. At the same Meeting the Committee also requested the concerned Member States to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin no later than July 31st, 2015.

On the other hand, with regard to the TPS-OIC, the following sensitization events were organized in 2015:

- Training Seminar for ECO Countries in Istanbul on 7-9 April 2015 organized by ICDT in collaboration with the CCO and the IDB Group,
- Training Seminar in Doha on 13-14 April 2015 organized by ICDT in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, State of Qatar,
- Awareness-raising Seminar in Paramaribo, Suriname organized on June 1st- 4th, 2015 for the benefit of the Public and Private sectors of Suriname and Guyana.

Required Action(s): As the TNC co-Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the progress regarding the operationalization of the TPS-OIC. The Session will consider recent developments and take appropriate action if necessary.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) How do you evaluate potential of the TPS-OIC? What would be the impact of the TPS-OIC on intra-OIC trade levels when operationalized?
- ii) What is the level of awareness on TPS-OIC System in the OIC Member Countries?
- iii) Which measures can be taken to expedite successful 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 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will host the 15th edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in Riyadh on 8-12 November 2015. In addition to the Islamic Trade Fairs, sector specific exhibitions are also organized by the ICDT in the Member States. Since the 30th Session of the COMCEC, the 3rd OIC Halal Expo and Congress was held on 8-10 December 2014 in the United Arab Emirates.

The 30th Session of the COMCEC requested 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. In this respect, following sector specific exhibitions has been/will be organized in this year:

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted the “8th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” on 17- 20 May 2015;
- The State of the United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah) will host the “2nd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States” on 19-21 October 2015;
- The Republic of Tunisia will organize the 1st Exhibition of Organic and Local Products of the OIC Member States on 29 October -1st November 2015;
- The State of the United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah) will host the 4th OIC Halal Expo and Congress on 9 - 11 December 2015.

Required Action(s): The ICDT is expected to report the recent developments on the Islamic Trade Fairs to the 31st Meeting 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.

The 30th Session of the COMCEC thanked the ICDT and other members of the Consultative Group for their efforts towards enhancing intra-OIC trade, and requested the Group to successfully conclude the implementation of the Executive Programme in 2015. The Session also requested the ICDT, in collaboration with other relevant OIC Institutions, to prepare a comprehensive evaluation report on the implementation of the Road-Map and submit it to the 31st Follow-up Committee Meeting and the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

The Consultative Group has held its final meeting on 2-3 March 2015 in Casablanca, Morocco. In the Meeting, the Group reviewed the implementation of the Executive Programme for enhancing intra-OIC Trade (2009-2014).

The 31st Follow up Committee commended the ICDT and other Members of the Consultative Group for successfully concluding their mandate in 2015 and reiterated its request to the ICDT to prepare comprehensive evaluation report on the implementation of the Road-Map in collaboration with other relevant OIC Institutions and submit it to the 31st Session of the COMCEC. The committee also requested the ICDT to take into consideration, in preparing the evaluation report, the challenges faced by the member states such as impediments to market access, lack of investment and financing for strategic products, lack of involvement of the private sector and complex administrative procedures.

Moreover, the Workshop on “the Single Window Modality and E-trade and their role in promoting intra-OIC Trade” will be held on 9-10 November 2015 in Casablanca, Morocco.

Required Action(s): The ICDT as the coordinator of the Executive Program of the Road Map is expected to submit the final report of the Consultative Group to the 31st Meeting of the COMCEC. The Session will consider the final report of the Consultative Group.

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 Session of the COMCEC encouraged the non-WTO Member OIC Countries, to join this organization and requested the WTO Member OIC Countries to support the Member States which are in the accession process to the WTO. The Session also 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 31st 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. Since the operationalization of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), all trade financing issues within the IDB Group have been incorporated into the ITFC.

The 30th Session of the COMCEC appreciated trade finance and trade promotion activities of IDB Group (ITFC) which have achieved trade finance approvals amounting to USD 5.1 billion in 2014. Moreover, the Session welcomed the regional and thematic trade development programs of the ITFC, namely the Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS), Aid for Trade Initiative for the SPECA Region, OIC Trade Development Forum, and Arab-Africa Trade Bridge Program, and invited the concerned Member States to actively participate and support the implementation of these initiatives.

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 31st Session of the COMCEC.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the trade financing mechanisms implemented in your country?
- ii) 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. There has been a growing interest by the Member States to SMIIC. The 30th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the joining of Malaysia as member, and Bosnia and Herzegovina as observer to SMIIC, and requested the Member States which have not done so far, to join SMIIC to benefit from its services. The number of SMIIC's members has increased to 32 as of September 2015.

Required Action(s): The General Secretariat of SMIIC will inform the Session 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 30th Session of the COMCEC took note of the recommendations of the 16th Private Sector Meeting for OIC Member States held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates on 19-20 March 2014, as well as the Sharjah Declaration. The Session welcomed the efforts of the ICCIA, in bridging the information gap, between the private sectors of the Member States by creating Business Development Centers (Al-Masfaq), holding Business Forums, Training programs and Seminars, and called upon the ICCIA to continue with these activities. The Session also welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Second Workshop on “Enhancing Cooperation among the Trade Registry Agencies in the OIC Member States” in the second half of 2015 and the offer of the Republic of Tunisia to organize a conference on Competition Policy in the OIC Member States in the last week of February 2015, and to organize a forum on offshoring services in the second half of 2015, in cooperation with ICDDT.

31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC welcomed that the 17th Private Sector Meeting would be held on 8-12 November 2015 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with the 15th Islamic Trade Fair. The Committee also commended ICCIA for organizing a 2-day Training Program for the development of SMEs by the ICCIA in cooperation with Small and Medium Enterprise Development Organization of the Republic of Turkey (KOSGEB), in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan and welcomed the ICCIA’s offer of holding of a similar training program in Uganda in the second half of 2015 in collaboration with SESRIC and KOSGEB.

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 five times until now.

Since the 30th Session of the COMCEC, Transport and Communications Working Group has held its 5th Meeting on February 12th, 2015 with the theme of "Evaluating the Ownership, Governance Structures, and Performances of Ports in the OIC Member States." The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in increasing port efficiency in their respective countries. The Meeting has considered the Study titled "Evaluating the Ownership, Governance Structures and Performances of the Ports in the OIC Member States" prepared specifically for this meeting. The Meeting has come up with a set of policy recommendations. Proceedings of the Meeting as well as all the publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org). 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC welcomed the convening of the 5th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group and took note of its policy recommendations.

The 6th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group was held on October 22nd, 2015 with the theme of "Urban Transport in Megacities in the OIC Member Countries." The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in the field of urban transport in mega-cities in their respective countries. Additionally, the issue of policies that can be implemented to improve the quality of services provided in this field was discussed. The Meeting has considered the Studies "Urban Transport in mega-cities in the OIC Member Countries" and the "COMCEC Transport Outlook 2015" prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office. The Meeting has come up with a set of policy recommendations. Relevant publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org).

(CCO Brief on Transport: Document Code- OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(21))

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief 31st Session of the COMCEC on the outcomes of the 5th and 6th Meetings of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group Meeting and the recent developments regarding the cooperation in this field. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the Transport and Communications Working Group Meetings for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What kind of implementation barriers exist (political, legal, operational and regional) in your country in increasing port efficiency?
- ii) What kind of actions can be done to increase the port performance in your country?
- iii) How do you evaluate the current situation of the OIC Megacities in comparison to that of megacities of developed countries?
- iv) What kind of measures can be taken in order to have a well-functioning urban transport system in your country?

AGENDA ITEM 8

Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector

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 six times till now.

Since the 30th Session of the COMCEC, Tourism Working Group has held two meetings. In this respect, the 5th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group was organized on February 5th, 2015 with the theme of "Travel Facilitation for Enhancing Mobility in the OIC Member States." The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in travel facilitation in their respective countries. The Meeting has considered the Study titled "Travel Facilitation for Enhancing Mobility in the OIC Member Countries" prepared specifically for this Meeting. The Meeting has come up with a set of policy recommendations. Proceedings as well as all the publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org). The 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC welcomed the convening of the 5th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group and took note of its policy recommendations.

The 6th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group was held on September 3rd, 2015 with theme of "Effective Tourism Marketing Strategies: ICT-Based Solutions for the OIC Member Countries." The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges on ICT-based tourism marketing in their respective countries. The Meeting has considered the Studies "Effective Tourism Marketing Strategies: ICT-Based Solutions for the OIC Member Countries" commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office and the "COMCEC Tourism Outlook 2015" prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office. The Meeting has come up with a set of policy recommendations. Proceedings as well as all the publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org).

Regarding the ongoing cooperation activities in this cooperation area;

- The 3rd Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum was held on 29-30 January 2015 with the theme of "International Branding of Tourism Destinations in the OIC Member Countries." The Forum underlined the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement as a critical success factor for tourism branding particularly through utilizing Public Private Partnerships and highlighted the importance of experience sharing, technical cooperation and capacity building programs among the Member Countries on tourism destination branding. On the sideline of the Forum, the private sector representatives of the Member Countries had the opportunity to conduct B2B Meetings with their counterparts.
- Workshop on "Exploring the Tourism Potential of Al Quds Al Sherif City" will be held on 24-25 November 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey
- 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers will be held on 14-16 December 2015 in the Republic of Niger.
- The 2nd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States will be held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates on 8-10 December 2015.
- The 5th OIC Health Tourism Conference will be held in 2015 in Mashhad, Islamic Republic of Iran.

(CCO Brief on Tourism: Document Code-OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(26))

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief 31st Session of the COMCEC on the outcomes of the 5th and 6th Meetings of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group Meeting and the recent developments regarding the cooperation in this field. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the Tourism Working Group Meetings for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the policies and instruments utilized in your country for facilitating travel?
- ii) What are the challenges faced by your country regarding travel facilitation?
- iii) What are the impacts of technological changes on tourism policies of your country?
- iv) What are the challenges faced by your country regarding ICT-Based Tourism Marketing?

AGENDA ITEM 9

Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security

Agriculture is of particular importance for human life and provides fundamental needs for human survival. Agricultural is also an important sector for economic and social development due to its contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment.

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 five meetings so far.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of the COMCEC, the 5th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group was held on March 5th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "Improving Institutional Capacity: Strengthening Farmer Organizations in the OIC Member Countries." The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in strengthening farmer organizations in their respective countries. The Meeting has considered the Study entitled "Improving Institutional Capacity: Strengthening Farmer Organizations in the OIC Member Countries" prepared specifically for this Meeting. The Meeting has come up with a set of policy recommendations. Relevant publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org). The 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC welcomed the convening of the 5th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group and took note of its policy recommendations.

The 6th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group was held on October 8th, 2015 with the theme of "Promoting Agricultural Value Chains in the OIC Member States." The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in promoting agricultural value chains in their respective countries. The Meeting has considered the Studies "Promoting Agricultural Value Chains in the OIC Member Countries" commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office and the "COMCEC Agriculture Outlook 2015" prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office. The Meeting has come up with a set of policy recommendations. Relevant publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org).

Regarding the ongoing cooperation activities in this cooperation area;

- The Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agri-Business" was held on 1-3 December, 2014 in Ankara, Turkey by SESRIC, in collaboration with the ICCIA, FAO and Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of UNDP.
- 7th Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development and the 1st Session of the IOFS General Assembly planned to be held on 12-14 October 2015 in Astana, Kazakhstan has been postponed.

(CCO Brief on Agriculture: Document Code-OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(32))

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 5th and 6th Meetings of the Agriculture Working Group and the recent developments in this cooperation area. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the Agriculture Working Group Meetings for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the policies/programmes implemented in your country for strengthening farmer organizations? What are the challenges faced by your country in this respect?
- ii) Which measures are taken to create more value and to capture utmost value in food supply chain in your country? What are the roles of governments, NGOs, and value chain actors?

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 six Meetings till now.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of the COMCEC, the 5th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on February 26th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “Activation Policies for the Poor in the OIC Member States.” The Meeting has considered the Study namely “Activation Policies for the Poor in the OIC Member States” prepared specifically for this Meeting. The Meeting has come up with a set of policy recommendations. Proceedings as well as all the publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org).

The 6th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on September 10th-11th, 2015 with the theme of “Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Improving the Basic Services Delivery in the OIC Member Countries.” The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, best practices, challenges and policy implementations in the delivery of basic services in the Member Countries. The Meeting has considered the Study namely “Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Improving the Basic Services Delivery in the OIC Member Countries” prepared specifically for this Meeting. The Meeting has come up with a set of policy recommendations. The relevant publications and presentations related to the Meeting are available on the COMCEC web-site. (www.comcec.org).

The 6th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group has also discussed the preparations for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 31st Session of the COMCEC. Details about these preparations are given in the relevant section (Agenda Item 12) of the Annotated Agenda.

(CCO Brief on Poverty Alleviation: Document Code- OIC/COMCEC/D(32))

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 5th and 6th Meetings of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group Meetings for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What is the current employment situation of the poor and people at risk of poverty in your country? What are the challenges related to the employment situation of the poor in your country?
- ii) Is there a link between activation policies/programmes and poverty reduction in your country?
- iii) What is the existing basic services delivery system for the poor in your country? What are the challenges related to the basic services delivery chain in your country?

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 Member Countries 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 30th Session of the COMCEC took note of the initiative of IDB Group for development of a Strategy for the period 2015-2017 for the effective implementation of the projects and the effectiveness of the ISFD. The said Session 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).

Required Action(s): The IDB Group is expected to submit a report on the implementation of the ISFD and SPDA to the 31st 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 five Project Committee meetings have been held.

The 30th Session of the COMCEC took note of the report of the 5th Project Committee Meeting held on November 16th, 2014 in Jeddah and requested SESRIC to combine 14 projects into one capacity building project and submit it to the IDB for funding. In line with this request SESRIC prepared the project proposal for the "Capacity Building Project on Development of Cotton Sector in OIC Member Countries" and submitted it to IDB for consideration.

The 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC took note of the submission of the capacity building project which combines 14 cotton projects into one by SESRIC to the IDB in accordance with the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of COMCEC and requested the IDB to finalize its consideration for funding this project proposal.

Moreover, the SESRIC organizes training and capacity building programs in the field of cotton. In this regard, the 30th Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation of the efforts of SESRIC for organizing training courses on various cotton-related aspects in the Member States within the framework of the OIC Cotton Training Programme (OIC-CTP).

Required Action(s): The IDB Group, as the Chairman of the Project Committee, is 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. SESRIC reports the developments regarding the implementation of the OIC-VET to the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings and the COMCEC Sessions.

The 30th Session of the COMCEC took note of the report of the 5th Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee of the OIC-VET Programme and appreciated the continuous efforts of SESRIC towards initiating and implementing various capacity building programmes and training courses in different fields and areas of interest to the Member States with a view to enhancing the capacities and quality of human resources in these countries.

The 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee requested 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 and support the various capacity building programmes of SESRIC under the OIC-VET Programme through activating the role of their National Focal Points (NFPs) in this important Programme.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to submit a report(s) to the Session on the implementation of the OIC-VET Program.

AGENDA ITEM 11 Deepening Financial Cooperation

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. Within the framework of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, Financial Cooperation Working Group was established and convened four times till now.

Upon the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of the COMCEC, the 4th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group was held on March 19th, 2015 with the theme of “Improving Supervisory Mechanisms in the Banking Sector of the OIC Member Countries.” The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements, challenges and policy implementations for improving the banking Supervisory Mechanisms in their respective countries. The Meeting considered the Study titled “Improving Banking Supervisory Mechanisms in the OIC Member Countries” prepared specifically for this Meeting. The Meeting

has come up with a set of policy recommendations. The relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org).

The 5th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group was held on October 15th, 2015 with theme of "Retail Payment Systems in the OIC Member States." The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges on retail payment systems in their respective countries. The Meeting has considered the Studies "Retail Payment Systems in the OIC Member Countries" commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office and the "Financial Outlook of the OIC Member Countries 2015" prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office. The Meeting has come up with a set of policy recommendations. The relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org).

[CCO Brief on Finance: Document Code-OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(45)]

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 4th and 5th Meetings of the Financial Cooperation Working Group. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the Financial Cooperation Working Group Meetings for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the main challenges and obstacles for an effective risk management mechanism in Islamic Finance industry?
- ii) How can risk management mechanisms in OIC member countries be improved?
- iii) What barriers are easier to overcome in improving enabling conditions for the Member Countries to enhance capital flows?
- iv) What are the policies and experiences of your country regarding retail payment systems?

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.

- 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 and held eight meetings so far. The 9th Meeting of the Forum will be held on November 19th, 2015 in İstanbul.

Recalling the proposal made in the statement of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, Chairman of the COMCEC, in the 30th Session of the COMCEC, on establishing a Gold Exchange among the OIC Member Countries, the 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee requested the Secretariat of the OIC Stock Exchange Forum to conduct a study on the feasibility and the ways and means of realizing the proposal and submit it to the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

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 as well as the preparations for the above-mentioned proposal.

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?

- 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 three meetings till now. The 4th Meeting of the Forum will be held on November 19th, 2015 in İstanbul.

Recalling the proposal made in the statement of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, Chairman of the COMCEC, in the 30th Session of COMCEC on establishing a Real Estate Exchange among the OIC Member Countries, the 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee requested the Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum to conduct a study on the feasibility and the ways and means of realizing the proposal and submit it to the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, Capital Markets Board of Turkey is expected to brief the 31st Session of the COMCEC on the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum as well as the preparations for the above-mentioned proposal.

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. 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 on 16-17 November 2015 in Suriname.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to brief the Session on 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

“Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery”

Exchange of views sessions are held regularly at the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. The 30th Session of the COMCEC decided the theme of the Ministerial Exchange of Views of the next COMCEC Session as “Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery” and requested the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 31st COMCEC Session.

Moreover, the 30th Session of the COMCEC requested the IDB and COMCEC Coordination Office to conduct a joint study reflecting the perspective of the OIC on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Post-2015 Development Agenda and submit it to the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

Recalling the relevant decision of the 30th COMCEC Session, 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee took note of the “Concept Paper on the Joint COMCEC/IDB Study: Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals” which was prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office and IDB and requested the COMCEC Coordination Office and IDB to finalize their joint study and present it to the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to be held in September 2015 for its consideration by the member country experts before its submission to the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

The 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee also took note of the preparations for the exchange of views session of the 31st COMCEC Session and requested the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic in its 6th Meeting and report them to the 31st COMCEC Session. The Committee also encouraged the Member States to prepare their country reports on the mentioned theme and convey them electronically to the COMCEC Coordination Office on October 15th, 2015 at the latest.

The 6th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group deliberated on the preparations for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 31st Session of the COMCEC and the joint study titled “The Critical Success Factors in Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: Current Situation and Prospects for the OIC” and come up with some policy recommendations to be submitted to the 31st COMCEC Session.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office is expected to brief the Session on the preparations made for the ministerial exchange of views session including the draft recommendations prepared by the 6th Poverty Alleviation Working Group and the above-mentioned COMCEC/IDB joint study. The 31st Session of the COMCEC will consider the draft recommendations for taking necessary action.

- Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC

During its 31st 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 32nd Session of the COMCEC:

- Theme 1: Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in line with the global practices
- Theme 2: Establishing and Improving Institutional Capacity: Infrastructural Problems for Islamic Financial Institutions and Possible Solutions
- Theme 3: Preventing Post-harvest Food Losses in the OIC Member Countries

- Theme 4: Strengthening the Compliance of OIC Member States to the International Technical Standards
- Theme 5: Improving Border-Agency Cooperation among the OIC Member States
- Theme 6: Increasing the visibility of the OIC Institutions and their activities in the field of economic cooperation.

The 31st Follow-up Committee requested the COMCEC Coordination Office to circulate a questionnaire to the Member States to explore their views on the above-mentioned themes and report them to the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office is expected to present the results of the questionnaire on the theme of exchange of views session of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC. The 31st Session of the COMCEC will decide on the theme of the next year's exchange of views session.

AGENDA ITEM 13
Date of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC

The Session will decide on the dates of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC and the 32nd Follow-up Committee Meeting. 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 32nd Session of the COMCEC and the 32nd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee. The Session will decide on the dates of the said meetings.

