

REPORT THIRTY FIRST SESSION OF THE COMCEC

İstanbul, 23-26 November 2015



COMCEC Coordination Office Ankara, November 2015

COMCEC

Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation

REPORT THIRTY FIRST SESSION OF THE COMCEC

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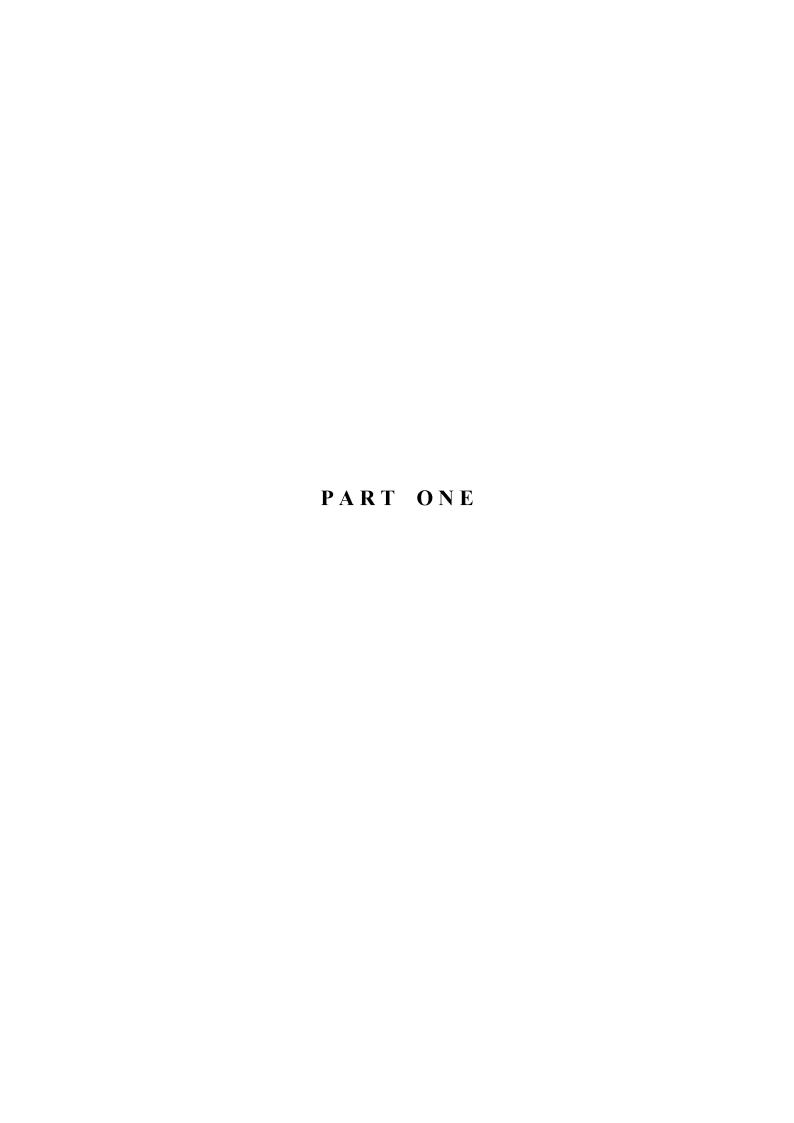
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RESOLUTIONS OF THE OIC FORMING THE BASIS AND GUIDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE THIRD ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE ESTABLISHING THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE OIC CHAIRED BY HEADS OF STATE

Resolution No. 13/3-P (IS)

The Third Islamic Summit Conference (Palestine and Al-Quds Session), meeting in Mecca Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 19th to 22nd Rabi-Al-Awal, 1401 H. (25-28 January, 1981);

Having listened to the proposals by His Majesty King HASSAN II, Chairman of Al-Quds Committee, that three committees will be established and chaired by the Kings and Presidents of the Islamic States.

<u>Proceeding</u> from a firm belief that joint Islamic action needs to be consolidated in the scientific and technological field, and in the economic and trade sphere,

Prompted by the desire to give information and culture a fresh impetus to help world public opinion understand the basic issues of the Islamic nations, particularly those of Al- Quds and Palestine, and to confront the tendentious campaign launched against Islam and Muslims,

DECIDES:

- 1. To establish three Standing Committees, the first for scientific and technological cooperation, the second for economic and trade cooperation, and the third for information and cultural affairs:
- 2. These Committees shall undertake to follow up implementation of the resolutions passed, or about to be passed, by the Islamic Conference in those fields; to study all possible means of strengthening cooperation among Muslim States in those fields, and to draw up programmes and submit proposals designed to increase the Islamic States' capacity in those fields;

- 3. Each Committee shall consist of the representatives of ten Islamic States, at ministerial level, and shall be chaired by the Head of State of an Islamic State;
- 4. Members of these Committees shall be elected by the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference for a renewable term of three years;
- 5. A Committee shall hold a meeting, if invited to do so by its Chairman or by a majority of its members; its meeting shall be valid if attended by a majority.

FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE FOURTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE ENTRUSTING THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION TO H.E. KENAN EVREN, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Final Communique No. IS/4-84/E/DEC

".... The Conference decided to entrust H.E. Mr. Kenan EVREN, President of the Republic of Turkey, with the Chairmanship of the Permanent Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation..." (Page 18, para 40).

CAIRO FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE "THE MUSLIM WORLD: NEW CHALLENGES AND EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES" ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT (6-7 February 2013)

Final Communiqué No. (OIC/SUM-12/FC/FINAL)

- "... We welcome various initiatives aimed at expanding intra-OIC cooperation in such sectors as agriculture and food security, tourism, health, labour, environment, transportation and Islamic finance. In this regard, we commend the role of COMCEC and all OIC committees and programmes in operationalizing the OIC projects and activities, particularly the frameworks for tourism, transportation and agriculture, respectively as well as the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project. We call on the General Secretariat and IDB to take necessary measures to speed up the implementation of the project. We also commend the initiative of His Highness the Emir of the State of Kuwait to establish a Decent Life Fund with US\$100 million, from which several Member States have benefitted to support their food security programme." (Page 28, para 130)
- "... We also commend the endeavours under the COMCEC for deepening economic and commercial cooperation among the member states, in particular the operationalisation of the Standard and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), the launch of S&P OIC/COMCEC Index 50 Shariah Index, establishment of COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators' Forum, establishment of OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum and Transport Cooperation Framework within the OIC (Izmir Document 2011). We request the member states to actively participate in the programmes and projects developed under the auspices of the COMCEC." (Page 28, para 131)
- "... We welcome the COMCEC Progress Report submitted by H.E. President Abdullah Gul, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), and appreciate his valuable efforts and commendable stewardship for the COMCEC to enhance its effectiveness and improve itsinstitutional set up." (Page 28, para 132)



REPORT, AGENDA AND RESOLUTION OF THE THIRTY FIRST SESSION OF THE COMCEC

REPORT OF THE THIRTY FIRST SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(İstanbul, 23-26 November 2015)

Original: English

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC

(İstanbul, 23-26 November 2015)

- 1. The Thirty-First Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 23-26 November 2015 in İstanbul.
- 2. The Session was attended by representatives of the following Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC):
 - 1- Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
 - 2- People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
 - 3- Republic of Azerbaijan
 - 4- Kingdom of Bahrain
 - 5- People's Republic of Bangladesh
 - 6- Republic of Benin
 - 7- Brunei Darussalam
 - 8- Republic of Cameroon
 - 9- Republic of Chad
 - 10- Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
 - 11- Republic of Djibouti
 - 12- Arab Republic of Egypt
 - 13- Republic of Gabon
 - 14- Republic of the Gambia
 - 15- Republic of Guinea
 - 16- Republic of Guinea-Bissau
 - 17- Republic of Indonesia
 - 18- Islamic Republic of Iran
 - 19- Republic of Iraq
 - 20- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
 - 21- Republic of Kazakhstan
 - 22- State of Kuwait
 - 23- Republic of Lebanon
 - 24- Libya
 - 25- Malaysia
 - 26- Republic of Maldives

- 27- Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- 28- Kingdom of Morocco
- 29-Republic of Mozambique
- 30- Republic of Niger
- 31- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- 32- Sultanate of Oman
- 33- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- 34- State of Palestine
- 35- State of Qatar
- 36- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 37- Republic of Senegal
- 38- Republic of Sierra Leone
- 39- Republic of Somalia
- 40- Republic of the Sudan
- 41- Republic of Tajikistan
- 42- Republic of Togo
- 43- Republic of Tunisia
- 44- Republic of Turkey
- 45- Turkmenistan
- 46- State of the United Arab Emirates
- 47- Republic of Uzbekistan
- 3. Bosnia-Herzegovina, The Russian Federation, Kingdom of Thailand and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus participated in the Session as observers.
- 4. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and Standing Committees, namely Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) and Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), the following subsidiary, specialized and affiliated OIC institutions attended the Session:
 - 1- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
 - 2- Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
 - 3- Islamic Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)
 - 4- Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
 - 5- Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group
 - 6- Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
 - 7- Islamic University of Technology (IUT)
 - 8- Organization of the Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA)
 - 9- Association of National Development Financing Institutions (ADFIMI)

- 10- Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC)
- 11- Federation of Contractors from Islamic Countries (FOCIC)
- 5. Representatives of the following UN and other international organizations attended the Ministerial Session and Special Sessions as well:
 - 1- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
 - 2- Developing Eight D-8
 - 3- Economic Cooperation Organization Trade and Development Bank (ECOBANK)
 - 4- United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
 - 5- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 - 6- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

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

6. The Meeting of Senior Officials of COMCEC that preceded the Ministerial Session was held on 23rd and 24th November 2015 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Emre YUNT, Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey. The Senior Officials deliberated on the agenda items and prepared the Draft Resolutions for consideration by the Ministerial Session.

Opening Session

- 7. The Opening Ceremony of the Thirty-First Session of the COMCEC was held on November 25th, 2015 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC.
- 8. Welcoming the delegates, H.E. ERDOĞAN expressed that the global economy could not yet entirely overcome the crisis that started nearly seven years ago and the growth rate of the global economy follows a course at an extremely slow rate compared to the pre-crisis figures, and also has made little progress for the last few years. H.E. ERDOĞAN said that in spite of all the uncertainties and negative developments in the global economy, the share of the Islamic countries in the global trade thanks to Allah, has increased by almost 40 percent within the past decade. OIC countries' share in global output has also increased nearly fifty percent.
- 9. H.E. ERDOĞAN emphasizing that although human and natural resources potentials, of OIC Member Countries are quite abundant for further development, regretted to say that Member Countries still face serious challenges such as

underdevelopment and poverty, whereas some are spending billions of dollars on luxury and ostentation. H.E. ERDOĞAN stressed that without waiting for a third party, whether countries or institutions, to handle our problems, we need to address our own issues and problems, and courageously face them.

- 10. H.E. ERDOĞAN drawing all Member Countries' attention that some Member Countries in the Middle East are confronted with severe challenges and problems, reminded that everyone should be aware of the fact that hiding behind barbed wires or high walls does not keep one safe from problems.
- 11. H.E. ERDOĞAN underlined that in terms of SDGs, poverty eradication is one of the most challenging items for OIC Member Countries, as OIC member countries still have 350 million people living under poverty line corresponding to 21 percent of the total population. In this respect, H.E. ERDOĞAN emphasized the importance of 31st Ministerial Exchange of Views Session theme, namely "Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery".
- 12. H.E. ERDOĞAN stressed that after the implementation of the Strategy, a sizeable increase has been achieved in the number and the efficiency of the efforts exerted under the umbrella of COMCEC.
- 13. H.E. ERDOĞAN expressed that Member Countries can play a significant role through activating political will in an effective manner, adoption of proper public policies, strengthening institutional and human capacity, introducing a sense of effective partnership and mobilizing financial resources with the involvement of NGOs and private sector for the successful implementation and follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals. H.E. ERDOĞAN also called upon the all Member Countries to use existing instruments of COMCEC more efficiently and develop new ideas and programs for this purpose in order to approximate policies among the OIC Member Countries.
- 14. President ERDOĞAN also emphasized the necessity of actual implementation of TPS-OIC System at the earliest for enhancing intra OIC trade further. H.E. ERDOĞAN concluded his speech by thanking all the delegates and OIC Institutions for their contribution and support to COMCEC.

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

- 15. Following the Inaugural Statement made by H.E. ERDOĞAN, H.E. Iyad Ameen MADANI, Secretary General of the OIC, made a statement at the Opening Session.
- 16. Thanking the Government of the Republic of the Turkey for the hospitality extended to the delegates, H.E. MADANI emphasized that multilateral trade instrument, which seeks to achieve the removal of qualitative and quantitative trade barriers, is yet to come into effect.
- 17. H.E. MADANI presented his homage to the Member States for their unwavering support and collaboration with the General Secretariat towards ensuring the success of the various economic and commercial programmes of the Organisation. The Secretary General also commended the increasing collaborative sprit among the various OIC institutions, which has generated the required momentum for the realization of the OIC ioint action.

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

- 18. The Heads of Delegations of the State of Kuwait, Republic of Gabon and Islamic Republic of Pakistan made statements on behalf of the Arab, African, and Asian regional groups, respectively. They expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of the Meeting. They also thanked H.E. ERDOĞAN for his wise guidance and leadership in enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States. Emphasizing the challenges ahead in connection with the Global Post 2015 Development Agenda, SDGs, they stressed the importance of coordinated efforts, experience sharing and effectively utilizing COMCEC platform to further enhance solidarity and cooperation among the Member Countries.
- 19. The Heads of Delegations also expressed their support and commitment to the COMCEC and emphasized the need for improving cooperation under the auspices of the COMCEC.
- 20. H.E. Dr. Ahmed Mohammed ALI, President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group also delivered a statement at the Opening Session. H.E. Dr. ALI commended the programs and projects initiated by COMCEC; and referring to the SDGs and development agenda, emphasized the support and dedication of IDB for further enhancing cooperation among the OIC Member Countries.

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

21. Rıfat HİSARCIKLIOĞLU, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), also made a speech at the Opening Session. Mr. HİSARCIKLIOĞLU underlined the importance of enhancing economic

and commercial cooperation among the Member Countries for the expansion of intra-OIC trade and the potential role of the private sector in this regard.

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

- 22. A special signing ceremony was held at the Opening Session. During this ceremony, the Head of Delegation of Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Erbolat DOSSAEV, Minister of National Economy, signed the General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States.
- 23. During this ceremony, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the COMCEC Coordination Office signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for enhancing economic and commercial cooperation.
- 24. Following the Opening Ceremony, H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN received the Heads of Delegation.

Ministerial Working Session

- 25. The Ministerial Working Session of the Thirty-First Session of the COMCEC was held on November 25th, 2015 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Cevdet YILMAZ, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey.
- 26. The Session adopted the Agenda of the Thirty-First Session of the COMCEC.
- 27. Following the adoption of the agenda, H.E. Ambassador Emre YUNT, as the Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting, briefed the Session on the outcome of the Senior Officials Meeting as well as the recommendations of the 6th Meeting of COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group on "Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Improving the Basic Services Delivery in the OIC Member Countries" considered by SOM for submission to Ministerial Session.
- 28. Following the presentation of H.E. Ambassador Emre YUNT, the Exchange of Views Session of the 31st Session of the COMCEC was held with the theme of "Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery".
- 29. Mr. Nikhil SETH, Executive Director for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) made presentation as keynote speaker.
- 30. Afterwards, the Ministers and heads of delegations of Member Countries made presentations reflecting their country experiences on ways and means of enhancing OIC cooperation in the process of the implementation of the SDGs and the improving

of basic service delivery in the Member Countries as well as the potential role of the COMCEC in this regard.

31. A special signing ceremony was held at the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session. During this ceremony, Kingdom of Morocco and International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on trade promotion cooperation.

Side Events/Special Sessions

32. The 27th Meeting of the Sessional Committee was held on November 22th, 2015 as a sideline event with the participation of the relevant OIC Institutions.

(A copy of the report of the 27^{th} Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex VI.)

- 33. Presentations on the "Introduction of Successful Projects funded by the COMCEC Project Funding" were made on November 24th, 2015. During the event, owners of the successful projects that were funded under the second project call of the COMCEC Project Funding made presentations regarding the implementation of their projects.
- 34. The special session on "Implementing SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda: Financing Sustainable Development" was held on November 26th, 2015. The session was moderated by H.E. Ambassador Pertti MAJANEN, Co-chair of the UN Sustainable Development Financing. H.E. Muhammad Abdul MANNAN, State Minister of Finance and Planning of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; H.E. Dr. Ahmad Mohamed ALI, President of the IDB Group; H.E. Mansur MUHTAR, Former Minister of Finance in the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and Mr. Zamir IQBAL, Head of the World Bank Global Islamic Finance Development Center in Istanbul were the speakers of this special session.
- 35. The special session on "Closing Data Gap for Monitoring the SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda" was held on November 26th, 2015. The session was moderated by Mr. Ben SLAY, Senior Advisor at UNDP İstanbul Regional Hub; Mrs. Keiko OSAKI-TOMITA, Assistant Director of Department of Economic and Social Affairs at United Nations Statistics Division; H.E. Musa KULAKLIKAYA, Director General of SESRIC; Mr. Joseph TEDOU, Director General at National Statistical Institute of Cameroon; and Dr. Bouba HOUSSEINI, Research Officer at Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) were the speakers of this special session.

- 36. The special session on "Cooperation and Partnership for Sustainable Development: NGO and Private Sector Engagement" was held on November 26th, 2015. The session was moderated by Dr. Carlos CONDE, Head of Middle East and Africa Division Global Relations Secretariat at OECD; Dr. Amal HAMIDALLAH, Director of Gulf Foundation; Mrs. Andeisha FARID, Founder and Chairperson of Afghan Child Education and Caring Organization (AFCECO); Ms. Dato Hafsah HASHIM, Chief Executive Officer of SME Corporation Malaysia; and Dr. Mohamed ASHMAWEY, Chief Executive Officer of the Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) were the speakers of this special session.
- 37. As the sideline events of the 31st Session of COMCEC, "COMCEC Project Funding Exhibition", "Exhibition on Calligraphy Masterpieces, Selected from IRCICA International Calligraphy Competition", "Exhibition on Haramayn During the Ottoman Period, Historical Photographs", and "Exhibition on Jarusalem (al-Quds) Photographs from Past to Present" were displayed on 23-26 November 2015.
- 38. Upon the invitation of the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Turkey, a consultative meeting was held among the Ministers of Commerce and Heads of Delegation of the 12 Member Countries, which have ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements and submitted concession lists to the TNC Secretariat, on November 24th, 2015 on the sidelines of the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

Closing Session:

- 39. The Closing Session of the Thirty-First Session of the COMCEC was held on November 26th, 2015 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey.
- 40. H.E. Yousaf JUNAID, Rapporteur of the Senior Officials Meeting, summarized the outcomes of the Senior Officials Meeting and highlighted some salient points in the Resolutions.
- 41. The Session adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/31-15/RES.
- 42. H.E. Ambassador Hameed OPELOYERU, Assistant Secretary General read out the message of H.E. Iyad Ameen MADANI, Secretary General of the OIC. In his message H.E. MADANI extended his congratulations to the Republic of Turkey for hosting the 31st Session of the COMCEC and to all participants for the successful conclusion of the Session.
- 43. Her Excellency Abeer ODEH, Minister of Economy of the State of Palestine, made a statement on behalf of all participating Member Countries. Her Excellency the

Minister thanked the Republic of Turkey, OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, and all OIC and other institutions for contributing to the successful conclusion of the 31st Session of the COMCEC. Her Excellency also thanked Turkey for the warm hospitality extended to all delegations.

- 44. H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey, made a closing statement at the Session. H.E. YILMAZ expressed that OIC Member Countries are now closer than ever to launch actual implementation of the TPS-OIC and PRETAS and the implementation of TPSOIC System will further increase the intra-OIC trade which stands around 19 percent of the total trade of our countries now. Underlining the role of investment, H.E. Cevdet YILMAZ stressed that we need swift measures to improve our investment environment, increase efficiency of related public and private institutions, leverage private investment, attract foreign direct investments and enhance our investment efficiency as well as using some effective tools such as Public-Private Partnerships to realize burdensome infrastructural investments.
- 45. H.E. YILMAZ also expressed that in terms of eradicating poverty for prosperous societies, Member Countries should decisively fight with poverty which results in various forms of deprivation including maladies, illiteracy, unproductivity, unemployment and other social problems. Given the importance of the implementation of SDGs, H.E. YILMAZ also stated that OIC Member Countries should continue this timely exercise by taking sound measures in the forthcoming period which depends on first and foremost a strong ownership, raising awareness of all segments of the society through full utilization of all communication tools together with all our public institutions, NGOs and citizens.
- 46. H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ concluded his statement by expressing the significance for COMCEC Member Countries to actively participate in various cooperation programs and projects conducted under the COMCEC.

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

47. All documents submitted to the 31st Session of COMCEC will be available on the COMCEC web site (www.comcec.org).

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AGENDA OF THE THIRTY FIRST SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(İstanbul, 23-26 November 2015)

Original: English



(İstanbul, 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

III

RESOLUTION OF THE THIRTY FIRST SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(İstanbul, 23-26 November 2015)

Original: English

RESOLUTION OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(İstanbul, 23-26 November 2015)

The Thirty-First Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 23-26 November 2015 in İstanbul, Turkey;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, including the 12th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 42nd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the 30th Session of the COMCEC;

Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) adopted at the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held on 7-8 December 2005 in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, and to the COMCEC Strategy adopted by the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 August 2012 in Makkah Al-Mukarramah;

Taking note of the submission of the progress reports, working papers and studies on the different agenda items submitted by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC);

Expressing its appreciation to the Member States for hosting Ministerial Conferences, Meetings, workshops, fairs and other activities in the cooperation areas;

Commending the efforts made by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office and the OIC institutions working in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, namely SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIIC.

Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation (Agenda Item: 2)

- 1- **Welcomes** the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy, and **requests** the Member States and OIC Institutions to extend their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.
- 2- Welcomes the progress achieved in the implementation of the projects that were funded under the first and second calls of the COMCEC Project Funding. Also welcomes the third project call, made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in September 2015.
- 3- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to regularly report the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Sessions and to the Follow-up Committee Meetings.
- 4- **Welcomes** the activities organized by the relevant OIC Institutions (SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, and SMIIC) in 2015 in line with the COMCEC Strategy.
- 5- **Requests** the Member States which have not done so, to register to the COMCEC Working Groups and actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the Working Groups.
- 6- **Also Requests** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Working Groups to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the relevant Working Groups and utilize from the COMCEC Project Funding for realizing their cooperation projects.
- 7- Welcomes the holding of the Third Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office on 10-11 June 2015 in Ankara.
- 8- Calls on the COMCEC National Focal Points and working group focal points to work more closely with the COMCEC Coordination Office for effective coordination and communication.
- 9- Commends the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their field of competence and welcomes the policy recommendations of the Working Group Meetings.

- 10- Calls upon the Member States to take into consideration the policy recommendations prepared by Working Groups and welcomed by the COMCEC Session and requests the OIC institutions to support the implementation of the policy recommendations.
- 11- As highlighted by the Member States in the Third Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points **calls upon** the concerned Member States to respond to the "Evaluation Form" circulated by the COMCEC Coordination Office on July 30th, 2015, with a view to following-up the implementation of the Policy Recommendations of the COMCEC Working Groups.
- 12- **Expresses** its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, and SMIIC for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.
- 13- **Adopts** the recommendations of the 31stMeeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

OIC Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) (Agenda Item: 3)

- 14- **Reaffirms** its commitment to the realization of the objectives of the TYPOA and calls upon the Member States and the OIC Institutions to extend required efforts towards reaching the objectives of the TYPOA.
- 15- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of COMCEC, **reiterates its request** the OIC General Secretariat, in preparing the new 10-Year Programme of Action, to facilitate the involvement of all member states and OIC Organs and to give due regard to the COMCEC Strategy in formulating the economic and commercial sections as well as the implementation mechanism to avoid duplication.
- 16- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 41st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, **reiterates** its request to the OIC General Secretariat to submit a comprehensive evaluation report to the 32nd 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.

- 17- **Also requests** the OIC General Secretariat to submit a progress report on the adoption and inception of the successor Programme of Action to the 32nd Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC.
- 18- Underlines the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the new 10-Year Programme of Action by the COMCEC.

World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 4)

- 19- **Entrusts** the SESRIC to continue monitoring the world economic developments and their implications on the Member States and to report thereon to the annual sessions of the COMCEC.
- 20- **Takes note with appreciation** of the sectoral outlook reports prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office and submitted to the relevant Working Group meetings.
- 21- **Welcomes** the main theme of 2015 edition of SESRIC's annual economic report as investments and **requests** the SESRIC to focus more on intra-OIC investments in its future reports.
- 22- Taking into consideration various barriers to investment including regulatory restrictions, inadequate financial and human capital, insufficient infrastructure, weak technology and coordination and information failures; calls upon the Member States to improve their investment environment and enhance the efficiency of related public and private institutions with a view to increase the FDIs, leverage domestic investments and investment efficiency.

Intra-OIC Trade (Agenda Item: 5)

- 23- Takes note with appreciation of the holding of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on March 26th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "Improving the Role of Eximbanks / Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) in the OIC Member States" and welcomes the policy recommendations of the Working Group, namely:
 - Member States are encouraged to examine and assess the financing needs of their exporters
 - Member States are invited to enhance transactional cooperation among their ECAs

- Member States are encouraged to review the soundness of their ECAs with the aim of improving the overall performance of the ECAs
- Member states are called on to empower their private sectors and encourage its participation within the ECA context
- Member States are encouraged to initiate capacity building activities for strengthening institutional and human capacities of their ECAs

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(9))

- 24- Also takes note with appreciation of the holding of the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on September 17th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "Establishing Well-Functioning National Trade Facilitation Bodies (NTFBs) in the OIC Member Countries", and welcomes the policy recommendations of the Working Group, namely:
 - Establishing effective communication systems within the framework of the work of the NTFBs
 - Involving the private sector in the activities of the NTFBs
 - Extending technical assistance to the member states for establishing/maintaining NTFBs
 - Designing Performance Evaluation Criteria for the Existing NTFBs

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(10))

- 25- Calls upon the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to attend the Seventh Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be held on February 25th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of "Strengthening the Compliance of OIC Member States to International Standards", and the Eighth Meeting to be organized on October 6th, 2016 with the theme of "Improving the Border Agency Cooperation among the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade".
- 26- **Requests** the Member States to actively participate in the trade activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in 2016 and **requests** these institutions to send invitations and documents to the Member States sufficiently in advance of their meetings so as to ensure the widest possible participation.
- 27- Commends the ICDT and IDB for successfully co-organizing the following events:
 - Seminar on new generation of free trade agreements on 4-6 May 2015 in Casablanca, Morocco,

- Seminar on the new generation of free trade agreements on 25-27 May 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey,
- Workshop on the Single Window Modality and E-Trade on 09-10 November 2015, Casablanca, Morocco.

i) TPS-OIC

- 28- Calls upon the Member States which have not yet signed or ratified TPS-OIC Agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, PRETAS and Rules of Origin, to do so at their earliest convenience.
- 29- **Invites** all participating states which have ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements and submitted the concession lists, to finalize the necessary procedures which include updating the previously submitted concession lists and notifying the TNC Secretariat on the relevant internal measures to be undertaken for implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin by March 1st, 2016 for the full implementation of the TPS-OIC.
- 30- **Also welcomes** the consultative meeting of the Ministers of Commerce and Heads of Delegation of the 12 participating states, held upon the invitation of the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Turkey, on the sidelines of the 31st Session of the COMCEC which has reached a common understanding on the deadline of March 1st, 2016 for the full implementation of the TPS-OIC.
- 31- **Requests** the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to consider convening its session in 2016 upon the completion of the relevant procedures by the participating states.
- 32- **Expresses** its appreciation for the successful convening of the training seminar on the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin, which was organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office in cooperation with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), on 26-27 January 2015 in Ankara.
- 33- Commends the ICDT for organizing following sensitizing events towards increasing awareness on the benefits of TPS-OIC among the government officials and the private sector in the Member States;
 - Training Seminar on TPS/OIC for ECO Countries in Istanbul on 7-9 April 2015, organized in collaboration with the CCO and the IDB Group.
 - Training Seminar on "Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States and its protocols PRETAS and Rules of Origin" in Doha on 13-14 April 2015 organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce State of Qatar.

- Awareness-raising Seminar on TPS/OIC and its protocols for the benefit of the Public and Private sectors of the Republic of Suriname and the Republic of Guyana in Paramaribo on June 4th, 2015.

ii) Islamic Trade Fairs

- 34- **Commends** the improvements in the number and quality of Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions, and **expresses** its thanks and appreciation to the following Member States for hosting Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT:
 - The Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and ICDT and the Association of Exhibition Industry (UFI) for organising a seminar on "Exhibition Industry in Middle/East Africa Region" in Marrakesh on 23rd-24th March 2015,
 - The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the "8th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States" on 13- 16April 2015,
 - The Republic of Tunisia for organizing the 1st Exhibition of Organic and Local Products of the OIC Member States on 28 October -1st November 2015,
- 35- Welcomes the offer of the following Member States to host Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT in 2015/2019 and requests the Member States to encourage active participation of their private sector and relevant institutions in these events:
 - The State of the United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah) to host the 4th OIC Halal Expo & Congress respectively on 8 10 December 2015,
 - The State of the United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah) to host the "2nd Tourism and Travel Exhibition" in Sharjah on 8th-10th December 2015,
 - The Kingdom of Morocco to host the "3rd OIC Health Expo" in collaboration with OFEC in Casablanca on 24th-26th March 2016,
 - The Republic of Senegal to host the "2nd Higher Education Expo and Forum" in Dakar on 9th-12th May 2016,
 - The Arab Republic of Egypt to host the "3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States" in 2017,
 - The Republic of Iraq to host the 16th edition of the Trade Fair of the Islamic Countries in 2017,
 - Republic of Guinea to host the 17th Trade Fair of Islamic Countries in 2019.

- 36- Welcomes Saudi Arabia's invitation to the member states to participate, with special pavilions, in the 15th Islamic Fair to be held under the auspices of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in Riyadh, in 22-26 May 2016; and calls upon member states to actively participate in this fair.
- 37- **Reiterates** its request to 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.

iii) Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade

- 38- **Takes note** of the report of the 7th and final Meeting of the Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC trade held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 2-3 March 2015.
- 39- **Expresses** its appreciation to the ICDT and other Members of the Consultative Group for successfully concluding its mandate in 2015 and **takes note** of the comprehensive evaluation report prepared in collaboration with other relevant OIC Institutions in line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC on the implementation of the Road-Map.
- 40- **Welcomes** the offer of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and ICDT to organize "the Conference of the TPOs Network" in Jeddah on 23 May 2016, on the sidelines of the 15th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States.
- 41- Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host and of the ICDT, the Ministry of Trade, Informal Sector, Consumer Affairs, Promotion of Local Products and SMEs of the Republic of Senegal and the International Exhibition of the Muslim Business (SIBM) to organize the African Halal Business Forum in Dakar 2016 and urges the Member States to actively participate in this event.
- 42 **Reiterates** its request to the Member States to keep on providing the ICDT with data relating to trade and investment statistics and regulations.

iv) WTO Related Technical Assistance

43- Calls on IDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and to carry on their efforts in raising the awareness of Member States on the importance of the WTO trade negotiations and their impact on economies and requests them to pool 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.

- 44- Calls on non-WTO members of the OIC to accede to WTO and requests the WTO-members of the OIC to assist them in their accession process.
- 45- **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat, to exert the necessary efforts for ICDT's observer status within the World Trade Organization (WTO), in order to help the follow-up WTO matters, including studies, research, capacity building and reports to OIC Fora.
- 46- **Expresses** its thanks and appreciation to the IDB Group for organizing various activities, such as, workshops and seminars, under its WTO programme since the 30th Session of the COMCEC for the benefit of the OIC Countries.
- 47- **Also thanks** the IDB for regularly organizing the WTO consultative meeting of the OIC Trade Ministers on the Sidelines of the WTO Ministerial Conferences, the upcoming one being organized on 14 December 2015 on the sidelines of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference to be held on 15-18 December 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya and **invites** the Member States to participate in this event.
- 48- **Welcomes** the offer of the Kingdom of Morocco to host and ICDT and the Department of Cooperation and Integration of IDB to organize a workshop on the "Administration of RTAs and the prospects of Regional Integration in the OIC Member States" in Casablanca on 21st-23rd December 2015 **urges** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

v) Trade Financing Activities

- 49- **Appreciates** trade finance and trade promotion activities of ITFC and the mobilization of funds from the international market for funding the trade operations in the Member States, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 20 percent.
- 50- **Commends** the efforts of ITFC in financing the SMEs, Least Developed Member Countries, and diversifying into new markets with innovative financing products and programmes.
- 51- Calls upon the Member States to complete their membership requirements for the institutions of the IDB Group (ITFC and ICIEC) so that the IDB Group implements its mandate successfully.

- 52- **Takes note** of the progress on the implementation of AFTIAS and Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program of ITFC and **invites** the concerned Member States to actively participate and support the implementation of these initiatives.
- 53- Welcomes the efforts of IDBG (ITFC) for the preparation of the Special Program for Central Asia and invites other OIC Institutions and concerned Member States to actively participate and support the implementation of this initiative.
- **Takes note** of the efforts of the ITFC to organize a Trade Development Forum to raise awareness of the private sectors of the Member States on the trade financing facilities of the ITFC and **encourages** Member States actively participate in the Forum.
- 55- **Takes note** of the Strategic Partnership on the Deep Dive Initiative between the World Bank Group and IDB Group.

vi) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

- 56- Welcomes the increased activity of the SMIIC through organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence and requests the Member States which have not done so far, to join SMIIC to benefit from its services.
- 57- Takes note with appreciation of the activities of the Accreditation Committee and requests the SMIIC Member States to actively participate in the meetings of the Accreditation Committee as well as other technical committees under SMIIC with their national competent authorities.
- 58- Welcomes the organization of SMIIC Accreditation Committee (AC) Lead Assessor/Assessor training programme which will be held on 25-27 November 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey to establish an expert pool for the involvement of relevant Muslim stakeholders in the Halal accreditation.
- 59- **Commends** the organization of SMIIC Forum 2015 which was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 5 May 2015, to raise the awareness of conformity assessment and halal activities throughout the Member States.

Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation (Agenda Item:6)

60- **Takes note** of the pivotal role played by the private sector in the economic development of the Member States and **commends** the role of the Islamic Chamber by introducing projects aimed at the development of private sector in the Member States under the auspices of the COMCEC.

- 61- **Requests** the ICCIA to undertake an overall assessment of its organization, functions and activities with a view to enhance its outreach so as to better serve to private sector according to its original mandate and objectives and submit a report to the 32nd Follow up Committee Meeting and 32nd Session of the COMCEC on the matter.
- 62- Calls upon the Member States to support and actively participate in ICCIA's work on the revision of its functions and activities, and encourages their Chamber of Commerce to involve actively in the ICCIA's activities.
- 63- **Welcomes** the holding of the 17th Private Sector Meeting, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with the 15th Islamic Trade Fair from 22-26 May 2016.
- 64- Welcomes 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 September 2016.
- 65- **Commends** the ICCIA for the successful organization of the 8th Businesswomen Forum in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Uganda National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UNCCI) and the workshop on "Development of a Mechanism for Joint Ventures and partnerships among Women-led Enterprises through South-South Cooperation" in collaboration with Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI) both held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda respectively on 26-27 and 28-29 October 2015.
- 66- Calls upon the private sector of the Member States to actively cooperate and interact with the ICCIA in order to fulfill its tasks.
- 67- Takes note of the following activities to be organized by the ICCIA and calls upon the private sector of the Member States to actively participate in these activities;
 - The 17th Private Sector Meeting, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with the 15th Islamic Trade Fair from 22-26 May 2016,
 - The 9th Businesswomen Forum for Islamic Countries in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 22-26 May 2016,
 - Senior Managers Leadership Training Program (transforming Good Managers into Great Leaders. (Dates/Venue to be determined),
 - Food Trade Exchange Forum among Islamic Countries,

- Annual Halal Conference,
- Excellence Award,
- Specialized Workshop on (Food Security/Entrepreneurship Development/Promotion of Tourism Opportunities/Development of SMEs),
- Conference on Muslim Business-owners' Union.
- 68- Expresses its appreciation and thanks to the Republic of Tunisia for organizing a seminar on "Competition Policy in the OIC Member States" in collaboration with the ICDT in Tunis on June 2-3, 2015.

Improving Transport and Communications (Agenda Item: 7)

- 69- **Takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on February 12th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "Evaluating the Ownership, Governance Structures and Performances of the Ports in the OIC Member States" and welcomes the policy recommendations of the Meeting, namely;
 - Member States are invited to enhance the private sector participation in the port sector,
 - Member States are encouraged to establish port regulators,
 - Member States are called on to promote intermodal container transportation. (Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(24))
- 70- Also takes note with appreciation of the convening of the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on October 22nd, 2015 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "*Urban Transport in the OIC Megacities*" and welcomes the policy recommendations of the Meeting, namely;
 - Working on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Urban Transport Financing,
 - Enhancing ICT Applications for Traffic Management in OIC Cities,
 - Improving institutional structure to ensure the delivery of a sustainable transport strategy

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(25))

71- **Requests** the Member States to participate in the Seventh Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group to be held on March 24th, 2016 with the theme of "*Enhancing Road Maintenance in the OIC Member Countries*", as well as its eight meeting to be held on October 27th, 2016 with the theme of "Improving Road Safety in the OIC Member Countries".

72- Appreciates the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat to sensitize the concerned OIC Member States to the need to include the respective national segments along the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor in their national development plans and requests the concerned Member states to submit their well-designed feasibility studies for securing adequate technical support and financing for this project.

Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector (Agenda Item: 8)

- 73- **Takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group on February 5th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "Travel Facilitation for Enhancing Mobility in the OIC Member Countries" and **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;
 - Encouraging visa facilitation among the Member States
 - Developing air linkages and increasing the airline capacity in the Member States

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(29))

- 74- Also takes note with appreciation of the convening of the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group on September 3rd, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "Effective Tourism Marketing Strategies: ICT-Based Solutions for the OIC Member Countries" and welcomes its following policy recommendations;
 - Building and strengthening a skilled workforce on ICT-based tourism marketing in the Member States,
 - Enhancing cooperation between the government and private sector on ICT usage and diffusion in tourism marketing,
 - Developing comprehensive and effective digital marketing strategies in the Member States.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(30))

75- **Requests** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the Seventh Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to be held on February 4th, 2016 with the theme of "Muslim Friendly Tourism: Understanding the Demand and Supply Side in the OIC Member Countries" as well as its Eighth Meeting to be held on September 1st, 2016 with the theme of "Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Developing and Marketing MFT Products and Services in the OIC Member States." and **requests** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

- 76- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Niger to host the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers on 21-23 December 2015 and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in this event.
- 77- **Takes note** of the report of the Third Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held on 29-30 January 2015 in İstanbul with the theme of "International Branding of Tourism Destinations in the OIC Member Countries."
- 78- Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to hold the 4th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum on 14-15 January 2016 in İstanbul with the theme of "Promoting Muslim-friendly Tourism Products and Services in the OIC Member Countries" and requests the Member States to encourage their private sector representatives in tourism sector to actively participate in this event.
- 79- **Welcomes** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 5th OIC Health Tourism Conference in Mashhad in 2016 and **requests** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security (Agenda Item: 9)

- 80- **Takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group on March 5th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "*Improving Institutional Capacity: Strengthening Farmer Organizations in the OIC Member Countries*" and **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;
 - Research and extension services of the farmer organizations need to be improved for increasing agricultural productivity,
 - The capacity of farmer organizations to have access agricultural market information and dissemination of the market information to their members need to be improved.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(35))

- 81- Also takes note with appreciation of the convening of the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group on October 8th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "Promoting Agricultural Value Chains in the OIC Member Countries" and welcomes its following policy recommendations;
 - Adopting/developing quality standards, implementing quality control and identifying market opportunities for standard compliance of agricultural products,

- Improving transport and storage facilities for promoting value chain development in the Member States through well-developed public-private partnerships,
- Supporting agro-processing and packaging industries to increase the value added of agricultural products.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(36))

- 82- Urges the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in the Seventh Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group to be held on March 3rd, 2016 with the theme of "*Reducing On-farm Food Losses in the OIC Member Countries*", as well as its Eighth Meeting to be held on October 13th, 2016 with the theme of "*Reducing Post-Harvest Losses in the OIC Member Countries*." and requests the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group.
- 83- **Welcomes** the organization of "*The Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agri-Business*" on 1-3 December, 2014 in Ankara, Turkey by SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA), (FAO) and Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of UNDP.
- 84- **Notes with appreciation** the efforts of the Republic of Turkey and SESRIC in organizing training courses on different technical agricultural and food security aspects in the Member States within the framework of the OIC Agriculture Capacity Building Programme.
- 85- Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development and the Inaugural General Assembly of Islamic Organization for Food Security on 26-28 April, 2016 and calls upon the Member States to actively participate in this event.
- 86- Calls upon the Member States which have yet done so to sign and ratify the Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security.
- 87- **Takes note** of the organization of Expo 2016 in Antalya, Republic of Turkey and **invites** the private sector and public authorities of the Member States to participate in this organization.

Eradicating Poverty (Agenda Item:10)

88- Takes note with appreciation of the convening of the 5th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group on February 26th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of

"Activation Policies for the Poor in the OIC Member States" and welcomes the following policy recommendations;

- Increase the capacity of the institutions providing Public Employment Services (PES) in the Member States through enhancing the quality and quantity of the human resources and developing information technology (IT) infrastructure of the PES institutions as well as an effective partnership with the relevant stakeholders in delivering activation measures.
- Promoting employer engagement in the preparation/implementation of the activation programmes through establishing a sound mechanism for ensuring the active involvement of the relevant stakeholders, and conducting employer surveys to identify the skills/needs in the labour market.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(40))

89- Also takes note with appreciation of the convening of the 6th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group held on September 10th, 2015 in Ankara, with the theme of "Improvement of Basic Services Delivery in the OIC Member States", and welcomes the policy recommendations of the Meeting.

(The policy recommendations of the Meeting are integrated to the Policy Recommendations Document prepared specifically for the Exchange of Views Session of the 31st COMCEC Ministerial Session - Annex:8)

- 90- **Requests** the Member States to actively participate in the Seventh Meeting of the Working Group to be held on February 11th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of "Accessibility to Social Protection Programmes for the Vulnerable Groups in the OIC Member Countries", as well as its 8th Meeting to be held on November 3rd, 2016 with the theme of "International Forced Migration in OIC Countries: The Policy Framework Adopted by Host Countries".
 - i) Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for the Development of Africa (SPDA)
- 91- **Reiterates** its request to the Member States which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and make fresh pledges on a voluntary basis so as to enable it to finance more projects in Member States and commends the Member States which have already fulfilled their pledges.
- 92- **Requests** the Member States that have not announced their pledges so far to announce their commitments and in accordance with their economic and financial abilities pay those pledges to enable the Fund to implement its programmes in the Member States.

- 93- Also requests the ISFD to increase its efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including the private sector in the Member States.
- 94- **Welcomes** 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).

ii) OIC Cotton Plan of Action

- 95- While appreciating the positive interest of the IDB for the OIC Cotton Plan of Action, **requests** the IDB to finalize its consideration for the funding of the capacity building project which combines 14 cotton projects into one project, submitted to the IDB in accordance with the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of COMCEC.
- 96- **Takes note 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 Centers of Excellence to enhance their cooperation with SESRIC in implementing these training courses.

iii) OIC-VET Program

- 97- **Appreciates** 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 and **calls upon** SESRIC to mobilize more financial resources towards the programme.
- 98- **Requests** SESRIC and IDB to continue developing and implementing new projects and initiatives under the OIC-VET sub-programmes, and **calls 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.

Deepening Financial Cooperation (Agenda Item: 11)

99- **Takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the Fourth Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on March 19th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "*Improving Banking Supervisory Mechanisms in the OIC Member Countries*" and **welcomes** the policy recommendations of the Working Group, namely;

- A credit risk data collection strategy for the OIC Member States needs to be developed for reducing risks during episodes of economic turbulence and the risk assessment capacity of the OIC Member States should also be developed in line with the international best practices.
- An Effective Deposit Insurance Scheme for the Banking Sector needs to be developed for achieving a higher degree of financial stability and financial inclusion.
- A Regulatory and supervisory Framework needs to be developed specifically for Islamic Banking in order to benefit from the significant growth potential of Islamic Banking System.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(48))

100- Also takes note with appreciation of the convening of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on October 15th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "*Retail Payment Systems in the OIC Member Countries*", and welcomes the policy recommendations of the Working Group, namely;

- Increasing awareness of the benefits of modern retail payment systems through providing education on basic financial controls and prudence as well as increasing transparency in order to protect consumer rights,
- Exploring ways to further decrease the cost of retail payments and seeking ways for interoperability,
- Establishing/maintaining OIC payment systems data collection and reporting framework.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/31-15D(49))

101- **Requests** the Member States to actively participate in the Sixth Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group to be held on March 17th, 2016 with the theme of "Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries", as well as its Seventh Meeting to be held on October 20th, 2016 with the theme of "National and Global Islamic Financial Architecture: Problems and Possible Solutions for the OIC Member Countries".

i) OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum

102- **Takes note** of the report of the Ninth Meeting of the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum held on November 19th, 2015 in İstanbul.

- 103- Welcomes the offer of the Borsa Istanbul as the Secretariat of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum, to host the 10thMeeting of the Forum in 2016 in İstanbul and requests all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.
- 104- **Requests** the Member States and IDB to support the promotion of both the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index and sub-indices.
- 105- **Welcomes** the report on "Gold Market Initiative for the OIC Member Countries" prepared by the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum and **requests** it to further study, through its Task Force on Precious Metals, to accelerate the process of integration of exchanges and harmonization of regulatory frameworks with a view to establishing a gold exchange among the OIC Member Countries and submit a report on this issue to the 32nd Session of the COMCEC.

ii) Cooperation among Capital Markets' Regulatory Bodies

106- **Takes note** of the report of the Fourth Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum held on November 19th, 2015 in İstanbul.

- 107- Welcomes the efforts carried out by the Task Forces of COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum on Islamic capital market challenges, database, financial literacy as well as capacity building, and also invites the Member States to support the efforts of the Forum through participating in its meetings, contributing to the accomplishment of the mandates of the Task Forces.
- 108- Welcomes the offer of the Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum in 2016 in İstanbul and requests all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.
- 109- **Welcomes** the report on "Real Estate Securities Exchange Initiative" prepared by the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum and **requests** it to further study the matter with the ultimate aim of establishing an exchange for the trading of real estate / real estate securities for the OIC Member Countries and submit a report on this issue to the 32nd Session of the COMCEC.

iii) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities

110- **Requests** the Republic of Suriname to reschedule the hosting of the 15thMeeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States in January 2016 and **also urges** the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.

111- Welcomes the training and capacity building programs organized by the SESRIC among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States in different aspects of cooperation and requests the SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the relevant institutions of the Member States.

Exchange of Views on "Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery" (Agenda Item: 12)

- 112- **Recalling** the relevant decision of the 30th COMCEC Session, **welcomes** the joint study on "Critical Success Factors in Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Current Situation and Prospects for the OIC" prepared and submitted by the IDB and COMCEC Coordination Office and **calls upon** Member States and relevant OIC Institutions to utilize the findings of this Study.
- 113- **Welcomes** the policy recommendations of the 6th Poverty Alleviation Working on "Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery" organized on 10-11 September 2015 in Ankara, Turkey.

Ref: Policy Recommendations Document (Annex 8)

- 114- Urges the OIC Institutions, in their respective fields of competence, to lend their full support to the Member States for the implementation of the SDGs.
- 115- Taking note with appreciation the ongoing efforts under the COMCEC Working Groups and the COMCEC Project Funding, requests the COMCEC Coordination Office to take into consideration newly adopted SDGs and their subitems to be studied within the framework of the working groups and urges the Member States to develop projects to be implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding to assist the implementation of the SDGs.
- 116- **Requests** the SESRIC to identified data gaps and compilation limitations of the OIC Member States related to the SDG indicators and to support the national statistical offices and related public institutions in their capacity development efforts. **Also requests** the SESRIC to Follow-up the inclusion of OIC as a unit of analysis in UN statistical system and report it to the 32nd Follow-up Committee Meeting and 32nd Session of COMCEC.
- 117- Taking into the consideration the ambitious agenda of the SDGs and the need to prioritize among 17 goals at the national level, requests SESRIC in collaboration with the CCO to identified the priority SDG areas for the Member States via surveys,

field visits for meetings with stakeholders as well as to make capacity needs assessment in these priority areas for the Member States and report it to the 32^{nd} Follow-up Committee Meeting and 32^{nd} Session of COMCEC.

Theme of the next Exchange of Views Session

118- **Decides** on "Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries" as the theme for the Exchange of Views Session at the 32nd Session of the COMCEC and **requests** the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 32nd COMCEC Session.

Date of the 32ndSession of the COMCEC (Agenda Item: 13)

119- **Decides** that the 32nd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 17-18 May, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey and the 32nd Session of the COMCEC will be held on 21-24 November, 2016 in İstanbul, Turkey.

ANNEXES

ANNEX

1

Original: English

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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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- Mr. GHOLAMHOSSEIN DARZI Director, Department of Economic Affairs
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B. THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

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- Dr. MOKHTAR WARIDA Assistant to the Director General
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- Dr. NEZIH TALEB MARUF
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- Ms. ZEYNEP DURUKAL Head, Intercultural Relations Research
- Mr. SADIK ÜNAY Senior Advisor
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 Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Technology

STATICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)

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- Mr. NABIL DABOUR Assistant Director General
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IDB GROUP

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ANNEX

2

Original: Turkish

THE ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY FOR THE 31ST SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(İstanbul, 25 November, 2015)

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Esteemed Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to wholeheartedly greet you all as we inaugurate the 31st Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC).

MAY PEACE, MERCY AND BLESSINGS OF ALLAH BE UPON YOU.

I would like to welcome all the guests in Istanbul, Turkey in my capacity as the Chairman of the COMCEC.

I supplicate to Allah to lead our consultations and efforts to fruitful conclusions, and speed us for the future.

In addition to economic, social and commercial matters included in our agenda, it is for certain that we will express our view on the circumstances that the Islamic world and the entire region are currently under.

I wish the exchange of views, deliberations and decisions to be tackled by the esteemed representatives to lead to fruitful conclusions for the entire humanity and the Islamic Ummah.

Distinguished brothers and sisters,

The global economy has not entirely broken free from the crisis that surfaced nearly seven years ago.

The growth rate of the global economy takes a course at an extremely low level compared to the pre-crisis figures.

By the same token, the global trade, which regularly increased prior to the crisis, has made no progress for the last few years.

In spite of all the uncertainties and negative developments in the global economy, the share of the Islamic countries in global trade, thank Allah, has increased by almost 40 percent within the past decade.

Over the same period of time, our share in the global GDP has increased by nearly fifty percent. We cannot deny the fact that oil and other raw materials played a major role in this increase.

In addition, the member countries have improved to a significant extent in production and trade in recent years.

Many member countries now play a major role in export of industrial products. We are certainly delighted by such developments.

As the most concrete indicator of the trade networks among the member countries, the Intra-OIC trade has soared in the past decade and come close to the target of attaining a rate of 20 percent.

I believe that the steps to be taken in the right direction for years to come will improve these figures and further increase the share of industrial products with high added value in export of the member countries.

However, we have to realize and become aware of the truth and the painful circumstances that are sometimes ignored and hidden behind such positive developments.

Today, around 21 percent of the OIC population, which accounts for 350 million people, lead a life in extreme poverty.

Nearly 50 percent of the people in Sub-Saharan African countries live in severe poverty, as well.

I regret to say that a vast majority of the heart-wrenching images of hunger, famine and misery we watch on TVs take place in OIC member countries.

In OIC member countries, 54 out of 1000 children pass away before they turn five.

There are huge gaps among the member countries in terms of national income and level of development.

On one hand, there are millions of people who are unable to meet their essential needs while billions of dollars are spent on luxury and ostentation.

Complying with the divine principle that says "ALL THE MUSLIMS ARE BROTHERS AND SISTERS TO EACH OTHER", we need to gain insight into the truth and steer our lives accordingly.

WE ARE AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS AS WE ARE MUSLIMS.

The values that bond brothers and sisters with each others are not only based on compassion, sympathy and affection. They also stand for a "RIGHT" to exercise.

We need to make sure that fraternity is no longer a matter of rhetoric and literature, and we need to turn it into a matter of ethics and law.

If the Islamic world turns from a land of science, wisdom and civilization into a land for the oppressed and the downtrodden, the most important factor herein would be the violation and ignorance of fraternal ethics and law.

In a world where even the most fundamental needs of children are not met due to hunger, thirst and poverty, it is clear that nobody will ever be able to find peace and feel safe.

Allah points to this risk in Quran, and identifies the circumstances where the fraternal law is violated with "waiting by a well filled with fire".

This dreadful landscape makes all the member countries take on heavy responsibilities.

We should never fail to notice this:

Growth and development without "mercy and justice" can only lead us to a cycle of problems, not prosperity.

The only way to safeguard the present and the future is to enhance solidarity, collaboration, sharing and sympathize with our brothers and sisters no matter where they are in the world.

Without waiting for other countries and institutions to care about our own problems, we need to address our own issues and courageously face them.

At this point, I believe that the multi-lateral cooperation of the COMCEC under this umbrella is extremely valuable and providing the Muslims with significant opportunities.

Enabling us to extensively address commercial, social and economic challenges faced by the member countries on a yearly basis, the COMCEC will be able to play a critical role particularly in this period of time. I wish all the member countries to address this issue in the same sense, and exert efforts accordingly.

Distinguished brothers and sisters,

The current COMCEC Session takes place in an extremely critical period of time in terms of regional and global problems.

As Muslims, we have been undergoing a grave test, fighting for our survival.

Having broken in the neighboring country of Syria, the civil war has been ongoing for almost 5 years now.

So far, 380 thousand Syrian innocent people have been murdered by the state terror of the regime while 12 million people have been displaced and forced to leave their lands.

Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Afghanistan, Egypt and Lebanon grapple with severe challenges.

In spite of inhuman oppression and violence, our Palestinian brothers and sisters put up an honorable and dignified fight against Israeli attacks targeting the Masjid Al-Aqsa and al-Haram ash-Sharif.

The blockade, which was launched 8 years ago, has turned Gaza into an outdoor prison where 1.5 million people live.

Being subjected to violence, and seeing their homes burn down in Arakan, thousands of aggrieved Rohingya locals struggle for life under extreme conditions or in neighboring countries or wild waves of ocean.

On top of such heart-wrenching landscapes, a handful of murder networks abuse Islam, the religion of "PEACE" for their motives and slaughter innocent people and Muslims in particular on a daily basis.

Such dark forces called DAESH, AL-QAEDA, BOKO HARAM and AL-SHABAB serve as figurants for the regulation of the Islamic world.

Pay attention to the fact that the primary target of such terror organizations is other Muslims who do not share their views.

It is the Islamic countries, values, the most eximious works of art of our civilization, libraries, scholars, cradles of science and wisdom that suffer the most due to the acts of such organizations.

We all must take a firm stand against such networks the likes of which we have faced throughout the history as they range from Kharijites to the Assassins, and we must not let a few bandits run loose.

We have to remember and remind that being a Muslims is a blessing that makes us mature and glorious, and a blessing that we can thank for and take pride in.

It is high time we urged people to be just, patient, compassionate and merciful.

We are in need of common sense more than ever as well as least said soonest mended, inviting to goodness and enjoining right conduct and forbidding indecency.

It is principally our duty as Muslims to drive such cancerous cells poisoning our youth and children out of body as they aim at destructing the true and 1400 year-old Islamic tradition.

As you know, one of the main agenda items for the G-20 Summit held under the Turkish presidency last week on November 15-16 was counter-terrorism.

As the leaders of countries comprising Muslim populations, we gathered on the occasion of the summit, and signed a historic declaration that points to our stance against this matter.

We put a particular emphasis on the fact that there is no difference between those killed in Paris and those massacred in Beirut, Ankara, Suruç, Baghdad, Kuwait, Syria and Iraq on a daily basis.

As a country that has been fighting terrorism for the last 30 years, we have not and will not discriminate between people who died in Mali a few days ago, or people who were slaughtered in Nigeria.

He who deems life sacred must adopt the same attitude and have a principled and coherent stance, regardless of the origin or the location of terrorism.

If one considers the people killed in the Middle East and Africa as some statistics, as they do to hundreds of thousands people dying in Syria, one would only play into the hands of terrorist organizations.

If one spares the global sensitivity demonstrated towards birds, fish and plants from innocent children drowning in the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea every single day, this indifference would lead to a greater disaster

Shutting doors in the face of millions of Syrians and Iraqis, who only strive to survive and hold onto life, would further deepen this problem.

The only way to ensure safety and peace is to embrace and protect refugees, not to kick them, or sink their boats, or turn a deaf ear to their outcries.

Everyone should be aware of the fact that hiding behind barbed wires or high walls does not keep anyone from any problem.

By the same token, we have to admit that Islamophobic, xenophobic and racist reactions will further deepen this problem.

Associating terrorism with a certain belief, nation or region cannot be accepted or excused in any way.

It is wrong to blame the followers of a certain religion and force them to plead as if they were guilty just by looking at the identification of a terrorist.

I would like to underscore a fact once again.

Unfortunately, those marginalized due to their religious belief, appearance, mother tongue and skin color, especially the youth, become more vulnerable to the propaganda of terrorist organizations.

We have to avoid steps that would further aggravate this tendency.

Sectarian and exclusion policies and erring strategies implemented in Syria laid the foundation for the emergence of an organization like DAESH right in front of our eyes.

Insisting on wrong policies by turning a blind eye to the state terror of the Assad regime and dropping bombs on Syrians who struggle to lead a free and honorable life is equivalent to feeding the monster.

The day before, we all witnessed how careless steps that ignore the stability, peace and future of an entire region can lead to regrettable outcomes.

In spite of all our warnings, an unidentified jet violating the Turkish airspace was downed early in the morning by our F-16s in line with the rules of engagement we have declared before.

For so long, we have exerted efforts to avoid such an incident and gave necessary warnings in the presence of all the relevant countries.

The reason why such an incident has not taken place until the day before is the composure and good faith shown by Turkey the patience of which has been tried.

Turkey does not take sides with tension, crisis or hostility. Turkey always stands by peace, dialogue and diplomacy.

We will continue to take such a stand in the future, as well.

However, nobody can afford to expect us to remain silent and indifferent to the constant violation of the Turkish border security, the infringement of sovereignty rights, and the breach of law.

Turkey does not have a particularly negative stand against Russia.

On the contrary, Turkey considers Russia an invaluable neighbor and a trading partner that we enjoy good relations with in a wide range of fields.

We only advocate our own security and stand up for the rights of our brothers and sisters.

Against the attacks of the Assad regime at our brothers and sisters living in Syria, we will continue to hold humanitarian activities on both sides of the border.

We are determined to take necessary measures to avoid a new wave of migration into Turkey.

We will continue to do our part for the peace and security of the Syrian people.

We expect all countries to take action in line with this perspective and avoid policies that would drag our region and the world into even greater suffering.

Esteemed guests,

Both these issues and others that occupy the global agenda make it vital for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation member countries to assume responsibility.

Some of the member countries in particular actively participated in setting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals put forward highly comprehensive objectives ranging from combating poverty and inclusive economic growth to access to energy and income justice.

I believe that the Distinguished Ministers will take important decisions during the 31st Session of the COMCEC for the successful implementation and follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I would like to note that I attach capital importance to the following points to achieve such major goals:

We must activate our political will in an effective manner.

We must adopt proper public policies.

We must strengthen our institutional and human capacity.

We must introduce a sense of effective partnership through financial resources.

All the institutions, NGOs, the private sector and people must adopt these goals.

This requires intensive efforts of international cooperation and technical assistance.

I would like to take this occasion to call on all the member countries to effectively benefit from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the COMCEC.

I find it extremely pertinent to designate the theme of this year's Ministerial Exchange of Views Session as "THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND DEVELOPMNT CHALLENGES OF THE ISLAMIC UMMAH: IMPROVING BASIC SERVICES DELIVERY".

In addition, a series of side events such as panel discussions and special sessions will be held during the session, as well.

As you know, one of the COMCEC's most important projects is the OIC Trade Preferential System.

Thank Allah; we have reached the required number of member countries to put the system into effect.

Fulfilling the minimum requirements of the Agreement, the member countries have some steps to take.

In this framework, I would like to urge all the member countries to finalize the necessary preparations in close coordination with the COMCEC Coordination Office in order to put the System into effect as soon as possible.

Distinguished brothers and sisters,

I would like to express my pleasure to see that the COMCEC Strategy, which was introduced in 2013, is being implemented successfully thanks to the contributions of the member states.

The fact that the new COMCEC Status delegates the task of providing secretariat services to the COMCEC Coordination Office has brought about many important novelties.

After the implementation of the Strategy, a sizeable increase has been achieved in the number and the efficiency of the efforts exerted under the umbrella of COMCEC.

I am of the opinion that the political recommendations made in this respect will further strengthen the approximation of the member countries.

In addition, I welcome the implementation of 22 projects within the first 2 years as a part of the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism.

Cooperation in the field of standards is of major importance to increase and facilitate the trade among the member states.

Within this framework, I take great pleasure in seeing the increasing interest in the standards developed within the body of the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries.

I believe that the efforts exerted by the Accreditation Committee will make a major contribution to the dissemination of the standards for halal food in particular.

On this occasion, I would like to urge all the member countries to increasingly put their support behind the activities held for the standards.

There are many endeavors in which both sector representatives and institutions of member countries have contributed under COMCEC.

Thank Allah; we have reached the required number of member countries to put the Agreement on OIC Preferential Trade System into effect.

The Stock Exchanges Forum and COMCEC Capital Markets Regulatory Bodies Forum have been carrying out their activities in a highly successful manner.

As you recall, I pointed out in my speech last year that the establishment of the COMCEC Stock Exchanges and the Gold Exchanges in addition to the Stock Exchanges Forum was of importance, as well.

Within this framework, I welcome the fact that they have kicked off endeavors to analyze the infrastructure of the real estate and gold exchanges.

I hope such endeavors will mature in a short span of time and begin to serve in a way that all the member countries can benefit from.

Distinguished brothers and sisters,

Recently, Turkey held the presidency of the most important economic cooperation platform, G-20, which was appreciated by every member country.

We crowned this process with the Leaders Summit held on November 15 and 16.

Insha'Allah, we will host major summits and meetings in Turkey next year.

Out of such events, we attach particular importance to the 13th Session of the Islamic Summit.

I would like to point out that I expect a high level of participation from all member countries to this Summit.

In the same vein, on May 23-24, 2016, another important meeting to be held for the first time in Istanbul is the World Humanitarian Summit.

We hope and wish that these two important events will be successfully held and lead to the solution of the problems we are currently facing.

I would like to call on our other esteemed brotherly countries to act more responsibly in this respect.

As I conclude my remarks with these thoughts in mind, I would like to express once again our pleasure for hosting you in Turkey and in our beautiful city of Istanbul.

I wish the COMCEC efforts to lead to fruitful conclusions for the member countries, the Islamic world and the entire humanity and salute you all with compassion and respect. May Allah Almighty bless you with His Providence.

ANNEX

3

Original: Arabic

SPEECH OF H.E. IYAD AMEEN MADANI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC), AT THE OPENING SESSION (İstanbul, 25 November 2015)

Your Excellency, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC,

Your Excellencies, Ministers and Heads of Delegation

Honourable Delegates

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalam alaekun warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu.

It is, for me, a great honour and privilege to address the 31st session of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation. Allow me to, first and foremost, congratulate President Erdoğan the Government and people of Turkey on the successful and peaceful conduct of the just-concluded nation-wide parliamentary elections, which was widely acclaimed as a triumph for democracy in this important member state of our Organisation. I should also express appreciation for the constant measures taken by the Government of Turkey to ensure the convening of the COMCEC General Assembly on annual basis.

Mr. President

Distinguished Delegates

In my address before this distinguished General Assembly last year, I emphasized the pre-occupation of the OIC with consolidating the various executive structures of the OIC, in order to reduce the existing gap between policy and implementation as we seek to optimize intra-OIC cooperation in diverse fields, most especially in the socio-economic domain. I also underscored our overall strategy of identifying action areas, timelines for implementation and benchmarks for evaluation of the various programmes and projects involved in the policy frameworks. Another strategy was to strengthen coordination among the various agencies and institutions of the OIC for the purpose of synergy and operational efficiency.

I am glad to report that the attention of our various institutions has focused considerably on meeting the demands of our member states in their various sectoral operations. This action was made possible through the diligent participation of

members of the respective boards of administration of our various executive institutions as well as the closer coordination between the departments of the General Secretariat and these OIC institutions. In this regard, the thrust of my speech today will dwell on the various actions and activities so far undertaken by the various OIC institutions based on the relevant OIC resolutions and decisions, particularly those falling within of agenda of COMCEC.

Notwithstanding the fact that our multilateral trade instrument, which seeks to achieve the removal of qualitative and quantitative trade barriers, is yet to come into effect, recent figures by our institution, the Islamic Center for Development of Trade for 2014 indicate that the volume of intra-OIC trade has increased from 18.64% in 2013 to 19.33% in 2014. Ironically, this increase in trade performance runs against the currents of international trade exchanges, considering the dramatic but sustained fall in the prices of oil, which constitutes the bulk of tradable goods for many OIC member states. It also came at a time when the overall volume of global trade of OIC member states dropped from US\$ 4.18 trillion in 2013 to US\$4.16 trillion in 2014. Being that as it may, one cannot but be gladdened by the fact that the manufacturing sector has performed creditably well, reflecting a positive adjustment in the structure of the OIC economy away from the traditional reliance on primary products with less value-addition and low performance on industrialization. In this regard, OIC exports of manufactured products and machinery posted 45% of total OIC exports in 2013 as against 32% export of primary products, including crude oil.

In the same vein, the interventions by the relevant OIC institutions have increased comparatively since our last meeting here last year. The thrust of the various actions taken was aimed at stimulating increased productivity and growth through access to funds by micro, small and medium enterprises, in such a manner as to increase employment generation among the rural and poor segments of the OIC population. Accordingly, the Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) approved an aggregate US\$ 331 million facility for supplying agricultural inputs, staples food and export financing in OIC member states.

Similarly, other programmes put in place to shore up productivity in our member states included the various programmes embarked upon by the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) for the purpose of reducing the cost of doing business in our member states, among other objectives. In this regard, the follow-up of the outcome of the OIC High Level Forum on Trade Facilitation and Single Window Initiatives, which was held in Casablanca in February 2013 is a step in the right direction. This action will enable our member states enhance competitiveness and increased productivity in their respective economies. I cannot but avail myself of this opportunity to renew the call on our member states to give effect to the OIC Trade Preferential System, through the completion of the various administrative measures required in this connection.

In the coming days and in addition to my constant discussions with our decision-makers, I would be addressing special messages to the our Ministers, who are in charge of trade and investment portfolios on the specific issue of the actualization of this long-overdue mechanism. There is no doubt that the take-off of the OIC Trade Preferential System will enable us transit to the second phase of our trade relations, which is the establishment of an OIC Free Trade Zone.

Your Excellency

Distinguished delegates

You would recall that one of the recent strategies to enhance trade among OIC member states is to encourage intra-OIC cooperation on Halal Food Standards, Accreditation and Certification. This strategy is also aimed at ensuring the removal of technical barriers to trade among our countries. Thanks to our Standardisation Expert Group, three documents were elaborated each dealing with standardization, accreditation and certification. The adoption of a unified Halal Food Standards remained pending due to the unresolved issue of stunning and mechanical slaughtering. These latter issues were appropriately referred to the Islamic Fiqh Academy for a decision based on Islamic jurisprudence. The subsequent approval of the document as non-binding document did not allow our Organisation to seize the golden opportunity of creating a unified Halal standards, which many believe the OIC is the right forum for this exercise.

It is due to this reason and based on my report that the Council of Foreign Ministers approved the recommendation to hold a Forum in Jeddah, in coordination with Islamic Fiqh Academy, Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), and Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA). This Forum will be held on 9-10 December 2015 in Jeddah and will seek to collate the views of the relevant authorities of our member states on the resolution of this pending issue of the common OIC Halal standard. In addition, the issue of operationalizing the other two documents on accreditation and certification procedures would be similarly addressed. I shall, therefore, submit the outcome of this exercise, in due course, for further policy inputs to the relevant OIC organs, including this august General Assembly.

It is also noteworthy that our cooperation on agriculture, rural development and food security, labour, employment and productivity, and tourism development as well as cooperation in the financial and private sectors has also grown appreciably. I am given to understand that the Senior Officials Meeting, preparatory to this General Assembly session has been fully briefed on developments in this regard.

It will suffice for me to state here that the rescheduling of the inaugural General Assembly of the new OIC specialised institution, the Islamic Organisation for Food

Security in Astana, Kazakhstan for the first half of 2016, and the eventual consolidation of the other structures of this new body will equally assist in our ongoing efforts to strengthen the executive organs of our Organisation. This initiative is, no doubt, aimed of translating policy to actual implementation in favour of the rapid socio-economic development of our member states.

I am also glad to observe that 3rd Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers, which concluded its proceedings in Jakarta, Indonesia on 30 October 2015 has taken far-reaching decisions, with a view to implementing the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection and its Executive Programme, which were adopted in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Participating Ministers of Labour have also undertaken to support capacity building and training programmes in OIC member States, including the convening of a Workshop on Islamic concepts and practices with regard to employment and social protection.

Similarly and within the implementation of the decision to promote intra-OIC tourism through the OIC City of Tourism Award, I wish to inform this august assembly that the activities to commemorate the OIC City of Tourism 2015, which was awarded to Al-Quds Sherif would be rounded off here in Istanbul, through the workshop on "Exploring Tourism Potential of Al-Quds Al-Sherif City" organized by SESRIC. Accordingly, efforts are being consolidated to ensure that the commemoration of the OIC City of Tourism Award in the next awardee city for 2016, which is the city of Konya in Turkey. In the like manner, the next edition of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, which is scheduled to hold in Niamey, Republic of Niger from 21-23 December 2015 will nominate the new awardee cities for 2017 and 2018.

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Delegates

I cannot end this speech without paying homage to our member states and institutions for their unwavering support and collaboration with the General Secretariat towards ensuring the success of the various economic and commercial programmes of the Organisation. It is envisaged that their inputs into the new OIC-2025 Programme of Action, which is being considered by our member states, would similarly facilitate the elaboration of a robust and inclusive agenda for socio-economic cooperation among OIC member states.

In this regard, permit me to also commend the increasing collaborative sprit among the various OIC institutions, which has generated the required momentum for the realization of the OIC joint action. I wish to assure this gathering that the General Secretariat will continue to consolidate on this gains through closer coordination of the duties of the various executive institutions of our Organization. In the same vein, the

General Secretariat shall work assiduously to implement the decisions and recommendations of COMCEC, in its capacity as the executive organ of COMCEC and in closer collaboration with His Excellency the Chairman of this all-important OIC Standing Committee.

I wish this General Assembly a successful deliberation.

Assalam	alaekun	warahmatullahi	wabaratuhu.

ANNEX

4

Original: Arabic

ADDRESS BY H.E. DR. AHMAD MOHAMED ALI, PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB GROUP), AT THE OPENING SESSION

(İstanbul, 25 November 2015)

Bism Allah al-Rahman Al-Rahim

Alhamdolellah, as rightfully expressed by His worshippers, and peace be upon the seal of prophets and messengers,

Sayyedona Muhammad and all his virtuous family and companions

H.E. President Rejeb Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC

H.E. Dr. Cevdet Yilmaz, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey

H.E Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC,

Honourable Ministers - Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamo Alaikom Warahmatollahi Wabarakato,

It is a great honour to address this esteemed Session, and to express my thanks and gratitude to the Republic of Turkey - represented by its president, government and people - for the excellent arrangements made for a fruitful conclusion of this Session. Your profound inaugural address, your Excellency, included a deep insight and a thorough evaluation of the challenges facing our Ummah, as well as the appropriate solutions to overcome them.

Please allow me, your Excellency, to congratulate you for the recent successful legislative elections, asking Allah the Almighty to endow upon the Republic of Turkey the stability and prosperity yearned by its esteemed people.

Your Excellency,

You have just chaired the G-20 Summit, where you have realized numerous achievements and launched pioneering initiatives, yielding fruitful results that will be engraved in history, with regard to addressing global economic challenges. I was personally delighted to take part in this Summit that was held on a piece of paradise on earth, Antalia, where I witnessed a remarkable milestone in the method of conducting this prestigious international economic platform, and attending to the related issues.

We, the IDB Group, cannot thank your Excellency enough for raising the issue of Islamic finance for study and introducing it to the G-20 Agenda. Indeed, you have afforded an opportunity to the OIC and Islamic finance for an effective participation in the B20 and the International SME Conference.

I was very delighted to hear the commendation expressed by both conferences for the private sector role in enhancing economic progress, and contributing to economic diversity and employment growth, as well as poverty reduction.

Your Excellency,

The COMCEC is holding its Session this year, while the world experiences strategic, economic and political transformations that have grave impact upon the dignity of our Ummah, and the extent of challenge it faces at the global front. These are seriously profound transformations with far-reaching challenges. Transformations and challenges that incessantly pose a clear question: how can our OIC countries achieve three objectives in such an environment where global growth is slow:

- ✓ The objective of achieving inclusive economic growth,
- ✓ The objective of investing in dignity and human resources,
- ✓ The objective of preventing the risk of people being caught in the mire of poverty.

Drawing upon the pioneering Turkish experience, we have learned that these significant challenges require insight and determination, strength and will. They will not withstand when solemn decisions are taken on hard choices. Indeed, the remarkable experience of your country inspired a number of developing countries to face such overwhelming issues.

- ✓ In ten years, the Turkish per capita income has increased more than threefold; the PPP of Turkish Lira has doubled, the budget deficit has been financed; the early debt payment has reversed your position from a borrower from international institutions to a lender; exports have increased sevenfold where your products accessed the markets of 190 states; and unprecedented initiatives were made to maximize job opportunities for the youth.
- ✓ You have provided a splendid example in inclusive growth benefits, and expanding such inclusion to reach out those in need outside Turkey. Turkey, may Allah Endow His Blessing upon it, has been heavily encumbered with flux of Syrians that the country has been receiving during their ordeal.

- ✓ Turkish people have been supplying shelters to Syrian migrants, education to their children, health care to their patients. They have been backing them with support and advocacy.
- ✓ Your Excellency took the lead over world leaders when you visited vulnerable people in Somalia, and travelled the Sub-Saharan African countries.
- ✓ You are profoundly thanked for developing Halal industry; for your endeavours to include it in the value chain and secure its recognition in standards and health procedure systems; and for your strife to expand the future prospects of Halal market whose size amounts to nearly three trillion U.S.Dollars.

As such, you have drawn the road map to overcome the challenges in your country; and everyone has therefore great expectation that your leadership will prevail over all challenges facing our Ummah.

Your Excellency,

It is fortunate that the COMCEC convenes its current session between a G20 Summit, in which you have conveyed the aspirations of developing countries, and an Islamic Summit to which the Ummah looks forward; hence, the entire world will witness the fruitful outcomes emanating from your successful presidency; outcomes reflected in the elimination of the challenges that have been previously referred to, and which are represented in the achievement of inclusive economic growth, investment in preserving the dignity of citizens and in achieving human development and preventing the risk of people being caught in the mire of poverty.

It is my opinion that well preparing to effectively address these challenges requires that we work on securing several fronts:

First front: is the maximization of the performance of the developing countries in the endeavour for achieving the SDGs. Developing countries aspire to re-employ these goals, reflecting the aspirations and aims of their peoples. In addition to securing as many critical success factors as possible with a view to prevailing over poverty.

On this occasion, I commend the COMCEC's interest in the SDGs endorsed in the Special Session convened on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting held last September in New York.

I am pleased to inform your Excellency that the IDB Group and the CCO have prepared a study on "The Critical Success Factors in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: Post-2015 Development Agenda", upon the COMCEC's decision

issued in its 30th Session last year. This study encompassed many recommendations as guidelines for the member states to use when they start to implement the SDGs.

We are all confident that your term of presidency will best utilize the potentials inherent in the Ummah as well as benefit from the lessons and experiences from the implementation of the MDGs. You are well capable of spreading the spirit of determination and firmness that will enable our generation to follow in the footsteps of a generation that has eradicated poverty and hence witnessed an overflow of money in the reign of Caliph Omar Ibn Abdul Aziz. It is an experience that has proven that you, here in Turkey, are on the right path of employing good morals in the management of the general affairs and setting integrity-based financial measures. So, let us emulate this era of justice, equality, integrity, consultation and elimination of injustices; an era in which prosperity spread and almsgivers found no one to give their alms to.

✓ <u>Second front:</u> is preventing people from being caught in the mire of poverty. I have given an example of our Syrian families who have become displaced as a result of the *fitnah*, which has driven their economy back by tens of years. Today, our Ummah is charged with the deserving role of reintegrating the victims of conflicts and all vulnerable groups and embracing them with the benefits of development. This is a vast area for which the modern developmental view has recognized the religious influence thereof. As we all know, the wealthy can pay tribute for the bounties bestowed upon them by spending their wealth in a manner that will please Allah the Granter; they can spend their wealth in the form of *zakat*, *waqf* and alms to the victims of the conflicts that are, or almost become, prevalent in all corners of the Ummah; they can shower them with humanitarian aid services and happiness.

And no wonder that the Islamic Summit attains legitimate aspirations in this area that have been longed for by countries and communities whose children have been deprived of education and vaccination; where water and food are scarce, and wars have left children orphaned and spouses widowed, and where citizens and the poor have been suffering a lack of all vital services. These conflicts have represented the biggest post-2015 global developmental challenge, which is relatively more devastating to our Ummah.

Third front is the synergy, joint action and investment opportunities in order to realize mutual interests, which deepens connection with our brothers and get the world economies to benefit from one another. In such a climate that craves deep cooperation, solidarity and strengthening of regional integration, your reaching out, in person, to the Sub Saharan Africa is widely appraised; so is the wide scale presence of Turkish embassies in the Continent; unrivalled except with the number of flights operated by the Turkish Airlines to African cities and capitals.

We all have hopes indeed that the "Algeria-Lagos" across the desert road is -upon Allah's will- completed soon; and that a progress is made in the coastal road along Dakar Djibouti corridor, opening along both corridors multiple channels for Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso and the Niger.

Likewise, our Ummah looks forward to urging the Islamic summit to deeply coordinate with Mid Asian states for the establishment of railway and road networks; our Ummah also aspires that the "Silk Belt" project, which connects all countries from west of China to west of Europe and the Middle East, succeeds. The advantage of such strategic corridors is that they connect landlocked countries with export ports. They also enable the integration of such countries into the global and regional value chains and allow for more employment opportunities. In addition, they constitute leverages for development and channels for commercial and cultural exchange among the Member States and between them and the rest of the world.

Your Excellency,

Along the past three decades, COMCEC has realized many successes and made valuable initiatives with the aim of strengthening economic cooperation.

We aspire that the coming period witnesses deeper cooperation between all Member States and the institutions for the Islamic economic joint action to increase trade and investments

The IDB Group is pleased to have signed today a memorandum of understanding with the CCO, with the aim of enhancing cooperation, coordination and consultation for realizing common goals.

However, the holding of the Islamic Summit in your country, and under the COMCEC leadership, requires the undertaking of more specific responsibilities in this era, not only by Turkey and the OIC Secretariat but also by the IDB Group - being the prior institution of the Ummah in the field of development and economic cooperation. In this context, the IDB Group will spare no effort to contribute to implementing the new OIC TYPOA.

Hoping that the next Islamic summit constitutes a milestone in the Islamic joint action, I sincerely wish that your Excellency's chairing of the summit witnesses pioneer achievements and the founding of milestones in Islamic cooperation endeavour.

Accordingly, IDB Group pools all its capacities to prepare well for an active participation and high performance during the Summit, up to all expectations and aspirations.

IDB Group has the pleasure to support your effort in this respect through studies, proposals and views, and in any field you may need, particularly in the fields of pressing priority in the present time. These fields include enhancing the performance of the

Member states in their strenuous endeavour to realize the SDGs; integrating victims of conflicts and all other vulnerable groups and getting them to benefit from development; as well as the field of synergy and joint action.

Your Excellency,

To conclude, please allow me, Mr. President, to present practical proposals that can be studied by a small working group made up of the OIC General Secretariat, IDB group, CCO and ICDT. These proposals are:

- 1- Preparing tripartite programs between the Republic of Turkey, IDB Group and any state wishing to benefit from the developmental successes attained by Turkey. In this context, please allow me Mr. President to renew my proposal to establish a working group with a view to benefiting from the experiences and expertise of Turkey in supporting SMEs and developing innovative Islamic Finance tools relevant to these projects.
- 2- Setting a program to contribute to the process of expediting the implementation and operationalization of trade agreements similar to the TPS-OIC and others.
- 3- Setting a program to enhance trans-continental regional roads, such as the Algeria-Lagos road, and to benefit from them in the best possible way on the economic and commercial levels.
- 4- Studying the effect of the establishment of the major regional blocs on intra-OIC trade and regional integration, and presenting proposals and future plans to address this challenge

Allah Almighty bless you with His Providence.	
Peace be upon you.	

ANNEX

5

Original: Turkish

SPEECH BY MR. RİFAT HİSARCIKLIOĞLU, PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH UNION OF CHAMBERS AND COMMODITY EXCHANGES (TOBB), AT OPENING SESSION

(İstanbul, 25 November 2015)

Distinguished President, Esteemed Guests,

I would like to salute you on behalf of myself, the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for which I serve as a vice president.

Since the President of the Islamic Chamber could not make it today due to his sickness, I am taking the floor on behalf of both the Turkish and Islamic business world.

I would like to thank the 31st Session of the COMCEC for giving the private sector the chance to participate in this occasion.

The Distinguished Turkish President has always attached great importance to the problems of the Islamic countries; H.E. has always embraced our common values and our brothers struggling in Somalia, Syria, and especially in Palestine. He has been among the people who spared no effort for enhancing cooperation, fraternity and solidarity in the Islamic world;

In addition, the President has always emphasized the important role assumed by the private sector in the development of the Islamic world and enhancement of the welfare of Muslims and supported us in all of our endeavors.

Today, H.E has been extremely thoughtful of the business world in the session chaired by himself.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Distinguished President on behalf of the business world of the Islamic countries. Distinguished Participants,

The world has been experiencing a rapid transformation ever since the breakout of the global economic crisis. Economic and political balances are shifting, and we are suffering from the problems of a new global era.

We are going through a process where only people who can read between the lines and get ready for this transformation, succeed.

As Islamic world, we need to gain insight into the world; We have to be awake to the transformation. We also have to criticize ourselves while preparing for this new global era.

As Islamic countries, we are endowed with great wealth. According to the data released by SESRIC, the population of the Islamic world amounts to approximately 23% of the world population; Islamic countries hold 69% of the world oil reserves and 57% of the world natural gas reserves.

We are also geographically privileged: our countries are situated on commercial and energy corridors. ;our lands are located on the Red Sea and Suez Canal connecting the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean, and the Bosphorus linking the north and the south.

However, our share in the global wealth accounts for only 11%. While the United States and China alone possess 19% and 13% of the world wealth, respectively, The total share of 57 Islamic countries does not even amount to this figure.

What is worse is that, unfortunately, 21 out of 48 least developed countries are Islamic countries.

It is also unfortunate that there is a wide income gap among Islamic countries. The per capita income of the wealthiest member country of the OIC is 630 times more than that of the poorest--something that we all should be bothered by; because we are the followers of a religion that teaches "He who sleeps on a full stomach whilst his neighbor goes hungry is not one of us."

The only way to enhance our wealth and narrow the income gap is to increase trade among Islamic countries, particularly the intra-OIC trade.

Western countries that have been enemies for centuries prospered through increasing trade among one another; the most striking example in this respect is right infront of us: EU countries meet 70% of their needs for foreign trade with one another.

Western countries now cooperate even further: The United States, the European Union and Asia-Pacific countries strive to grow into a single economic bloc. These countries are already wealthy and they gather to become even wealthier.

As Islamic countries, we meet only 20% of our needs for foreign trade with one another. Although there is definitely a gradual increase in this figure every year, we are still at a level that is far below our potential.

Therefore, we have to act fast in this regard; operationalization of the Preferential Trade Agreement to increase trade among Islamic countries should be the top priority. PTA is the first step of economic cooperation, providing customs reduction on certain goods.

However, we are having a hard time in taking this step. Ten out of 57 countries have signed and approved the TPS-OIC. Also TPS-OIC has not been put into effect since the lists of concession have not been yet submitted. We expect the political will of the Islamic countries to take the necessary steps and to clear the way for us.

On the other hand, visa requirement is another important issue. In our culture, brothers and sisters would not need a visa to be a guest in one another's homelands. All they need is salaam., yet we continue to put obstacles before ourselves in this regard. Remember that people trade with countries they have access to, not with the ones they face obstacles when they cross their borders.

In this respect, Turkey has made important strides: We now enjoy the privilege of visiting many countries without having to comply with visa requirements; We have witnessed tangible outcomes of this free entry within a short period of time: our mutual trade and tourism activities with these countries have increased to a great extent.

As Turkish business world, we expect Islamic countries to jointly develop a comprehensive policy on this issue

The third important issue is to offer swift solutions to problems in trade. As followers of a religion that deems even the belated justice as injustice, we should offer swift and fair solutions if we wish to increase trade among us. Within this context, we need to

introduce a joint arbitration mechanism where commercial problems are settled and display our common will in this regard.

Distinguished Guests,

The Republic of Turkey is the only country across this region that has become wealthy based on the private sector without relying on oil and natural gas. As Turkish private sector and TOBB, we are ready to share our experiences in entrepreneurship with our brothers and sisters.

We are already implementing capacity building programs for Islamic countries towards a service-producing and entrepreneurship-supporting Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Likewise, we are carrying out programs whereby we share out experiences in such fields as the improvement of the investment environment, organized industrial zones, transportation and modern commodity exchanges.

We are a part of the Islamic world, and the more we share our knowledge, the wealthier we become; According to our religion, giving away from one's own possessions, knowledge and experience does not mean they become less.

Remember that this is the only way to realize welfare and peace for our Ummah.

I believe that each and every one of us shares this view and determination. I would like to salute you all with respect.

ANNEX

6

Original: English

REPORT OF THE 27th MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE (İstanbul, 22 November 2015)

- 1. The 27th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on November 22th, 2015 in Istanbul, on the sidelines of the 31st Ministerial Session of the COMCEC.
- 2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mehmet Metin EKER, Director General at the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), the following OIC Institutions attended the Meeting:
 - Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
 - Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
 - Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group
 - Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
 - Organization of Shipowners Association of the OIC (OISA)
 - Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
- 3. The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items:
 - Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy
 - The List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Aligned with the COMCEC Strategy
 - COMCEC Working Groups Policy Recommendations
 - Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions
 - Raising Awareness of the OIC Institutions' Activities
 - Enhancing Cooperation with other Regional and International Organizations
 - Any Other Business

Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy

- 4. Highlighting the significance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the realization of the COMCEC Strategy, the Committee reviewed the lists of activities of the relevant OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy for the periods of 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation.
- 5. With a view to better reflect the activities of the OIC Institutions in line with COMCEC Strategy, the Committee suggested revisions on the format of the List of Activities in a way to exhibit not only quantitative but qualitative aspects as well. In this respect, the Committee asked the CCO to prepare a criterion, which may include items such as pertinency to mandates, compatibility to the COMCEC Policy Recommendations etc., with contributions of the OIC Institutions and to submit it to the 28th Meeting of the Sessional Committee.

(The list of activities organized and to be organized by the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy between 2014 and 2016 is attached as Annex 1.)

- 6. The Committee noting that COMCEC Working Group Policy Recommendations welcomed by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions are prepared in light of the Analytical Studies, Questionnaires and detailed discussions during the Working Group Meetings and therefore reflect the real needs of the Member Countries in the specific field of discussion. The Committee also emphasized that these recommendations could be an additional input for the OIC Institutions in planning their future activities and training programs. The Committee also underlined the potential benefits of designing multi-year programs.
- 7. The Committee took note of the proposal regarding enhancing the impact of the OIC Institutions' training activities through innovative ideas such as audio/visual recording of selected training programs and their publication in the websites of the Institutions and other common media & internet channels. Practical training materials, manuals, audio visual material etc. that can be used by end users and the trainers in their future training activities can also be prepared.

Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions

8. Regarding the first sub-item, "Raising Awareness of the OIC Institutions' Activities", the Committee was informed by the representatives of ICCIA and IDB about the joint proposal/guideline study namely "Strategy for Raising the awareness of

the OIC Institutions and their Activities in the OIC Member Countries". The Committee commended both Institutions' efforts and requested OIC Institutions to provide views, suggestions and proposals to ICCIA and IDB within a month to be included in the guideline. The Committee also discussed the possible benefits of utilizing outsourcing for marketing related work (including branding and promotion) in future stages.

- 9. Regarding the second sub-item, "Enhancing Cooperation with other Regional and International Organizations", the Committee welcomed the information provided by the OIC General Secretariat that the "contributions of the OIC to the implementation of the SDGs" will be one of the agenda items of the future OIC-UN Coordination Meetings.
- 10. Regarding incorporation of the OIC Member Countries as a group in the statistical databases of the relevant international organizations, the Committee was informed by representative of the SESRIC that the issue was deliberated during the 5th Session of the OIC Statistical Commission held in 12-14 May 2015 in Ankara. The Committee was also informed by the representative of SESRIC that the OIC Statistical Commission emphasized establishment of an OIC database under SESRIC and accordingly a project to that end has been initiated.

Any Other Business

11. The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES

ORGANIZED BY THE OIC INSTITUTIONS ALIGNED WITH THE COMCEC STRATEGY

December 2014- November 2015

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
1	ICCIA	Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agribusiness for OIC Countries	Workshop	Agriculture	(1)Developed and implemented training and capacity building programmes (2)Encouraged entrepreneurs and farmers to enhance their investments. (3)Reduction of post-harvest lossess (4)Improved irrigation opportunities and adoption of efficient techniques.	SESRIC, UNDP, FAO	1-3 December 2014	Ankara, Turkey
2	ICCIA	8th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries	Forum	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	UNCCI, IDB	26-27 Oct. 2015	Kampala, Uganda
3	ICCIA	Development of a Mechanism for Joint Ventures and partnerships among Women-led Enterprises through South- South Cooperation	Workshop	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	UNCCI, UNDP	28-29 Oct. 2015	Kampala, Uganda
4	ICDT	13th Meeting of the Economic Counsellors of the OIC Embassies accredited in Rabat	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	OIC Member States	12 January 2015	Rabat
5	ICDT	Regional on line Marketing Workshop of the WIEF Foundation	Workshop	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	WIEF	16-21 February 2015	Dakar/Senegal
6	ICDT	7th Meeting of the Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	ITFC	2-3 March 2015	Casablanca/ Morocco
7	ICDT	UFI Seminar for African and Middle Eastern Countries	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	UFI	23-24 March 2015	Marrakech/ Morocco
8	ICDT	Training Seminar for the benefit of the Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organisation on "the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPSOIC)"	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Dept. of Integration and Cooperation of IDB and COMCEC	7-9 April 2015	Istanbul/Turkey

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
9	ICDT	National Training Seminar on "the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPSOIC)"	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Economy and Business	13-14 April 2015	Doha/Qatar
10	ICDT	8th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries in the OIC Member States	Fair	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	El Harithy Company	13-16 April 2015	Jeddah/Saudi Arabia
11	ICDT	Seminar on Food Security in OIC Member States	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	El Harithy Company	14 April 2015	Jeddah/Saudi Arabia
12	ICDT	Seminar on Agadir Agreement: current status and perspectives	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	ASMEX	22 April 2015	Casablanca/Morocco
13	ICDT	Seminar of the New Generation of Free Trade agreements and the feasibility of the signing of the agreements between the regional economic groupings of the OIC Member States and their impact on intra- OIC trade (Arab and African Countries)	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Dept of Cooperation and Integration/IDB	4 – 6 May 2015	Casablanca/Morocco
14	ICDT	Seminar of the New Generation of Free Trade agreements and the feasibility of the signing of the agreements between the regional economic groupings of the OIC Member States and their impact on intra- OIC trade	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Dept of Cooperation and Integration/IDB	25 –27 May 2015	Istanbul/Turkey
15	ICDT	Training Seminar on TPS/OIC	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		Second semester 2015	Ramallah/ Palestine
16	ICDT	Seminar on Export Auditing the internationalization of SMEs for the benefit of Suriname and Guyana	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		1-4 June 2015	Paramaribo/Guyana

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17	ICDT	Seminar on Competition Policies in the OIC Member States	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		2 – 3 June 2015	Tunis/Tunisia
18	ICDT	Preparatory meeting of African Halal Business Forum and High Education Expo of the OIC Member States	Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	OIC Business Center /Federation of GCC Chambers/SIBM /Ministries of Trade and High Education and Research of Senegal	14-15 September 2015	Dakar/Senegal
19	ICDT	Training workshop on market analysis and web marketing for the benefit of the Economic Counselors to the Embassies the OIC Member States accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		15-17 September 2015	Rabat/Morocco
20	ICDT	6th OIC World Biz and 3rd Africa-Asia Forum	Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	OICBC	27th - 30th October 2015	Kuala Lumpur /Malaysia
21	ICDT	1st Exhibition of Organic and Local Products of the OIC Member States	Fair	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Commerce and Handicraft of Tunisia	28th October – 1st November 2015	Tunis/Tunisia
22	ICDT	International Conference on offshoring	Conference	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		3-4 November 2015	Tunis/Tunisia
23	ICDT	Workshop on the Single Window Modality and e- trade and their impact in promoting intra-OIC Trade	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	ITFC	9-10 November 2015	Casablanca/ Morocco
24	ICDT	African Halal Business Forum	Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	OIC Business Center /Federation of GCC Chambers/SIBM	17-19 November 2015	Dakar/Senegal
25	IDB Group	Fifth meeting of the IDB Project Committee of the OIC Cotton Action Plan	Consultative Meeting	Agriculture and Trade		IDB Group and Project Commiteee members	16.Kas.14	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

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26	IDB Group	IDB/NDP/League of Arab States Regional Workshop on "the Technical Model of Cross-Border Operations for Better Connectivity among Arab Countries	Workshop	Trade		UNDP	26-27 January 2015	Amman, Jordan
27	IDB Group	Seminar on "Trade Preferential System among OIC Member Countries (TPS-OIC) and its protocols for ECO member countries,	Seminar	Trade		ECO and CCO	07-09 April 2015	Istanbul, Turkey
28	IDB Group	Validation workshop of the study on "The New Generation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), the feasibility of signing them and their Impact on Intra-Trade among OIC Member Countries".	Workshop	Trade		ICDT Member Countries	04 - 06 May 2015	Casablanca, Morocco
29	IDB Group	Workshop for GCC Countries on "Trade Facilitation within the Regional Integration Framework and WTO Agreement	Workshop	Trade		ICDT, COMCEC Member Countries	12- 14 May 2015	Dubai, UAE
30	IDB Group	Validation -workshop of the study on "The New Generation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), the feasibility of signing them and their Impact on Intra- Trade among OIC Member Countries"	Workshop	Trade		ICDT, COMCEC Member Countries	25 - 27 May 2015	Istanbul, Turkey
31	IDB Group	Thematic Workshop On Intra Trade in The Organization Of Islamic Cooperation Countries: Removing Obstacles And Promoting Trading Business	Workshop	Trade		Islamic Business School, UUM	27-28 May 2015	Langkawi, Malaysia

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32	IDB Group	Regional Workshop on the Implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement for Arab Countries	Workshop	Trade		World Customs Organization	1-4 June 2015	Bahrain
33	IDB Group	Policy Roundtable Discussion on Maqasid Shariah for Social Economic Development (PRD)	Policy Roundtable	Poverty Alleviation		International Islamic University College Selangor	1-2 June 2015	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
34	IDB Group	40th Annual Meeting of the IDB Group (Board of Governors meeting)	Annual Meeting	Financial Cooperation		ITFC, ICIEC, ICD, IRTI and other partner instutions	10-11 June 2015	Maputo, Mozambique
35	IDB Group	10th IDB Global Forum on Islamic Finance, Exploring Innovative Solutions for Affordable Microfinance in Africa	Forum	Financial Cooperation		Relevant Partner institutions	08.Haz.15	Maputo, Mozambique
36	IDB Group	IDB 26th Annual Symposium; The role of intra-regional trade in strengthening economic cooperation and regional integration among member countries	Symposium	Intra-OIC trade		Relevant OIC Institutions	10.Haz.15	Maputo, Mozambique
37	IDB Group	World Bank and IDB Inaugural Annual Symposium on Islamic Finance 2015	Symposium	Financial Cooperation		World Bank Global Finance Development Center	8-9 September 2015	Istanbul, Turkey
38	IDB Group	Regional Meeting of the IDB African member countries in preparation of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference	Meeting	Trade			14-16 September 2015,	Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire
39	IDB Group	International Conference on Islamic Social Finance	Conference	Financial Cooperation		Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia	29-30 September 2015	Thailand
40	IDB Group	Macro prudential Policy Dialogue for Islamic Finance: Theory and Application	Seminar	Financial Cooperation		University College of Bahrain	5-6 October 2015	Bahrain

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41	OISA	Workshop on Importance of unifying main engine of member's vessels	Workshop	Transport and Communication	(1) Hormonized legislations, standards and practices in the transport sector of member states (2) Improved national transport policy-making and planning capacity of member states (3) Increased interactions between peer institutions of member states (4) Enhance professional skills of human resources (5) Improved service delivery and expited procedures. (6) Development of sound infrastructure policies	Technical and marine engineers representatives from member companies	42226	Jeddah
42	OISA	Meeting to discuss the possibilities of reactivation of Bakkah Shipping Company	Meeting	Transport and Communication	(1) Hormonized legislations, standards and practices in the transport sector of member states (2) Improved national transport policy-making and planning capacity of member states (3) Increased interactions between peer institutions of member states (4) Enhance professional skills of human resources	Members from Ex. Com and General Assembly	42297	Dubai
43	OISA	Ex. Com & General Assembly Meeting of OISA	Meeting	Transport and Communication	(1) Promoted relevant international agreements and regulations in member states (2) Hormonized legislations, standards and practices in the transport sector of member states (3) Enhanced professional skills of human resources (4) Development of sound infrastructure policies (5) Identified major bottlenecks and assesed funding requirements particularly with respect to inter-regionaly connectivity.	Ex.Com and General Assembly members, OIC and its Institutions, Port Authorities, Marine Academies, Shipbuilding and Repair Yards	42298	Dubai
44	OISA	Meeting to open branches of Islamic Protection and Indemnity Club in Turkey	Meeting	Transport and Communication	(1) Improved national transport policy-making and planning capacity of member states (2) Increased interactions between peer institutions of member states (3) Improved service delivery and expited procedures. (4) Development of sound infrastructure policies	IPIC, Marine Official from member countries	42299	Dubai
45	SESRIC	From Farm to Fashion	Conference	Agriculture	Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	SESRIC & RBDC	03-05 August 2015	Izmir Turkey
46	SESRIC	Agriculture and Food Security in OIC Member Countries 2014	Research	Agriculture	Diverse		December 2014	SESRIC
47	SESRIC	Job Creation for Youth and Skills Training Services	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity	State Employment Service, Azerbaijan	01-02 December 2014	Baku Azerbaijan

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48	SESRIC	Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agri- Business for OIC Countries	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity	ICCIA & FAO & UNDP	01-03 December 2014	Ankara Turkey
49	SESRIC	Competition Law and Policy	Training	Agriculture	Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Council of Competition, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	16-18 December 2014	Riyadh Saudi Arabia
50	SESRIC	Derivative Markets and Instruments and Marginal Trading	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity	Baku Stock Exchange of Republic of Azerbaijan	16-17 December 2014	Baku Azerbaijan
51	SESRIC	Classifications	Training	Agriculture	Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	National Office of Statistics (ONS) in Algeria	21-22 December 2014	Alger Algeria
52	SESRIC	Agriculture Statistics (Food Crop Statistics)	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-date Data	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)	21-22 December 2014	Dhaka Bangladesh
53	SESRIC	Derivative Markets and Instruments & Marginal Trading	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity	Khartoum Stock Exchange, Sudan	22-23 December 2014	Khartoum Sudan
54	SESRIC	Agriculture Statistics (Animal Husbandry)	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-date Data	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)	23-24 December 2014	Dhaka Bangladesh
55	SESRIC	Knowledge and Experience Sharing Workshop on ISMEK Master	Training	Agriculture	Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İSMEK)	29-30 December 2014	Istanbul Turkey
56	SESRIC	"Labour Market Statistics" and "Labour Inspection"	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity	National Employment Agency, Burkina Faso	19-22 January 2015	Ouagadougou Burkina Faso
57	SESRIC	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-date Data	Central Statistics Organization (CSO) in Afghanistan	23-25 February 2015	Kabul Afghanistan
58	SESRIC	Tobacco Control	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity	Ministry of Health of Malaysia	01-02 April 2015	Malaysia
59	SESRIC	Analysis of Labour Market Statistics	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-date Data	National Agency of Statistics and Demographics (ANSD) in Senegal	07-09 April 2015	Dakar Senegal

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60	SESRIC	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-date Data	Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBOS)	16-18 June 2015	Banjul Gambia
61	SESRIC	Labour Statistics	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-date Data	National Institute of Statistics, Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) inChad	27-29 July 2015	N'Djamena Chad
62	SESRIC	Design of Wastewater Treatment Plants	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity	Ministry of Environment and Forests of Bangladesh	29-30 July 2015	Dhaka Bangladesh
63	SESRIC	Wholesale and Retail Trade Statistics	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-date Data	Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)	10-12 August 2015	Kampala Uganda
64	SESRIC	Agricultural Surveys	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-date Data	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)	25-27 August 2015	Dhaka Bangladesh
65	SESRIC	Labour Statistics	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-date Data	Department of Statistics and Demographic Studies (DISED) of Djibouti	05-07 October 2015	Djibouti City Djibouti
66	SESRIC	Informal Sector	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-date Data	Department of Statistics (DoS) of Malaysia	17-19 November 2015	Putrajaya Malaysia
67	SESRIC	Training on Agriculture Statistics (Food Crop Statistics)	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-Date Data	National Statistics Office of Indonesia	21-22 December 2014	Bangladesh
68	SESRIC	Training on Agriculture Statistics (Animal Husbandry)	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-Date Data	National Statistics Office of Indonesia	23-24 December 2014	Bangladesh
69	SESRIC	Training on Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries Statistics	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-Date Data	National Statistics Office of Turkey	23-25 February 2015	Afghanistan
70	SESRIC	Training on Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries Statistics	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-Date Data	National Statistics Office of Jordan	02-04 March 2015	Sudan
71	SESRIC	Training on Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries Statistics	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-Date Data	National Statistics Office of Nigeria	16-18 June 2015	The Gambia
72	SESRIC	Training on Agricultural Survey	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-Date Data	National Statistics Office of Turkey	25-27 August 2015	Bangladesh
73	SESRIC	Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Production of Statistics	Workshop	Agriculture	Increasing productivity	SESRIC & UNSD & UNESCWA	01-04 December 2014	Amman Jordan

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74	SESRIC	Tourism Statistics and Tourism Satellite Accounts	Workshop	Agriculture	Increasing productivity	SESRIC & COMCEC	02-04 December 2014	Ankara Turkey
75	SESRIC	Beneficiary-Oriented Social Assistance Models	Workshop	Agriculture	Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity		13-15 October 2015	Ankara Turkey
76	SESRIC	OIC Water Report 2015	Research	Agriculture, Poverty Alleviation	Diverse		October 2015	SESRIC
77	SESRIC	2nd International Islamic Economics and Finance Conference	Conference	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, International Research and Study Center of Islamic Economics and Finance, Albaraka Turk, Kuveyt Turk, Türkiye Finans, Participation Banks Association of Turkey (TKBB), Borsa İstanbul and World Bank Global Islamic Finance Development Center	11-13 September 2015	Istanbul Turkey
78	SESRIC	The 2015 Meeting of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries	Meeting	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation	Suriname	16-17 November 2015	Suriname
79	SESRIC	FDI Potential and FDI Performance of the OIC Countries	Research	Financial Cooperation	Capital Flovvs		December 2014	SESRIC
80	SESRIC	2nd International Islamic Economics and Finance Summer School	Summer School	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University & International Research and Study Centre of Islamic Economics and Finance	13-15 September 2015	Istanbul Turkey

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81	SESRIC	Training on Banking, Insurance, Financial Statistics	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	National Statistics Office of Tunisia	26-29 January 2015	Senegal
82	SESRIC	Training on National Accounts: Financial Sector	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	National Statistics Office of Tunisia	08-11 March 2015	Qatar
83	SESRIC	Training on Government Finance Statistics	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	National Statistics Office of Indonesia	06-08 April 2015	Malaysia
84	SESRIC	Training on Institutional Sectors	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	National Statistics Office of Senegal	20-22 April 2015	Togo
85	SESRIC	Training on Banking, Insurance, Financial Statistics	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	National Statistics Office of Tunisia	08-11 June 2015	Algeria
86	SESRIC	Banking, Insurance and Financial Statistics	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	National Agency of Statistics and Demographics (ANSD) in Senegal	26-29 January 2015	Dakar Senegal
87	SESRIC	Postal Financial Services	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Office of Djibouti Post	17-19 February 2015	Djibouti City Djibouti
88	SESRIC	National Accounts: Financial Sector	Training	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and Supervisory Cooperation	Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDPS) in Qatar	08-11 March 2015	Doha Qatar
89	SESRIC	Postal Financial Services and Postal Codes-Addressing System	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training , R&D Activities and Statistics	Gambia Postal Services Corporation (GAMPOST)	13-14 March 2015	Banjul Gambia
90	SESRIC	Parcel, Logistics, Express and Postal Financial Services	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Mauritanian Post Company (Mauripost)	24-25 March 2015	Nouakchott Mauritania
91	SESRIC	Competition Law Enforcement in Regulated Markets and Bid-Rigging	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training , R&D Activities and Statistics	Antimonopoly Regulation Agency of Kyrgyz Republic	30-31 March 2015	Bishkek Kyrgyzstan
92	SESRIC	Postal Financial Services, Electronic Services and Letter Post Service	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training , R&D Activities and Statistics	Jordan Post Company& Office of Tunisian Post	05-07 April 2015	Amman Jordan
93	SESRIC	Government Finance Statistics	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Department of Statistics of Malaysia	06-08 April 2015	Putrajaya Malaysia

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94	SESRIC	Institutional Sectors	Training	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and Supervisory Cooperation	General Directorate of Statistics and National Accounting (DGSCN) in Togo	20-22 April 2015	Lome Togo
95	SESRIC	Investor and Financial Community Awareness	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training , R&D Activities and Statistics	Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD)	25-26 May 2015	Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
96	SESRIC	Financial Stability	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training , R&D Activities and Statistics	Central Bank of Islamic Republic of Iran	01-02 June 2015	Tehran Iran
97	SESRIC	Financial Statistics and National Accounts Compilations	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training , R&D Activities and Statistics	National Statistical Office (ONS) of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	08-11 June 2015	Algiers Algeria
98	SESRIC	Financial Stability	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Central Bank of Suriname	07-08 July 2015	Paramaribo Suriname
99	SESRIC	Investor and Financial Community Awareness	Training	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and Supervisory Cooperation	Qatar Financial Markets Authority	26-27 October 2015	Doha Qatar
100	SESRIC	Training on Informal Sector	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	National Statistics Office of Indonesia	17-19 November 2015	Malaysia
101	SESRIC	Islamic Banking and Liquidity Management	Workshop	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) & GIFDC	16-17 November 2015	Istanbul Turkey
102	SESRIC	Disaster Risk Reduction	Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Utilization of Financial Resources	UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) & IDB	17 March 2015	Sendai-Japan
103	SESRIC	Disaster Risk Management Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa	Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Utilization of Financial Resources	SESRIC & IDB	08 June 2015	Maputo Mozambique
104	SESRIC	OIC Health Report 2015	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse		October 2015	SESRIC
105	SESRIC	Measurement of Poverty in OIC Member Countries 2015	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty		June 2015	SESRIC
106	SESRIC	Poverty, Living Conditions and Cross-Cutting Social Issues Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Utilization of Financial Resources	National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of UAE	03-07 May 2015	Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates

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107	SESRIC	Regional Poverty Reduction Policies	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Utilization of Financial Resources	Ministry of Urban Development of Albania	03-04 August 2015	Tirana Albania
108	SESRIC	Poverty Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Utilization of Financial Resources	National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD) in Burkina Faso& COMCEC	17-19 August 2015	Ouagadougou Burkina Faso
109	SESRIC	Poverty Reduction Through Small-scale Fisheries	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Utilization of Financial Resources	Somali Development and Reconstruction Bank (SDRB)	23-27 August 2015	Mogadishu Somalia
110	SESRIC	Poverty Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Utilization of Financial Resources	National Statistical Office (ONS) in Mauritania &COMCEC	24-26 August 2015	Nouakchott Mauritania
111	SESRIC	Poverty Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Utilization of Financial Resources	National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies, (INSEED) in Lomé, Togolese Republic & COMCEC	14-16 September 2015	Lomé Togo
112	SESRIC	Poverty Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Utilization of Financial Resources	National Institute of Statistics (INS) in Abidjan - Republic of Côte d'Ivoire & COMCEC	15-17 September 2015	Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire
113	SESRIC	Training on Education Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Statistics Office of Senegal	27-29 January 2015	Benin
114	SESRIC	Training on Analysis of Labour Market Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Statistics Office of Morocco	07-09 April 2015	Senegal
115	SESRIC	Training on Health Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Statistics Office of Cote d'Ivoire	20-22 April 2015	Benin
116	SESRIC	Training on Income and Consumption Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Statistics Office of Cameroon	28-30 April 2015	Cote d'Ivoire
117	SESRIC	Training on Poverty, Living Condition and Cross-cutting Social Issues Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Statistics Office of Jordan	03-07 May 2015	United Arab Emirates

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118	SESRIC	Training on Income and Consumption Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Statistics Office of Turkey	11-14 May 2015	Kuwait
119	SESRIC	Training on Labour Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Statistics Office of Senegal	27-29 July 2015	Chad
120	SESRIC	Training on Health Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Statistics Office of Indonesia	11-13 August 2015	Bangladesh
121	SESRIC	Training on Poverty Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Statistics Office of Senegal	17-19 August 2015	Burkina Faso
122	SESRIC	Training on Poverty Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Statistics Office of Tunisia	24-26 August 2015	Mauritania
123	SESRIC	Rural Development Policies	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Utilization of Financial Resources	Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution (ARDSI)	14-15 May 2015	Ankara Turkey
124	SESRIC	Integration of Waqf and Islamic Microfinance for Poverty Reduction: Case Studies of Malaysia, Indonesia and Bangladesh	Research	Poverty Alleviation, Financial Cooperation	Productive Capacity of the Poor, Visibility of Financial Markets	IIUM (Malaysia)	February 2015	SESRIC
125	SESRIC	International Tourism in OIC Countries 2015	Research	Tourism	Diverse		October 2015	SESRIC
126	SESRIC	Tourism Marketing	Training	Tourism	Capacity Building and Trainin Programs	Gambia Tourism Board, Ministry of Tourism and Culture (MTC) of The Gambia	25-26 March 2015	Banjul Gambia
127	SESRIC	Tourism Statistics	Training	Tourism	Capacity Building and Trainin Programs	State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AZSTAT)	18-20 May 2015	Baku Azerbaijan
128	SESRIC	Management of Tourism in Protected Areas	Training	Tourism	Capacity Building and Trainin Programs	Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH)	08-10 June 2015	Riyadh Saudi Arabia
129	SESRIC	Tourism Statistics	Training	Tourism	Capacity Building and Trainin Programs	Department of Statistics (DoS) of Malaysia	26-28 October 2015	Putrajaya Malaysia

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130	SESRIC	Training on Tourism (including Tourism Satellite Accounts) Statistics	Training	Tourism	Capacity Building and Training Programmes	National Statistics Office of Turkey	18-20 May 2015	Azerbaijan
131	SESRIC	Training on Tourism (including Tourism Satellite Accounts) Statistics	Training	Tourism	Capacity Building and Training Programmes	National Statistics Office of Indonesia	26-28 October 2015	Malaysia
132	SESRIC	Training on Culture Statistics	Training	Tourism	Capacity Building and Training Programmes	National Statistics Office of Palestine	24-26 November 2015	Qatar
133	SESRIC	Exploring Tourism Potential of Al-Quds Al-Sherif City	Workshop	Tourism	Capacity Building and Trainin Programs	Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities of State of Palestine	24-25 November 2015	Istanbul Turkey
134	SESRIC	Regional Workshop on Tourism Statistics and Tourism Satellite Accounts	Workshop	Tourism	Capacity Building and Training Programmes	UNWTO. COMCEC, National Statistics Offices of OIC	02-04 December 2015	Turkey
135	SESRIC	Wholesale and Retail Trade Statistics	Training	Trade	Trade Facilitation	State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AZSTAT)	20-22 April 2015	Baku Azerbaijan
136	SESRIC	Training on Wholesale and Retail Trade Statistics	Training	Trade	Trade Facilitation	National Statistics Office of Turkey	20-22 April 2015	Azerbaijan
137	SESRIC	Training on Wholesale and Retail Trade Statistics	Training	Trade	Trade Facilitation	National Statistics Office of Turkey	10-12 August 2015	Uganda
138	SESRIC	Parcel, Logistics Services and Express	Training	Transport and Communication	Trade Facilitation	Posta Uganda	24-25 February 2015	Kampala Uganda
139	SESRIC	Fifth Session of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom)	Meeting	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	SESRIC	12-14 May 2015	Ankara Turkey
140	SESRIC	SME Development Strategy Project for Libya	Meeting	Trade	Diverse	SESRIC &OECD& TIKA	29-30 July 2015	Istanbul Turkey
141	SESRIC	OIC Economic Outlook 2015	Research	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse		October 2015	SESRIC
142	SESRIC	Social Security: Human Resource Policies	Symposium	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	SESRIC & Social Security Institution of the Republic of Turkey	06-07 October 2015	İzmir Turkey

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
143	SESRIC	Second Phase of CPI Re- Basing	Technical Mission	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	Central Statistics Organization (CSO) of Afghanistan	29 Aug - 04 Sept 2015	Kabul Afghanistan
144	SESRIC	Technical Mission on CPI Re-basing	Technical Mission	All Cooperation Areas	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of Iran	13-19 June 2015	Afghanistan
145	SESRIC	Technical Mission on Second Phase of CPI Re- Basing	Technical Mission	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	National Statistics Office of Iran	29 Aug - 04 Sept 2015	Afghanistan
146	SESRIC	Professional Skills for Official Statisticians: Time Management	Training	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	SESRIC	17-18 February 2015	Tashkent Uzbekistan
147	SESRIC	Waste and Harmful Substances: Medical Wastes	Training	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	SESRIC	02-04 March 2015	Banjul Gambia
148	SESRIC	Emergency and Disaster Medical Services	Training	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	International Urla Emergency Disaster Training and Simulation Center in İzmir&TIKA	30 March - 10 April 2015	İzmir Turkey
149	SESRIC	Quality Frameworks and Measurement of Performance of Statistical Systems and Offices	Training	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT)	01-02 April 2015	Dushanbe Tajikistan
150	SESRIC	Health Statistics	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) in Benin	20-22 April 2015	Cotonou Benin
151	SESRIC	Training on Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	Training	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	National Statistics Office of Egypt	07-09 September 2015	Tunisia
152	SMIIC	Metrology Committee Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberization	SMIIC GS and SMIIC Metrology Committee	15-16 December 2014	Kocaeli,Turkey
153	SMIIC	Accreditation Committee Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberization	SMIIC GS and SMIIC Accreditation Committee	17-19 March 2015	Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
154	SMIIC	SMIIC Forum 2015: Standardization and Conformity Assessment on Halal Issues	Conference	Trade	Trade liberization	ESMA (Emirates Authority for Standardization & Metrology)	05.May.15	Dubai, UAE
155	SMIIC	SMIIC TC 1 & SMIIC AC Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberization	SMIIC Committee Members	06-07 May 2015	Dubai, UAE
156	SMIIC	Accreditation Committee Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberization	SMIIC GS and SMIIC Accreditation Committee	29-30 August 2015	İstanbul,Turkey
157	ссо	TPS-OIC Rules of Origin Seminar	Training Seminar	Trade	Operationalization of TPS-OIC Reduced Tariffs	ТОВВ	Late January 2015	Ankara
158	cco	5th Meeting of the Trade Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Trade	Improved insurance mechanisms against payment risk Increased awareness of the existing financing mechanisms	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	March 26th , 2015	Ankara
159	ССО	6th Meeting of the Trade Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Trade	Simplified and streamlined trade procedures Enhanced capacity of customs administrations	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	September 17th, 2015	Ankara
160	CCO	5th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Tourism	Simplified and harmonized visa and custom procedures Facilitated tourism investments and tourist arrivals	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	February- 5th, 2015	Ankara
161	ССО	6th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Tourism	Utilized electronic media in promotional efforts to reach target groups rapidly and effectively	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	September 3rd, 2015	Ankara

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
162	ссо	5th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Transport	Harmonized legislations, standards and practices in the transport sector of the Member States Improved national transport policy-making and planning capacity of the member states Increased interactions between peer institutions of the Member States Enhanced professional skills of human resources Development of sound infrastructure policies Identified major bottlenecks and assessed funding requirements particularly vvith respect to inter-regional connectivity Enhanced private sector involvement in infrastructure projects and promoted innovative financing modalities, including Public Private Partnerships	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	February- 12th, 2015	Ankara
163	ссо	6th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Transport	Improved national transport policy-making and planning capacity of the member states Increased interactions between peer institutions of the Member States Enhanced professional skills of human resources Development of sound infrastructure policies Identified major bottlenecks and assessed funding requirements particularly vvith respect to inter-regional connectivity Enhanced private sector involvement in infrastructure projects and promoted innovative financing modalities, including Public Private Partnerships	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 22nd, 2015	Ankara
164	ссо	4th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation/ Developed legal, regulatory and institutional framework Visibility of Financial Markets/Enhanced awareness on Islamic financial market Training, R&D Activities and Statistics/Enhanced monitoring of financial institutions and markets	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	March 19th, 2015	Ankara

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
165	ссо	5th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation/ Developed legal, regulatory and institutional framework Training, R&D Activities and Statistics/ Developed platforms for payment and settlement systems and post trade services; Reliable and consistent database of a financial system and creation of indicators of financially sound systems	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 15 th , 2015	Ankara
166	ссо	5th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Agriculture	Improved legal, institutional, structural and administrative frameworks	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	March 5th, 2015	Ankara
167	ссо	6th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Agriculture	Promotion of integrated value chain approach	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 8 th , 2015	Ankara
168	ссо	5th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Enhanced capacity of the micro-finance institutions and other institutions for supporting the poor Development of vocational education programs for the poor	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	February 26th, 2015	Ankara
169	ССО	6th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Enhanced civil society engagement in poverty alleviation efforts Streamlined and more efficient allocation of povertyrelated funds in the COMCEC region	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 10 th , 2015	Ankara
170	CCO	3rd Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Focal Points	Meeting	All Cooperation Areas	Produce and disseminate knowledge/understanding, share experience and best-practices	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	June 10-11, 2015	Ankara

LIST OF ACTIVITIES

TO BE ORGANIZED BY THE OIC INSTITUTIONS ALIGNED WITH THE COMCEC STRATEGY

December 2015- November 2016

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
1	ICCIA	17th Private Sector Meeting for Promotion of trade and joint venture investment among the OIC	Meeting	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MC's, IDB	May 2016	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
2	ICCIA	9th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries	Forum	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MC's, IDB	May 2016	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
3	ICCIA	Food Trade Exchange Forum among the Islamic Countries	Forum	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MC's	2016	TBD
4	ICCIA	Workshop on Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries	Workshop	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MC's	2016	TBD
5	ICCIA	Annual Halal Conference	Conference	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MC's	2016	TBD
6	ICCIA	Excellence Award	Conference	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MC's	2016	TBD
7	ICCIA	Specialized Workshop on (Food Security / Entrepreneurship Development / Promotion of Tourism Opportunities/Development of SMEs)	Workshop	Trade/Tourism	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MC's	2016	TBD
8	ICCIA	Conference on Muslim Business-owners	Conference	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MC's	2016	TBD

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
9	ICDT	Administration of RTAs and the prospects of Regional Integration in the OIC Member States	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Cooperation and Integration Dept/IDB	21-23 December 2015	Casablanca/ Morocco
10	ICDT	4th OIC Halal Exhibition	Fair	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry	8th – 10th December 2015	Sharjah/United Arab Emirates
11	ICDT	2nd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States	Fair	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry	8th – 10th December 2015	Sharjah/United Arab Emirates
12	ICDT	Seminar on Trade in Services in RTAs: What Lessons for the Quad Countries?	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Agadir Technical Unit	21-23 December 2015	Cairo/Egypt
13	ICDT	14th Meeting of the Economic Counsellors of the OIC Embassies accredited in Rabat	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	OIC Member States	13 January 2016	Rabat/Morocco
14	ICDT	One day seminar on Offshoring in OIC Countries	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	OIC Member States	13 January 2016	Rabat/Morocco
15	ICDT	Training workshop on setting-up bankable tourism projects of the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa	Workshop	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	SESRIC/ UNTWO/Regional Coordinator(Guinea)	15-17 February 2016	Casablanca/Morocco
16	ICDT	Regional on line Marketing Workshop of the WIEF Foundation	Workshop	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	WIEF	February 2016	Middle East Country
17	ICDT	Seminar on e-commerce	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	AIDMO	1-4 December 2015	Casablanca/Morocco
18	ICDT	2nd African Forum on Halal Business	Expo and Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	ICDT/Senegal	3-5 March 2015	Dakar/Senegal
19	ICDT	Seminar on Export Auditing for the benefit of Arab Countries	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	FGCCC	1st Quarter 2016	KSA/Egypt

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
20	ICDT	Training Seminar for the benefit of the Member States of the COMESA /ASEAN on "the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPSOIC)"	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Dept of Integration and Cooperation of IDB and COMCEC	1st Quarter 2016	Egypt
21	ICDT	Meeting on the observatory of non-tariff barriers within the Internet Web Site of ICDT	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	ICDT/TPOs	1st Quarter 2016	Casablanca
22	ICDT	3rd OIC Health Expo	Fair	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Morocco, OFEC	24th -27th March 2016	Casablanca/ Morocco
23	ICDT	2nd Higher Education Expo and Forum	Expo and Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	ICDT/Senegal	9-12 May 2016	Dakar/Senegal
24	ICDT	9th Edition of Agri-food industries in OIC Member Countries	Exhibition	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	ICDT/KSA	9-12 May 2016	Jeddah / KSA
25	ICDT	15th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States "OIC- EXPO 2015"	Fair	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Commerce & Industry of Saudi Arabia	22nd – 26th May 2016	Riyadh/Saudi Arabia
26	ICDT	Meeting of the Global Network of the TPOs of the OIC Member States	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Commerce & Industry of Saudi Arabia; ITFC, TPOs	23rd May 2016	Riyadh/Saudi Arabia
27	ICDT	National Training Seminar on "the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPSOIC)"	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministries in Charge of Trade	2nd Quarter 2016	CEMAC/ECOWAS
28	ICDT	Training Seminar on Exports and Investment Promotion Techniques in the Context of Globalization for the benefit of exporters of the OIC Countries	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Mozambique	1st Quarter 2016	Mozambique

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
29	ICDT	South-South Cooperation Youth innovation technologies Expo and Forum	Expo and Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	ICDT/UNDP South- South Cooperation Unit/OMPIC	2016	Sharjah/UAE Casablanca/Morocco
30	ICDT	Seminar on the internationalization of SMEs and one day seminar on TPS/OIC for the benefit of Mozambique	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Mozambique	1st Quarter 2016	Mozambique
31	ICDT	Seminar on "doing business in specific markets"	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	COMESA/WAEMU	1st Quarter 2016	Casablanca
32	ICDT	Seminar on commercial arbitration and dispute settlement under the TPS/OIC	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	ICIEC/OIC MS	1st Quarter 2016	OIC MS
33	ICDT	Preparations of the 3rd Round of Trade Negotiations	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	COMCEC/OIC MS	1st Quarter 2016	OIC MS
34	ICDT	Seminar on Exports and Investments Promotion Strategies in the Context of Globalisation	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Developing intra- OIC Trade	2nd Quarter of 2016	Mauritania
35	ICDT	3rd African Halal Business Forum	Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Developing intra- OIC Trade	2nd Quarter 2016	Senegal
36	ICDT	7th OIC World Biz and 2nd OIC-Central Investment Forum	Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Developing intra- OIC Trade	2nd Quarter 2016	Malaysia
37	ICDT	2nd International Conference on offshoring	Conference	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Developing intra- OIC Trade	2nd Quarter 2016	Casablanca/Rabat
38	ICDT	Training Seminar on the Industry of Fairs	Workshop	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Developing intra- OIC Trade	2nd Quarter 2016	Turkey
39	ICDT	Forum of the OIC Investment Promotion Agencies	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Developing intra- OIC Trade	2nd Quarter 2016	Casablanca
40	ICDT	Launching of the Permanent exhibition of the OIC countries' products at the ICDT's headquarters	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Developing intra- OIC Trade	2nd Quarter 2016	Casablanca/ Morocco

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
41	ICDT	1st Sports Industries Expo and Forum	Expo and Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	ICDT/OIC Fed of Sports Associations/SCCI	2016	Sharjah/UAE
42	ICDT	Training seminar on Exports Techniques in the context of globalisation for the benefit of the Primo- Exporters in the OIC Member States	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Developing intra- OIC Trade	2016	ICDT
43	ICDT	Training seminar in the organisation and participation in fairs and exhibitions for the benefit of the economic operators of the OIC Member States	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Developing intra- OIC Trade	2016	ICDT
44	ICDT	Training seminar on the role of International Conventions on Trade and logistics Facilitation in the AMU and WAEMU Countries	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Developing intra- OIC Trade	2016	Casablanca/Morocco
45	ICDT	Seminar on the impact of the TPS/OIC Agreement on the Economies of WAEMU Countries	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Developing intra- OIC Trade	2016	Ouagadougou/Burkina Faso
46	ICDT	Workshops on the multilateral trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the benefit of the OIC Member Countries	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Dept. of Integration and Cooperation of IDB/OIC MS	2016	OIC MS
47	ICDT	Expert meeting on NTBs to trade	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Developing intra- OIC Trade	2016	
48	ICDT	2nd Edition on the forum on "Offshoring sector in the OIC Member States"	Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Developing intra- OIC Trade	2016	Casablanca/ Morocco

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
49	ICDT	Training in parks management for the implementation of the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa	Workshop	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	UNTWO/Regional Coordinator(Guinea)	2nd Quarter 2016	/
50	ICDT	Expert meeting on NTBs to trade	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	ECO Countries	End 2016	Istanbul
51	ICDT	Promotion of the city of Konya (Capital of OIC Tourism 2016):	Fair	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	OIC GS, IRCICA, ISESCO, Turkey	2016	To be determined
52	ICDT	Training Seminar on the Industry of Fairs	Workshop	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		2016	Kazakhstan
53	ICDT	Forum for the benefit of the Businessmen of the QUAD Countries	Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Agadir Technical Unit	2016	Casablanca/Morocco
54	ICDT	Trade Mission of Gambian Businessmen to North Africa	Trade mission	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		2016	Casablanca/Morocco
55	ICDT	Seminar on "doing business in specific markets"	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		2016	West Arica
56	ICDT	Seminar on the Approach of the Markets of the Gulf Countries and Libya	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		2016	Casablanca/Morocco
57	ICDT	Seminar on multilateral agreements and treaties for trade and logistics facilitation	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	WTO	2016	Amman/ Jordan
58	IDB Group	41st Annual Meeting of the IDB Group	Annual Meeting	Financial Cooperation		Relevant OIC instittuions	15-19 May 2016	Jakarta, Indonesia

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59	IDB Group	Intra-OIC trade	Ministerial Consultative Meeting of OIC Trade Ministers on eve of 10th WTO Ministerial Conferene	Trade		ICDT	14 to 18 December 2015	Nairobi, Kenya
60	IDB Group	Workshop on unlocking the potential of regional integration in OIC countries	Workshop	Trade and Transportation		COMCEC, ICDT and relevant UN institutions	Feb-March 2016	ТВС
61	IDB Group	Forum on Islamic Micro finance for Poverty Alleviation and Capacity Transfer	Forum	Poverty Alleviation and Financial Cooperation		OIC General Secretariat	1st quarter of 2016	Khartoum
62	IDB Group	Workshop on "the Administration of Regional Trade Agreements and the prospects of Regional Integration in OIC countries",	Workshop	Trade		ICDT and others	December 2015	Casablanca, Morocco
63	IDB Group	Financial cooperation	Supervision of Islamic Banks for Arab Monetary Fund based in Abu Dhabi	Financial Cooperation		Relevant OIC instittuions	May.16	Abu Dhabi
64	OISA	Visit to Turkish Shipbuilding & Repair Yards	Visit	Transport and Communication	(1) Promoted relevant international agreements and regulations in member states (2) Hormonized legislations, standards and practices in the transport sector of member states (3) Enhanced professional skills of human resources (4) Improved services deliver and expedited procedures (5) Development of sound infrastructure policies (6) Identified major bottlenecks and assessed funding requirements particularly with respect to inter-regionaly connectivity.	OISA members and GISBIR	February 2016	Istanbul

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
65	OISA	Promote shipping in OIC countries and strengthen relationship between OISA and Khan Brothers Shipbuilding Ltd (KBSBL)	Cooperation / Signing Memorandum of Understanding	Transport and Communication	(1) Promoted relevant international agreements and regulations in member states (2) Hormonized legislations, standards and practices in the transport sector of member states (3) Enhanced professional skills of human resources (4) Improved services deliver and expedited procedures (5) Development of sound infrastructure policies (6) Identified major bottlenecks and assessed funding requirements particularly with respect to inter-regionaly connectivity.	OISA & KBSBL	April 2016	Bangladesh
66	OISA	Meeting with International Maritime Organization and Islamic Protection and Indemnity Club for deepening relationship between IMO & IPIC	Meeting	Transport and Communication	(1) Improved national transport policy-making and planning capacity of member states (2) Increased interactions between peer institutions of member states (3) Enhance professional skills of human resources (4) Improved service delivery and expited procedures. (5) Development of sound infrastructure policies (6) Enhanced private sector involvement in infrastructure projects and promoted innovative financing modalities, including public private partnership	IMO, IPIC, some Member Companies	To be determined	Dubai
67	SESRIC	The State of Agriculture in the Member Countries of D-8	Research	Agriculture	Diverse	D-8	2016	SESRIC
68	SESRIC	Food lose and Waste in OIC Countries	Research	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity		2016	SESRIC
69	SESRIC	Agriculture and Food Security in OIC Member Countries 2016	Research	Agriculture	Diverse		2016	SESRIC
70	SESRIC	Seed Development: Biotechnology Studies	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity		2016	Senegal
71	SESRIC	Seed Development: Laboratory Tests and Certificates, Agricultural Combat: Plant Diseases, Pests and Weed Control	Training	Agriculture	Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity		2016	Togo

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72	SESRIC	Land Management: Land Conservation, Improvement and Erosion	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity		2016	Palestine
73	SESRIC	Agronomy: Soil Tillage	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity		2016	Malaysia
74	SESRIC	Cotton Statistics	Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-date Data		2016	Cameroon
75	SESRIC	Organic cotton	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity		2016	Sudan
76	SESRIC	Waste Management	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity		2016	Pakistan
77	SESRIC	Environmental Law & Regulations: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Training	Agriculture	Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity		2016	Tunisia
78	SESRIC	Waste Management	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity		2016	Maldives
79	SESRIC	Grand Water Management	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity		2016	Indonesia
80	SESRIC	Water Resources Management	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity		2016	Togo
81	SESRIC	Water Resource Management	Training	Agriculture	Increasing productivity		2016	Senegal
82	SESRIC	Cotton Development-2016 & 17	Workshop	Agriculture	Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity		2016	SESRIC
83	SESRIC	Stakeholders Meetings on Islamic Banking and Finance Statistics	Meeting	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and Supervisory Cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	World Bank Global Islamic Finance Center	Q1 of 2016	Turkey
84	SESRIC	Government Finance in OIC Countries	Research	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation		2016	SESRIC
85	SESRIC	Measuring Financial Openness in OIC countries	Research	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics		2016	SESRIC
86	SESRIC	Risk Management in İslamic Finance	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics		2016	Guinea
87	SESRIC	Financial Stability	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics		2016	Jordan
88	SESRIC	Macroeconomic Modelling	Training	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and Supervisory Cooperation		2016	Indonesia

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
89	SESRIC	Corporate Finance: Introduction to M&A Transactions	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training , R&D Activities and Statistics		2016	Tunisia
90	SESRIC	Islamic Debt and Equity Markets and Products	Training	Financial Cooperation	Capital Flows		2016	Niger
91	SESRIC	Actuarial and Financial Management	Training	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics		2016	Tacikistan
92	SESRIC	Postal Financial Services and Postal Codes- Addressing System	Training	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and Supervisory Cooperation		2016	Qatar
93	SESRIC	Postal Financial Services, Electronic Services and Letter Post Service	Training	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and Supervisory Cooperation		2016	Sudan
94	SESRIC	Postal Financial Services and Postal Codes- Addressing System	Training	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and Supervisory Cooperation		2016	Brunei
95	SESRIC	The Role of OIC's Emerging Donors in International Cooperation	Research	Financial Cooperation, Poverty Alleviation	Capital Flows, Aid Effectiveness		2016	SESRIC
96	SESRIC	Development Aid Effectiveness in OIC countries	Research	Financial Cooperation, Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness, Capital Flows		2016	SESRIC
97	SESRIC	Urban Development in OIC Countries	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	UN-Habitat	2016	SESRIC
98	SESRIC	Study on Syrian Refugee Crises	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Utilization of Financial Resources, Diverse		2016	SESRIC
99	SESRIC	Regional poverty reduction policies	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Utilization of Financial Resources		2016	Pakistan
100	SESRIC	Regional poverty reduction policies	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Utilization of Financial Resources		2016	Togo
101	SESRIC	Regional Workshop on Poverty (MPI) Index	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	COMCEC, IDB, OPHI, NSOs of OIC Member Countries	30 Nov 6 De. 2015	Senegal
102	SESRIC	The State of Tourism in the Member Countries of D-10	Research	Tourism	Regulatory Framework, Diverse	D-8	2016	SESRIC
103	SESRIC	Regional Workshop on Tourism Satellite Accounts	Workshop	Tourism	Regulatory Framework, Capacity Building and Training Programmes	UNWTO, NSOs of OIC Member Countries	30 Nov 3 Dec. 2015	Kazakhstan

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
104	SESRIC	Workshop on Accommodation Statistics	Workshop	Tourism	Regulatory Framework, Capacity Building and Training Programmes	Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey	Q2 of 2016	Turkey
105	SESRIC	Mergers and acquisitions	Training	Trade	Trade Facilitation		2016	Pakistan
106	SESRIC	Mergers and acquisitions Economic analysis	Training	Trade	Trade Facilitation		2016	Niger
107	SESRIC	Competition advocacy	Training	Trade	Trade Facilitation		2016	Yemen
108	SESRIC	The State of Transportation in the Member Countries of D-9	Research	Transport and Communications	Transport Infrastructure Policies	D-8	2016	SESRIC
109	SESRIC	VET School under IUIU	Project	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	İSMEK	2016	Uganda
110	SESRIC	D-8 Economic Outlook Report 2016	Research	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	D-8	2016	SESRIC
111	SESRIC	OIC Economic Outlook 2016	Research	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse		2016	SESRIC
112	SESRIC	Performance of OIC Countries towards Achieving the MDGs	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse		2016	SESRIC
113	SESRIC	Study Visit on Peer Review	Study Visit	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	EuroStat, TurkStat	Q4 of 2016	Luxembourg
114	SESRIC	SESRIC Side Event in the Margins of the 47th UNSC	Technical Meeting	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	NSOs of OIC Member Countries	Q1 of 2016	USA
115	SESRIC	Expert Group Meeting on Peer Review (2 EGMs)	Technical Meeting	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	EuroStat, TurkStat	Q1 and Q3 of 2016	Turkey
116	SESRIC	Occupational Health, Occupational Diseases and Basic Occupational Health Services	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse		2016	Turkey
117	SESRIC	Occupational Health, Occupational Diseases and Basic Occupational Health Services	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse		2016	Niger
118	SESRIC	Railway Management	Training	Transport and Communications	Diverse		2016	Brunei
119	SESRIC	Cross-border Activities	Training	Transport and Communications	Diverse		2016	Comoros

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
120	SESRIC	Railway Management	Training	Transport and Communications	Diverse		2016	Bangladesh
121	SESRIC	Labour Market Analysis Training for Cameroonian Experts	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	MoE, İŞKUR, IDB, TIKA	2016	SESRIC
122	SESRIC	Civil registration systems for refugees and internally displaced persons	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	NOCR, Iran	2016	Qatar
123	SESRIC	Management of Labour Mobility	Training	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	ANAPEJ	2016	Togo
124	SESRIC	Public Employment Services Funding	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	ANAPEJ	2016	Sudan
125	SESRIC	General Health Insurance	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse		2016	Togo
126	SESRIC	Strengthening local government management capacities, Land and property dispute resolution legislation and mechanisms	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	UN-Habitat	2016	Albania
127	SESRIC	Multi-Country Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) Workshop	Workshop	Agriculture	Diverse	WHO, CDC, CDC Foundation	March/April 2016	Turkey
128	SMIIC	Building and Enhancing Standardization, Metrology and Accreditation Capacity in the SMIIC LDC Member States	Workshop/Training	Trade	Simplified and streamlimed trade procedures	COMCEC PCM	To be decided, 2016	To be decided
129	SMIIC	Building and Enhancing Standardization, Metrology and Accreditation Capacity in the OIC Member States	Workshop/Training	Trade	Simplified and streamlimed trade procedures	Islamic Development Bank (IDB)	To be decided, 2016	North African Arabic Speaking Countries; African French Speaking Countries; African English Speaking Countries; Central Asian Countries (CACs)
130	SMIIC	SMIIC/TC1 Halal Food Issues Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Technical Committee	To be decided, 2016	To be decided

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
131	SMIIC	SMIIC/TC2 Halal Cosmetic Issues Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Technical Committee	To be decided, 2016	To be decided
132	SMIIC	Training on Pressure, Dimensional, Electrical Metrology	Technical Training	Trade	Trade liberalization	TÜBİTAK-UME	19-23 October 2015	Kocaeli, Turkey
133	SMIIC	Training on Legal Metrology, Chemistry, Temperature, Mass and Frequency and Mass	Technical Training	Trade	Trade liberalization	Institute of Metrology of Bosnia and Herzegovina (IMBIH)	October 2015	Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina
134	SMIIC	SMIIC Halal Conference	Conference	Trade	Trade liberalization	DSM (Department of Standards Malaysia)	14-15 December 2015	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
135	SMIIC	1st OIC Stakeholders' Forum on Unified Halal Food Standards and Procedures	Conference	Trade	Trade liberalization	OIC General Secretariat	09-10 December 2015	Jeddah / KSA
136	SMIIC	Training Program for the Chairmen and Secretaries of the Committees of SMIIC	Technical Training	Trade	Institutional and Human Capacity	SMIIC GS and SMIIC Technical Committees	Last Quarter of 2015	İstanbul / Turkey
137	SMIIC	Accreditation Committee Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Elimination of Non Tariff Barriers	SMIIC and SMIIC Accreditation Committee	To be decided, 2016	To be decided
138	SMIIC	Metrology Committee Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade Facilitation	SMIIC and SMIIC Metrology Committee	To be decided, 2016	To be decided
139	SMIIC	Training on Halal Food and ISO 22000 Food Safety Management System	Workshop/Training	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	To be decided, 2016	To be decided
140	SMIIC	Training on Halal Cosmetic and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)	Workshop/Training	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	To be decided, 2016	To be decided
141	SMIIC	Training on ISO 17025 Laboratory Accreditation & Halal Requirements	Workshop/Training	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	To be decided, 2016	To be decided
142	SMIIC	ISO 17021 & ISO 17065 & Halal Requirements (for Halal Manufacturers)	Workshop/Training	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	To be decided, 2016	To be decided

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
143	SMIIC	Training of Halal Food Expert & Halal Auditor	Workshop/Training	Trade	Institutional and Human Capacity	SMIIC Member States	To be decided, 2016	To be decided
144	SMIIC	Training of Halal Assessors for Accreditation	Workshop/Training	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC AC Members	To be decided, 2016	To be decided
145	cco	7th Meeting of the Trade Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Trade	Elimination of Non Tariff Barriers Simplified and streamlined trade procedures	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	February 25, 2016	Ankara
146	ССО	8th Meeting of the Trade Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Trade	Simplified and streamlined trade procedures Enhanced capacity of customs administrations	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 6th, 2016	Ankara
147	CCO	7th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Tourism	Diversified tourism products and destinations	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	February 4th, 2016	Ankara
148	cco	8th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Tourism	Diversified tourism products and destinations	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	September 1st, 2016	Ankara

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
149	ссо	7th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Transport	Improved national transport policy- making and planning capacity of the member states Increased interactions between peer institutions of the Member States Enhanced professional skills of human resources Development of sound infrastructure policies Identified major bottlenecks and assessed funding requirements particularly vvith respect to inter-regional connectivity Enhanced private sector involvement in infrastructure projects and promoted innovative financing modalities, including Public Private Partnerships	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	March 24th, 2016	Ankara
150	ссо	8th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Transport	Harmonized legislations, standards and practices in the transport sector of the Member States Improved national transport policy-making and planning capacity of the member states Increased interactions between peer institutions of the Member States Enhanced professional skills of human resources Development of sound infrastructure policies Identified major bottlenecks and assessed funding requirements particularly vvith respect to inter-regional connectivity Enhanced private sector involvement in infrastructure projects and promoted innovative financing modalities, including Public Private Partnerships	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 27th, 2016	Ankara

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
151	ссо	6th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation/ Developed legal, regulatory and institutional framework Visibility of Financial Markets/Enhanced awareness on Islamic financial market Training, R&D Activities and Statistics/ Developed human resources and increased financial literacy	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	March 17th, 2016	Ankara
152	ссо	7th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Financial Cooperation	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation/ Developed legal, regulatory and institutional framework Visibility of Financial Markets/Enhanced awareness on Islamic financial market Training, R&D Activities and Statistics/ Developed human resources and increased financial literacy	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 20th, 2016	Ankara
153	ссо	7th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Agriculture	Provision of know-how and technology	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	March 3rd, 2016	Ankara
154	ССО	8th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Agriculture	Provision of know-how and technology	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 13th, 2016	Ankara
155	cco	7th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Enhanced capacity of the micro-finance institutions and other institutions for supporting the poor Streamlined and more efficient allocation of povertyrelated funds in the COMCEC region	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	February 11th, 2016	Ankara

No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevant Output Area/Expected Outcomes in the COMCEC Strategy	Partners	Date	Venue
156	cco	8th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Development of effective aid strategies and policies Enhanced civil society engagement in poverty alleviation efforts Enhanced capacity of the micro-finance institutions and other institutions for supporting the poor Streamlined and more efficient allocation of povertyrelated funds in the COMCEC region Fulfilled commitments of financial contributions by the member states to the existing funds	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	November 3rd, 2016	Ankara
157	ССО	4rd Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Focal Points	Meeting	All Cooperation Areas	Produce and disseminate knowledge/understanding, share experience and best-practices	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	June 2016	Ankara

ANNEX

7

Original: English

CLOSING STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. CEVDET YILMAZ, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

(İstanbul, 26 November 2015)

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

We have completed another critical Session of the COMCEC with concrete outcomes under several agenda items.

We are now closer than ever to launch actual implementation of the TPS-OIC and PRETAS with the concrete target date of 1st March 2016 agreed by the Informal Meeting of the Ministers of the Participating Member Countries of PRETAS. This welcome development will further increase the intra-OIC trade which stands around 19 percent of the total trade of our countries now. In addition to reducing high tariff rates, we should also take required steps to relieve the structural problems such as higher transport costs, burdensome custom procedures, different practices regarding technical standards.

Seizing this opportunity, I once again kindly invite the remaining Member States to complete necessary requirements at the earliest to be a part of this important system.

In addition to enhancing intra-OIC trade, we should also take measures to promote intra-OIC investments. As a crucial driving force of development, economic growth, employment creation and poverty reduction, investment is of critical importance for all of us. Therefore, we need swift measures to improve our investment environment, efficiency of related public and private institutions, leverage private investment, attract foreign direct investments and enhance investment efficiency. Furthermore, we can use some effective tools such as Public-Private Partnerships to realise burdensome infrastructural investments.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

COMCEC Strategy has brought dynamism to our cooperation efforts. It is an important asset for deepening cooperation among both our member countries and the OIC institutions. I am very pleased to observe that the COMCEC Strategy has been implemented effectively through its implementation mechanisms namely working

groups and COMCEC Project Funding mechanism. These mechanisms are very instrumental for mobilising the institutional and human resources of our member countries. I am happy to observe that our member countries have been actively involved in the working group meetings, which are important opportunities for reaching common understanding and approximating policies among our member countries to respond our common problems.

It is also a great pleasure for me to see that the COMCEC Project Funding mechanism is increasingly utilized by our member countries. In the first two years of the implementation, 22 projects have successfully been operationalized. I would like to highlight that this mechanism provides a suitable opportunity to enhance institutional and human capacity as a policy support tool in our member countries through joint projects. It will also serve to develop a collaborative culture in implementing joint projects by our countries as well as OIC institutions.

Furthermore, dedicated sessions organized for developing policy advices in the particular fields of discussion are bearing significant outcomes. Here, I would like to invite our brotherly member countries, which have not registered to the working groups, to register soon and ensure active and regular participation of their esteemed countrys' experts to the relevant working group meetings in the upcoming period. I would also call on the member states to pay due regard to the policy advices with a view to implement them through, among others, COMCEC PCM, other available mechanisms within the OIC family and other methods they may deem appropriate.

As always, Turkey is ready to share her experiences in various sectors with the member countries in a spirit of learning together. Our capacities should be brought together for both addressing our growing development challenges and rendering our capacities sustainable.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

Poverty is still a serious problem in some of our countries, particularly in the LDCs. For prosperous societies, we should decisively fight with poverty which results in various forms of deprivation including maladies, illiteracy, unproductivity, unemployment and other social problems.

With these persistent problems in mind, the global development agenda has taken a new shape towards 2030 and we have a new mission before us to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Given the importance of this issue, the theme of this years' Exchange of Views Session was determined as "Post-2015 Development

Agenda and Development Challenges of Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Services Delivery". Just two months after the adoption of the SDGs, we have deliberated on them and taken significant decisions for their successful implementation and follow up. We should continue this timely exercise by taking sound measures in the forthcoming period.

I would like to underline that successful implementation of the SDGs depends on first and foremost a strong ownership. During the implementation period, we should raise awareness of our nations on SDGs including all segments of the society, NGOs and the bureaucracy. As you would all appreciate, a serious challenge that we faced in the MDGs era was inadequate awareness.

Having said that, I would also like to underline we are now in a much more developed world in terms of communication technologies through widespread usage of ICTs, media network, social media and other networks. Therefore we are now in a much better position to raise public awareness and ownership in our countries through full utilization of these communication tools. Thus, together with all our public institutions, NGOs and citizens, we should build a sound and strong ownership.

Furthermore, sufficient allocation of financial resources, strengthening institutional and human capacity, strong monitoring and follow up and robust cooperation among all stakeholders are also prominent success factors for effective implementation of the SDGs. There is also need to a strong international cooperation and technical knowledge sharing.

I personally believe that education and training lie at the core of success in SDGs implementation as well. From the indicators I can deduce that we still need a lot to do in the field of education since while world average adult literacy rate is 81 percent, this figure is as low as 25 to 30 percent in some of our Least Developed Member Countries. Therefore, we have to improve our education systems and their outreach to our citizens.

Dear participants,

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to extend my gratitude to all member country delegations, OIC General Secretariat, OIC Institutions and international organizations for their valuable contributions. I would also like to reiterate my sincere thanks to COMCEC Coordination Office, translators and interpreters and all other colleagues who contributed to the organization for their dedicated efforts towards making this Session a significant success. I wish that our discussions, exchange of views and resolutions will bear fruitful results for the Member Countries and deepen our cooperation as the Islamic Ummah.

Hoping that you will depart from Istanbul with happy memories, I wish you all a safe trip back home.

Thank you. Esselamu alaikum ve Rahmetullah ve Barakatuhu.

ANNEX

8

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SESSION OF 31ST SESSION OF THE COMCEC

The 30th COMCEC Session decided on "Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery" as the theme of the Exchange of Views of 31st Session of the COMCEC and requested the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to come up with policy recommendations on the aforementioned topic and report it to the 31st COMCEC Session.

In this framework, the participants, in light of the discussions taken place during the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group and findings of the COMCEC-IDB Joint Study on critical success factors for the implementation of the SDGs and research report prepared specifically for this Meeting, have come up with the following challenges and problems and possible policy options with regard to implementation of SDGs in the member countries.

Challenges and Problems:

The participants, in line with the discussions taken place during the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group which covered the basic services delivery systems in the Member Countries and the critical success factors (namely governance, data and monitoring, capacity building, finance and policy coherence) for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, highlighted the following possible challenges and problems in the course of the implementation phase of the SDGs in the OIC Member Countries:

- ➤ Inadequate coordination in/among the member countries and relevant institutions in the areas related to the SDGs.
- Inadequate financial resources for the implementation of the SDGs.
- ➤ Data gaps in the member countries such as inadequate disaggregated, quality, comparable and timely data which bears great importance for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the SDGs.
- Weak statistical systems of the member countries due to poor capacity of both national statistical offices and the concerned national institutions and inefficient coordination.
- ➤ Weak institutional and human capacity and inadequate infrastructure in delivery of SDGs in the Member Countries.
- Adverse effects of the poor governance on the development efforts of the member countries due to inadequate transparency and access to information,

- complex bureaucratic practices, exclusion of stakeholders from the decision making process and insufficient responsiveness of public administrations.
- ➤ Weak participation of the citizens in both design and implementation of delivery of the basic services and limited options of citizens in terms of basic services providers.
- ➤ Poor follow-up and review systems for the ongoing programs.
- ➤ Inadequate public awareness about the SDGs and their implementation.
- ➤ The need for ensuring a peaceful and enabling environment for successful implementation of the SDGs in some parts of the OIC.
- Inadequate capacity of the member countries to prepare/develop and implement projects so that they can utilize the COMCEC PCM and other possible financing mechanisms.

Policy Recommendations:

Considering the above-mentioned challenges and problems, the participants of the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group prepared a set of policy recommendations that would promote effective implementation of the SDGs in the OIC Member Countries. The recommendations are as follows:

At National Level

- Encouraging the member countries to align policies that have impact on the achievement of the SDGs to the extent possible.
- Encouraging the member countries to embed the SDGs to the national development plans, strategies, programmes and projects.
- ➤ Encouraging the member countries to integrate the SDGs indicators in their data collection systems including Census and Surveys.
- Encouraging the member countries to improve governance in all areas through ensuring transparency, easy access to information, predictability and involvement of relevant stakeholders.
- Enhancing governance in basic services delivery chain through raising public awareness, improving follow-up and review of the ongoing/future programs, and providing direct citizen involvement in service provision by utilising community-participation models, cooperatives and complaint and response mechanisms.
- ➤ Designating an institution or authoritative body as the focal point for coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the SDGs.
- Ensuring active involvement of civil society, NGOs, business world, scientific and academic circles into the implementation process of SDGs.
- ➤ Diversifying basic services providers through contracting private companies, ensuring competition among providers with the central governments'

- supervision and monitoring and utilising Public-Private Partnership mechanisms.
- ➤ Developing a financial framework for better delivery of SDGs with possible national resources and possible contributions from donor countries and international institutions.
- Supporting domestic revenue mobilizing efforts of the concerned member countries through capacity building programmes/activities such as tax collection, which would be an essential component of SDGs' financing framework.
- ➤ Enhancing partnership and cooperation for mobilising and effectively utilising international public finance, encouraging domestic and international private sector, boosting trade and investments and attracting FDI investments in the OIC Countries.
- > Strengthening solidarity among the member countries through, among others, enhancing the support of high income member countries to developing countries in the implementation of the SDGs.
- Encouraging OIC Member Countries to incorporate Islamic finance instruments to promote financial stability, financial inclusion, in their financial systems as a complementary mechanism in financing the implementation of the SDGs and to finance large scale infrastructure projects.
- Encouraging the member countries to increase the use/efficiency of mechanisms/Islamic instruments such as Waqfs, Zakah, Sadaka for better contributing to the financing and implementation of the SDGs.
- > Improving the follow-up mechanisms for better implementation of the SDGs.

At the OIC Level

- A comprehensive and holistic approach with required human, institutional and financial resources need to be developed for the effective delivery of the SDGs in order to meet the ambitious aims of the SDGs within the OIC.
- > Incorporating the SDGs in the relevant OIC documents to the extent possible.
- Encouraging OIC institutions to incorporate and reflect the views and inputs of the civil society, NGOs, business world, scientific and academic circles, wherever possible, in their activities for implementation of the SDGs.
- ➤ Developing effective cooperation mechanisms involving OIC countries/organizations and non-OIC countries/organizations for successful implementation of the SDGs.
- Enhancing capacity of the OIC institutions to provide better services to member states for the effective implementation of the SDGs.

- Encouraging the OIC Institutions to promote higher and effective utilization of the Islamic financial services in the OIC Member Countries within the context of implementation of the SDGs.
- ➤ Improving the existing capacity building programmes and initiatives such as SESRIC-STATCAB and IDB STATCAB and developing similar ones that can enhance the capacity of national statistical offices (NSOs) and statistical capacity of the relevant institutions.
- Establishing/developing data banks for SDGs related statistics in line with UN system and internationally agreed practices.
- ➤ Harmonizing data collection methods related to SDGs in order to close data gaps and produce comparable data sets and statistics.
- Assisting the member countries to improve their project preparation/development and implementation capacity such as in the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism, IDB's reverse linkage program, SESRIC's OIC-VET as well as in the design and preparation of PPPs, with a view to better utilizing funds towards the realization of the SDGs.
- ➤ Enhancing institutional and financial capacity of the IDB and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) to provide stronger financial and technical support to the developing member countries in the implementation of the SDGs.

ANNEX

9

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRADE WORKING GROUP 1.1. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE TRADE WORKING GROUP

The Trade Working Group of the COMCEC has successfully held its 5th Meeting on March 26th, 2015, in Ankara on the theme of "Improving the Role of Eximbanks/Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) in the OIC Member States". During the Meeting, the participants have discussed some crucial policy issues that were also featured in the Analytic study submitted to the working group meeting, the policy questions, and the policy questions sent to the Member States by the COMCEC Coordination Office. After considering these issues, and underlining the importance of Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) on the exports of the Member States, the working group came up with the policy recommendations below.

Recommendations:

- Member States are encouraged to examine and assess the financing needs of their exporters

Exporters need a variety of financing and risk management products at various stages in the exporting cycle. Some of these needs are met through their day-to-day banking relationship while others represent risks and requirements beyond what a commercial bank would normally be willing to service, such as providing cover for foreign buyer risk. Understanding and assessing such needs of exporters is an important policy action to be taken by governments.

- Member States are invited to enhance transactional cooperation among their ECAs

Because of the nature of international trade, ECAs are naturally driven towards collaboration with each other. In the instance where production may be in one country and the supply of inputs can come from many countries, this can mean that exporters or contractors have to negotiate financing with a range of ECAs to put together a multi-sourced package. Over the past many years, some ECAs of developed countries have recognized this difficulty and have agreed to a series of co-operation/reinsurance agreements between themselves.

The trend towards this kind of cooperation is increasing as global value chains proliferate. Such cooperation models could serve as inspirational examples for the OIC Member States. However, there have been a number of examples of such arrangements of OIC ECAs with ICIEC but not between national OIC ECAs.

- Member States are encouraged to review the soundness of their ECAs with the aim of improving the overall performance of the ECAs

An effective ECA is operationally and financially sustainable. Its expertise is well-recognized and sought after, its portfolio is actively managed and its internal processes are not bureaucratic. Moreover, an effective ECA balances a range of stakeholder needs and interests, including the government, exporters and private sources of financing and insurance. Therefore, a "sound" export credit system implies that the ECA itself is well managed and that it is working with the existing private sources of finance and insurance. In addition, as a public policy vehicle on behalf of the government, the ECA must strike a balance between – at times – conflicting objectives, i.e. meeting policy and developmental objectives and being financially sustainable.

Periodic reviews to look at the relevance of the institution's operations will help the ECA and its guardian authority to identify particular areas of focus and allow the institution to take corrective action, where applicable. Such assessments will enable ECA management and operational staff to re-evaluate policies, approaches and offerings to more effectively serve exporters.

- Member states are called on to promote public-private dialogue within the ECA context

Many ECAs see their role as working in partnership with private sector financial institutions in order to help them take risks that they would otherwise not be willing to take. An ECA can be an effective catalytic financial instrument to draw in existing commercial banks to fund export transactions and to share risks. The advantage in such a strategy is that not only does the ECA fill an existing market gap, but it also facilitates the private sector to develop and become more able and willing to meet the needs of the market in the future. Understanding possible alternative methods/products to address the problem may suggest potential for partnering with the private sector. Thus, consulting with them throughout project design and preparation is needed in order to develop a structure that will maximize their involvement and best leverage official resources, as well as meet exporter needs.

The best ECA is one which strikes an appropriate balance between a) minimizing the risk position of the government; b) optimizing the involvement of the commercial banks and private financiers and c) meeting the needs of exporting companies.

- Member States are encouraged to initiate capacity building activities for strengthening institutional and human capacities of their ECAs

Having more efficient, transparent, inclusive and accountable institutions possess great importance to improve export capabilities of the OIC Member Countries. Although the OIC Member Countries host some well-established ECAs, from which important lessons can be learned, there is a significant need for capacity building and institutional strengthening both for those OIC countries with ECAs, as well as those without such facilities that seek to establish them. Therefore there is a need for targeted capacity building programs to the OIC member countries to build their export credit systems. Such programs could also be initiated through various ways such as establishing technical cooperation partnerships between new and more advanced ECAs, utilizing professional advisory services and etc.

Instruments

COMCEC Trade Working Group: In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

Capacity Building Activities: With the COMCEC Coordination Office's resources and Member Countries' own resources, some capacity building and technical assistance programs on the aforementioned policy areas can be organized in the Member Countries. These programs and activities may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, and other similar activities.

1.2. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 6^{TH} MEETING OF THE TRADE WORKING GROUP

The Trade Working Group of the COMCEC has successfully held its 6th Meeting on September 17th, 2015, in Ankara on the theme of "Establishing Well-Functioning National Trade Facilitation Bodies (NTFBs) in the OIC Member States". During the Meeting, the participants have discussed some crucial policy issues that were also featured in the Analytic study submitted to the working group meeting, the policy questions, and the policy questions sent to the Member States by the COMCEC Coordination Office. After considering these issues, and underlining the importance of establishing well-functioning National Trade Facilitation Bodies (NTFBs) in the Member States, the working group came up with the policy recommendations below.

Policy Advice I: Extending assistance to the member states for establishing/maintaining NTFBs

Rationale:

National Trade Facilitation Bodies involve several stakeholders with various, and sometimes conflicting interests and expectations. Bringing together all these stakeholders around a set of goals and managing their interests require significant human and institutional capacity. Both the analytical study and responses of the member states to the policy questions reveal that many member states require technical assistance to cope with these challenges vis-à-vis the NTFBs. Both the member states that are at a relatively advanced stage and have considerable experience in terms of operating such coordination bodies as well as relevant international organizations may provide trade facilitation-related technical assistance to needy member states. On the other hand, several member states need financial assistance for the establishment, proper functioning, and sustainability of NTFBs in their respective countries. Thus, possible resources to meet this financial need should also be identified.

Policy Advice II: Involving the private sector in the activities of the NTFBs *Rationale:*

A well-functioning NTFB should involve and manage a range of stakeholder needs and interests. In particular, addressing trade-facilitation related needs and problems of the private sector and ensuring the continued involvement of the private sector in all appropriate fields of activity bear utmost important for its relevance and sustainability. The public sector must maintain conditions that are conducive to continued private

sector, particularly SME involvement and engagement. NTFBs must be able to flexibly respond to the changing needs of the private sector in order for private sector actors' commitment to be assured and to retain their relevance. The responses of the member states to the policy questions reveal that many of them have already launched instruments to enable the private sector to convey their needs to the relevant public sector authorities. Yet member states may still work on ways and means to further enhance private sector participation at every level.

Policy Advice III: Establishing effective communication systems within the framework of the work of the NTFBs *Rationale*:

Transparency and accountability are two important factors that ensures the legitimacy of an organization. An effective communication system would first and provide transparency with regard to the work of the NTFB. Furthermore, effective communication is also essential to keep all stakeholders informed of inter alia the NTFB's meetings; its work and progress made; new documents introduced by the NTFB; upcoming events; and best practices. Thus, effective communication systems impact the degree of participation and commitment as well as the perceived legitimacy and transparency of the NTFB's work. This can be achieved through several means, many NTFBs rely on their website; however newsletters, mailing lists, and provision of seminars may also be employed.

Policy Advice IV: Designing Performance Evaluation Criteria for the Existing NTFBs Rationale:

While establishment of well-functioning NTFBs is highly important/ a priority, setting performance evaluation criteria for assessing the effectiveness of the existing NTFBs in the OIC Member Countries is highly necessitated. The performance evaluation criteria may include internationally accepted benchmarks to facilitate transparent and sound performance evaluation of NTFBs. In this respect, similar to the global indexes such as World Bank's World Logistics Performance Index, Performance Evaluation Criteria for NTFBs may also have specific items such as time and cost of trade operations.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:

COMCEC Trade Working Group: In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

2. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

2.1. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

Distinguished Members of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group,

The COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) has successfully held its 5th Meeting on February 12th, 2015 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "Evaluating the Ownership, Governance Structures and Performances of the Ports in the OIC Member States" with the active participation of the Member Countries. During the Meeting, delegates of the member states made deliberations on enhancing port efficiency in the Member Countries and possible policy actions to be taken to approximate Member State policies in port governance and performance. The Analytical Study submitted to the TCWG Meeting as well as the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions sent to the Member States by the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) were the main inputs for the discussions. The policy recommendations highlighted during the Meeting are as follows:

Policy Advice I: Member States are invited to enhance the private sector participation in the port sector

Rationale:

Traditionally, ports have been owned, operated and regulated by state-controlled public organizations. However, with the introduction of private sector participation (PSP) in ports, new forms of port administration and new models of port ownership and institutional structuring have emerged. PSP in port operations has been growing stronglyas a result of a view that public owners and operators, relative to private ones, are less able (and have fewer incentives) to control costs, are slower to adopt new technologies and management practices, and are less responsive to the needs of port users relative to the private owners and operators. Countries leading the way in private participation have been able to attract significant private capital investment to develop port infrastructure and modernize superstructure and terminal services. Under private management, ports usually improve operational efficiency, labor productivity, and service quality.

Policy Advice II: Member States are encouraged to establish port regulators

Rationale:

An independent port regulator is essential to control entry (entry regulation), to determine tariff (rate regulation), to set the performance standards (performance

regulation and yardstick benchmarking), and (sometimes) to set technical standards (health and safety, security, environmental, and labor regulation). Additionally, the regulator may be required to act as an arbitrator to handle disputes.

At the same time, it might be better to put in place a multi-sector regulator for ports and transport logistics sector as a whole to cover dry ports and freight logistics sectors as well.

Policy Advice III: Member States are called on to promote intermodal container transportation

Rationale:

The introduction of containerization triggered complementary technological and organizational changes that accelerated the globalization of the world economy since the 1960s. From a transportation technology perspective, containerization resulted in the introduction of intermodal freight transport, since the shipment of a container can use multiple modes of transportation without any handling of the freight when changing modes. By eliminating separate handlings of the cargo, the container resulted in linking the producer closer to the customer.

On the other hand, containerization requires major technological changes in port facilities. OIC ports must therefore adapt their port infrastructure, operations, equipment, and ICT systems accordingly while training and educating highly qualified and technically specialized port workforce.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:

COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group: In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

Capacity Building Activities: With the COMCEC Coordination Office's resources and Member Countries' own resources, some capacity building and technical assistance programs on the aforementioned policy areas can be organized in the Member Countries. These programs and activities may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, and other similar activities.

2.2. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 6TH MEETING OF THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

A policy debate session was held during the 6th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group regarding the possible policy actions to be taken to approximate member state policies in the field of Urban Transport. The items discussed in this session were identified by taking into consideration the analytic study titled "Urban Transport in OIC Megacities", as well as the responses of Member States to the policy questions sent by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for this meeting.

Policy Advice I: Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Urban Transport Financing

Rationale:

Ensuring smooth and efficient movement of people and goods in urban areas has direct economic and social benefits. The availability of good and efficient transportation services at affordable costs also enhances the quality of life of residents. However, national governments or international funding alone cannot fulfil the vast infrastructure needs in the urban transport sector. It is key to attract private sector investment and financing by ensuring a viable regulatory and legal environment, appropriate design and structure of markets, long term incentives for private investment and protection from investment risks.

In this context, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) emerging as one institutional structure, in which the public authorities deal with network or environmental externalities, demand uncertainty, and administrative costs associated with the project. On the private side, if infrastructure privatization is combined with deregulation or liberalization of market entry, competition in terms of the provision of services may increase. PPPs have been embraced by many developing countries that have followed a more proactive approach in attracting funding, but this has been so far used primarily for financing airports and ports, rather than for sustainable urban transport used by the majority of people on a day to day basis. PPPs in urban transport should provide the following results: Maximize the social-economic benefits to the society through implementation of the most cost-effective option for urban transportation; Capture value from direct benefits to project users and as well as value from significant positive externalities that will accrue indirectly from the project; and ensure affordability of public transportation fares to encourage usage and maximize consumer welfare.

Policy Advice II: Enhancing ICT Applications for Traffic Management in OIC Cities

Rationale:

Increasing transport demand is creating a major challenge in traffic management in urban areas. Decision makers have at their disposal a wide range of technology solutions that have emerged from recent research and development, especially in ICT Applications. These applications systems are now being employed to optimize use of road infrastructure and to manage urban traffic flows by balancing road use by private cars, public transport and freight vehicles, optimizing energy consumption, and reducing congestion and transport emissions. Traffic management can be further improved through integration and interoperability of the transport networks. To this end, there is increasing emphasis in urban areas on interconnecting road, rail, underground metro infrastructure and services, bus lanes, cycle lanes and pedestrian zones. The aim is to facilitate a shift to more environmentally friendly transport modes and to increase efficiency in freight logistics. Studies and implementation projects have demonstrated that innovative concepts, such as green zones, urban charging schemes and e-mobility, improve the performance of transport networks.

Policy Advice III: Improving institutional structure to ensure the delivery of a sustainable transport strategy.

Rationale:

Sustainable urban transport requires institutional and organizational coordination in order to ensure that appropriate rights and authority are given to both bottom up and top down planning. On the one hand, a clearly defined institutional framework should support the consolidation of responsibilities and coordination of activities of all stakeholders. At the same time, it is for utmost importance to allow space in the planning procedures for bottom up input. Particularly in the urban areas where social activity and human interaction and mobility are inevitably intense, it is the citizens that recognize the problems and needs of the city the most, particularly when it comes to transport. It has been proven that public participation, advocacy and awareness rising on issues such as road safety, public space planning and active travel can provide valuable inputs and solutions to urban problems.

The development and implementation of transport policies requires a combination of institutional structures and synergies to be in place in order to succeed. The concentration of all operations and planning under a single transport authority for a city is considered a key action to ensure the delivery of a sustainable transport strategy. This transport authority needs to be able to develop a transport strategy for a city, ensure that the necessary synergies with other sectors and authorities are in place,

monitor the implementation of the plan, evaluate its success and adapt it according to the changing needs of the city. In addition, the participation of all relevant stakeholders, such as the public, private operators and local authorities, needs to be secured in order to deliver equal access opportunities, service levels and economic benefits.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:

COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group: In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

3. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TOURISM WORKING GROUP

3.1. THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE TOURISM WORKING GROUP

Distinguished Members of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group,

The COMCEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) has successfully held its 5th Meeting on February 5th, 2015 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "*Travel Facilitation for Enhancing Mobility in the OIC Member Countries*" with the active participation of the Member Countries. During the Meeting, Tourism Working Group, made deliberations on facilitating travel among the Member Countries and discussed the policy recommendations for enhancing the cooperation in this important field. The Analytical Study submitted to the TWG Meeting as well as the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions sent to the Member States by the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) were the main inputs for the discussions. The policy recommendations highlighted during the Meeting are as follows:

1- Encouraging visa facilitation among the Member Countries

Rationale:

Visa policies are some of the most important government policies influencing international tourism. Visa facilitation will enhance both tourism and economic growth. In the analytical study, it was pointed out that the establishment of standards and procedures for visas is closely linked to the development of tourism sector. In the OIC Member Countries, existing visa and entry policies limit the potential to build closer economic ties and take advantage of broader business opportunities with important tourism source markets. Visa facilitation was also highlighted in the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questions as one of the important policies that would facilitate travel in the Member Countries.

Some important areas for visa facilitation are given below:

- *Improving the delivery of information*: Information on entry formalities need to be provided timely, user-friendly (i.e. available in multiple languages, have simple instructions), reliable and accessible.
- Facilitating the processes for obtaining visas: There is a need to improve the efficiency of the application process through better usage of modern information technologies by service providers rather than using traditional methods like personal interviews, official documents or certificates, and long waiting periods.

- Lowering or eliminating visa application fees: Reducing the costs of travel can help to generate additional travel demand. Lowering or eliminating visa and other entry fees is one of the available and effective policy option to facilitate travel.
- *Differentiating treatment to facilitate tourist travel:* Visa processes can be facilitated for certain type of visitors including tourists arriving by cruise ship or chartered planes or easing visa restrictions for business people, etc.
- **Promoting eVisa programs:** An eVisa can be obtained easily anywhere with an internet connection and its saves time that the traveler would otherwise spend on visa applications at the country's missions or at the ports of entry into the country. It is especially beneficial for destinations without a widespread network of embassies or consulates.
- 2- Developing air linkages and increasing the airline capacity

Rationale:

Air travel development is an increasingly vital aspect of travel facilitation. Expanding the capacity for air travel by improving aviation infrastructure and creating new air routes between destinations has played a key role in the development of the global tourism market. The Analytical Study highlighted the need to create new air routes and increase airline capacity in the Member Countries to facilitate travel. In the Policy Questions circulated to the Member Countries by the CCO, "Insufficient air linkages" was one of the most frequently mentioned challenges faced by the Member Countries.

Some important areas for developing air linkages among the Member Countries and the rest of the world and increasing the airline capacity in the Member Countries are given below:

- Partnering with airlines to expand access to visitor markets: Working with airlines to add additional routes, through Air Service Agreements or new infrastructure, can be beneficial to both the airline and the destination. Benefits include greater air passenger flows and revenues for airlines and airports, as well as the opportunity for the destination to expand its visitor market.
- Incorporating airlines into the destination's tourism profile: Partnering with airlines for destination promotion can improve available funding, expand reach into key source markets and increase visitation, recognizing the joint benefits of such partnership. Facilitating visa processes for transit passengers, for example, can increase visitation and spending while also creating a clear link between airline and destination for travelers.

- Making better use of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in airport infrastructure: Improving aviation infrastructure is a crucial means of improving visitation, including the physical airport infrastructure, alongside a raised profile and increased routes. Use of PPP is a proven way of raising necessary funding with returns evident for all parties, including higher visitation and spending for the destination as a whole.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:

- **COMCEC Tourism Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the COMCEC Working Group may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas and the sub-areas in a more detailed manner.
- COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for project each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas and their sub-areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. The projects may include seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.
- Capacity Building Activities: With the COMCEC Coordination Office's resources and Member Countries' own resources, some capacity building and technical assistance programs on the aforementioned policy areas and their sub-areas can be organized in the Member Countries. These activities may include seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.
- *OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum:* In its next meetings, the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas and the sub-areas from the private sector perspective.

3.2. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 6TH MEETING OF THE TOURISM WORKING GROUP

Distinguished Members of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group,

The COMCEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) has successfully held its 6th Meeting on September 3rd, 2015 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "Effective Tourism Marketing Strategies: ICT-Based Solutions for the OIC Member Countries." During the Meeting, Tourism Working Group, made deliberations for policy approximation among the Member Countries regarding ICT-based tourism marketing. The Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the analytical study conducted specifically for the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group titled "Effective Tourism Marketing Strategies: ICT-Based Solutions for the OIC Member Countries" and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions sent to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group focal points by the COMCEC Coordination Office, was the main input for the discussions. During the Meeting, the participants agreed on the policy recommendations included in the Room Document. The policy recommendations highlighted during the Meeting are as follows:

1- Building and Strengthening a Skilled Workforce on ICT-Based Tourism Marketing in the Member Countries

<u>Rationale:</u> The diffusion and usage of ICT tools in tourism sector has resulted in increasing demand for high quality IT staff, new skills and managerial requirements as well as courses, certificate programs and on-the-job trainings for the use of the technology.

The Analytical Study highlighted that digital literacy is a critical component in the efficient implementation of ICT-based tourism marketing solutions. It was stressed that most of the OIC Member Countries have large skill gaps in the ICT-skilled workforce in tourism sector. Skill gaps are seen as the most consistent barrier for tourism businesses and destination marketing organizations to fully optimize their digital marketing strategies. For most of the OIC Member States, training curriculums do not include ICT-related issues specifically applied to the tourism sector. Therefore, it is essential to develop specific policies and programs in the Member Countries to build and strengthen ICT-based tourism marketing skills.

"Lack of skilled ICT-Based Tourism Marketing Workforce" is highlighted in the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questions as an important challenge faced by Member Countries in usage and diffusion of ICT-tools and services in tourism marketing.

2- Enhancing cooperation between the government and private sector on ICT usage and diffusion in tourism marketing

<u>Rationale:</u> ICT usage is essential for enhancing the competitiveness of the tourism SMEs in the Member Countries since it enables their access to global markets. The analytical study pointed out that public sector can create an enabling environment for ICT-based tourism marketing through regular and proactive collaboration with the Private Sector. In this respect, governments may implement some policies and provide some incentives to raise awareness of the private sector as well as stimulate their interest for the ICT usage in tourism marketing. In the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questions, "limited collaboration among stakeholders" is stressed as one of the challenges faced by the Member Countries.

3- Developing comprehensive and effective digital marketing strategies in the Member Countries

Rationale: A comprehensive and effective marketing strategy, which integrates multiple online marketing channels and articulates marketing goals, responsibilities, and measures for success, is a foundation for efficient ICT-based tourism marketing. The Analytical Study pointed out that considering the speed of changing trends and availability of new online platforms, without a well-planned strategy, ICT-based tourism marketing can easily be unfocused, resource-intensive and ineffective. It was stressed that the Member Countries need comprehensive and effective digital marketing strategies to better implement the ICT- based solutions in their tourism marketing efforts.

In the responses to the policy questions, "Lack of digital marketing strategy" is also highlighted as one of the challenges faced by the Member Countries.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:

- **COMCEC Tourism Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the COMCEC Working Group may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.
- COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for project each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the

successful projects in this regard. The projects may include seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

- Capacity Building Activities: With the COMCEC Coordination Office's resources and Member Countries' own resources, some capacity building and technical assistance programs on the aforementioned policy areas can be organized in the Member Countries. These activities may include seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.
- *OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum:* In its next meetings, the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas from the private sector perspective.

4. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

4.1. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Agriculture Working Group held its 5th Meeting on March 5th, 2015, in Ankara with the theme of Improving Institutional Capacity: Strengthening Farmer Organizations in the OIC Member Countries" with the active participation of the member countries. The participants, during the Meeting, have considered the role of farmer organizations (FOs) in enabling farmers to realize economic benefits that they would not otherwise achieve alone, and the current strength of farmer organizations within the OIC as well as collaborative solutions to increase the effectiveness of FOs in the member countries. The mentioned issues were also highlighted in the analytical study prepared specifically for this meeting, sent to the Working Group focal points and participants before the meeting by the COMCEC Coordination Office.

After the discussions on the above-mentioned issues, the Working Group highlighted the policy advices as below.

Policy Advice 1. Research and extension services of the farmer organizations need to be improved for increasing agricultural productivity.

Rationale:

The delivery of research and extension services is vital for the farmer organizations especially in production phase. Success in agricultural productivity level highly depends on the decisions shaped by the information, knowledge and technologies provided to the farmer organizations. However, due to the lack of financial resources allocated to these services and insufficient infrastructure, the quality of research and extension services is not at desired level in the agriculture sector in many member countries. Therefore, the technical capacity of the farmer organizations in terms of research and extension services need to be improved for increasing agricultural productivity through sharing knowledge and technology in the member countries. The importance of improving the research and extension services of the FOs is also highlighted in the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questions as well as in the analytical study as one of the important policies that would strengthen FOs in the member countries.

Policy Advice 2. The capacity of farmer organizations to access to agricultural market information and dissemination of the market information to their members needs to be improved.

Rationale:

The capacity of farmer organizations' access to agricultural market information and

dissemination of it in a timely and effective manner has a great importance for farmers to enhance greater access to domestic and foreign markets, to enable production planning, and to improve communication and information access among all stakeholders. The low skills of farmer organizations' access to market information and disseminate it to their members result in high fluctuations in the commodity prices and instability of farmers' income year to year. The analytical study and the answers to policy questions also highlighted the need of greater access and effective dissemination of market information.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:

- *COMCEC Agriculture Working Group:* In its subsequent meetings, the COMCEC Working Group may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas and the sub-areas in a more detailed manner.
- COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for project each year. By this way, the member countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas and their subareas, the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects and collaborative efforts by taking account their priorities and its budgetary constraints. The projects may include seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.
- Capacity Building Activities: With the COMCEC Coordination Office's resources and member countries' own resources, some capacity building and technical assistance programs on the aforementioned policy areas and their sub-areas can be organized in the member countries. These activities may include seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

4.2. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 6TH MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Agriculture Working Group (AWG) has successfully held its 6th Meeting on October 8th, 2015 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "Promoting Agricultural Value Chains in the OIC Member Countries." During the Meeting, the participants made deliberations for policy approximation among the Member Countries regarding agricultural value chains. The Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the analytical study conducted specifically for the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group titled "Promoting Agricultural Value Chains in the OIC Member Countries" and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions sent to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group focal points by the COMCEC Coordination Office, was the main input for the discussions. During the Meeting, the participants agreed on the policy recommendations included in the Room Document. The policy recommendations highlighted during the Meeting are as follows:

Policy Advice I: Adopting/developing quality standards and implementing quality control, and identifying market opportunities for standard compliance of agricultural products.

Rationale:

One of the main challenges for the promotion of agricultural value chains in the OIC Member Countries is ensuring quality along supply chains. Informal characteristic of many value chains is one of the main reasons for the lack of quality standards and incentives for quality improvement. Ensuring quality in formal chains is also a significant challenge due to poor infrastructure, high transport costs and lack of capacity and knowledge on quality standards. In this respect, training and other capacity-building activities are required for supporting them to achieve compliance with emerging quality standards. Moreover, existing quality standards in the Member Countries should be harmonized with the international standards for enabling farmers to penetrate into the international agricultural markets.

Furthermore, producers generally face difficulties in producing products which comply with standards for food safety and quality. Similarly, difficulties occur in identifying favourable markets for their products. Nonetheless, there are also market opportunities for the producers depending on type of product and target market. For instance, halal products and organic products hold considerable market opportunities for the producers in the Member Countries.

Policy Advice II: Improving transport and storage facilities for promoting value chain development in the Member Countries through well-developed public-private partnerships.

Rationale:

The OIC Member Countries have relatively weak agricultural infrastructure, especially in terms of storage facilities and means of transport, which result in high costs and high post-harvest losses, and hinder smallholder farmers' access to market. Hence, developing agricultural infrastructure is particularly important for reducing post-harvest loses and high input costs as well as improving producers' market access. Nonetheless, this requires additional financial resources. Beside public investments, private sector involvement is also needed to have better agricultural infrastructure and logistics. In this respect, well-developed public-private partnerships and interested international organizations can be utilized for securing additional financial resources and sharing risks and benefits.

Policy Advice III: Supporting agro-processing and packaging industries to increase value added of agricultural products.

Rationale:

Agro-processing industries play a major role in adding value to the agricultural commodities. They upgrade agricultural products from raw materials to sophisticated and high-value commodities and contribute to income generation and to foreign exchange earnings. They also facilitate smallholder farmers' access to agricultural value chains. Nonetheless, in terms of actors, agricultural value chains in the Member Countries highly depend on the large number of smallholder farmers, small-scale processing units and small wholesalers and retailers. In addition, agricultural value chains in the Member Countries mainly depend on raw material such as wheat, rice, maize, fruit and vegetables or milk etc. There is a need to improve agro-processing industries in the Member Countries for adding value to the agricultural products and linking producers to the agricultural value chains. In this respect, public and private sector can be encouraged through sound policies and incentives with a view to increasing investments in agro-processing industries. Governments need to support small and medium enterprises through research and development (R&D) activities.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:

COMCEC Agriculture Working Group: In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the member countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination

Office. For the above- mentioned policy areas, the member countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

5. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group held its 5th Meeting on February 26th, 2015, in Ankara with the theme of "Activation Policies for the Poor in the OIC Member States" with the active participation of the member countries. The participants, during the Meeting, have discussed the activation policies and programmes with special focus on employer engagement in these programmes and the PES institutions. These issues were also highlighted in the analytical study prepared specifically for this meeting as well as in the answers of the member countries to the policy questions, sent to the Working Group focal points and participants before the meeting by the COMCEC Coordination Office.

After the discussions on the above-mentioned issues, the Working Group highlighted the policy advices as below.

Policy Advice I: Increasing the capacity of the institutions providing Public Employment Services (PES) in the Member Countries through enhancing the quality and quantity of the human resources and developing information technology (IT) infrastructure of the PES institutions as well as ensuring an effective partnership with the relevant stakeholders in delivering activation measures

Rationale:

Public Employment Services (PES) aim to provide job search support, refer training programmes to the beneficiaries, and encourage entrepreneurship. The capacity of the institutions responsible for the PES in the member states is not sufficient to provide these services. Some important areas for increasing the capacity of PES institutions are given below:

- The quality and quantity of the human resources of the PES institutions in the Member Countries need to be enhanced.
- In order to have an advanced monitoring system for tracking the situation of the beneficiaries in the labour market, information technology (IT) infrastructure of the PES institutions need to be developed in the Member Countries.
- An effective partnership with the relevant stakeholders in delivering activation measures in the Member Countries need to be ensured to expand the outreach of the PES.

Policy Advice II: Promoting employer engagement in the preparation/implementation of the activation programmes through establishing a sound mechanism for ensuring the active involvement of the relevant stakeholders, and conducting employer surveys to identify the skill-needs in the labour market

Rationale:

Providing young graduates with the skills needed by employers is a prerequisite to

ensure their employment in decent jobs. Designing activation programmes in light of the employers needs bear great importance in this respect. Therefore, active involvement of the employers in design of such programs can contribute to mitigating mismatch between young graduates' skills and the needs of the employers. Some important measures for promoting employer engagement are given below:

- A mechanism might be set up, such as establishment of a Skills Development Authority, for ensuring the active involvement of the relevant stakeholders, including employers, in the design and implementation of the activation programs.
- Employer surveys can be used to identify the skill-needs in the labour market.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:

COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group: In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the member countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas, the member countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

Capacity Building Activities: With the COMCEC Coordination Office's resources and Member Countries' own resources, some capacity building and technical assistance programs on the aforementioned policy areas can be organized in the member countries. These programs and activities may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, and other similar activities.

6. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP

6.1. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group (FCWG) successfully held its 4th Meeting on March 19th, 2015 in Ankara / Turkey with the theme of "Improving Banking Supervisory Mechanisms in the OIC Member Countries". During the Meeting, the participants discussed some crucial policy issues in light of the main findings of the research report prepared specifically for the Meeting and the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questions that were sent by the CCO in advance of the Meeting. Accordingly, the working group has come up with the policy advices below.

Policy Advice 1. A credit risk data collection strategy for the OIC Member Countries needs to be developed for reducing risks during episodes of economic turbulence and risk assessment capacity of the OIC Member Countries should also be developed in line with the international best practices.

Rationale:

For most OIC member states, credit risk appears to be the most important risk factor for the banking sector. Even though OIC member states reserved a significant amount of capital buffer against potential credit risk, they generally use standard risk weights which might understate the actual credit risks during episodes of economic turbulence. There is a need to develop a systematic credit rating methodology specifically designed for OIC Member Countries, since credit rating methodologies developed and implemented in Europe and in the US may not be well-suited given the peculiar aspects of the OIC economies.

Therefore, to achieve a unified credit rating methodology, a unified credit risk data collection strategy needs to be developed among OIC member states. Both consumer and commercial credit risk data (both good and bad customer data) can be collected with a unified data collection framework. Furthermore, Member Countries and Institutions need to improve their credit risk assessment capacity in line with the international best practices.

Policy Advice 2. An Effective Deposit Insurance Scheme for the Banking Sector needs to be developed for achieving a higher degree of financial stability and financial inclusion.

Rationale:

The recent crises in US and EU banking sectors have shown the importance of an effective deposit insurance scheme and paved the way for radical changes in deposit

insurance practices. Deposit insurance is critical to ensure depositors' confidence and enhance depositor base, which is a necessary step to achieve a higher degree of financial stability and financial inclusion. Most OIC member states do not provide an explicit deposit insurance for customers. Member countries need to take necessary steps to establish and implement an effective deposit insurance scheme. Deposit insurance will improvesoundness of banking system, as trust on the system by preventing bank-runs in the times of stress beside minimizing the amplification of shocks.

Policy Advice 3. A Regulatory and supervisory Framework needs to be developed specifically for Islamic Banking in order to benefit from the significant growth potential of Islamic Banking System.

Rationale:

Islamic banking plays an important role in the banking sector of the OIC member states and exhibits a significant growth potential. Currently, Islamic banking is regulated and supervised under the regulatory and supervisory frameworks designed for the conventional banking system as there is no separate regulation scheme for Islamic banking. As functioning of conventional and Islamic banking are significantly different, and considering the prominent growth prospects of Islamic banking, a regulatory and supervisory framework designed specifically for Islamic banking unfolds as a necessity. OIC member states should take the necessary actions to make regulation and supervision practices comply with the peculiarities in Islamic banking.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:

- *COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group:* In its subsequent meetings, the COMCEC Working Group may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas and the sub-areas in a more detailed manner.
- COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for project each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas and their sub-areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. The projects may include seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.
- Capacity Building Activities: With the COMCEC Coordination Office's resources and Member Countries' own resources, some capacity building

and technical assistance programs on the aforementioned policy areas and their sub-areas can be organized in the Member Countries. These activities may include seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

Meetings of the initiatives under the COMCEC: In its next meetings, the initiatives under the COMCEC may focus on the above mentioned policy areas.

6.2. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group (FCWG) successfully held its 5th Meeting on October 15th, 2015 in Ankara / Turkey with the theme of "Retail Payment Systems in the OIC Member Countries". During the Meeting, the participants discussed some crucial policy issues in light of the main findings of the research report prepared specifically for the Meeting and the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questions that were sent by the CCO in advance of the Meeting. Accordingly, the working group has come up with the policy advices below.

Policy Advice 1. Increasing awareness of the benefits of modern retail payment systems through providing education on basic financial controls and prudence as well as increasing transparency in order to protect consumer rights.

Rationale:

Low financial literacy and lack of awareness in many Member Countries are major challenges that diminish the potential benefits of financial inclusion. Financial literacy is the main element that creates knowledge and demand for payment instruments. Especially for the low-paid and others who are unbanked, certain retail payment systems such as mobile and pre-paid card systems provide significant benefits. These benefits include greater security and convenience than cash payments, easier control over personal accounts, and greater mobility options. Retail payment systems can also be coordinated with credit/loan schemes, providing capital access to those who cannot avail themselves of banking services. This can bring significant benefits to small businesses and help improve living standards by enhancing financial inclusion.

Any programme to promote awareness of the benefits of modern retail payment systems need to provide education about basic financial controls and prudence. They should also instruct on the use of instruments such as checking/savings accounts, automatic teller machines (ATM), etc. Moreover, public education should include basic numeracy skills, record-keeping techniques and awareness about risks associated with overspending and debt. Moreover, all these measures and instruments increase transparency in order to help consumer rights and ease of access for the efficient use of channels.

Policy Advice 2. Exploring ways to further decrease the cost of retail payments and seeking ways for interoperability

Rationale:

Expenses incurred by consumers discourage people from using some retail payment systems when they travel among OIC Member States. Better interoperability can reduce costs to operators as well as consumers and encourage wider use to promote financial inclusion and reduce payment risks. Good practices can be found in some Member States, such as Gambia's Gamswitch system that is country wide, web based

and coordinated with the West African region. This kind of good practices can be disseminated among the member countries.

Policy Advice 3. Establishing/ maintaining OIC payment systems data collection and reporting framework

Rationale:

An integrated database system should be established to provide transparency of credit data. Governments need to focus on the fragmented, stand-alone, or non-existent credit bureaus. Standards and practices in credit data management must be developed. Credit worthiness should also be examined and, at a national level, there must be payment data available to credit bureau services.

A common reporting system is useful both for the establishment of interoperability and to assist in future policy formation. A basic framework, such as that used in the analytical study prepared for this Meeting would be the starting point to a standardized monitoring system.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:

- COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group: In its subsequent meetings, the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.
- COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for project each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Financial Cooperation Working Group can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. The projects may include seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.
- *Meetings of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities:* In its next meetings, the OIC Central Banks may focus on the above mentioned policy areas.

ANNEX

10

Original: English

LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE THIRTY FIRST SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(İstanbul, 23-26 November 2015)

1.	COMCEC Annual Progress Report 2014	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(1)-CCO
2.	Making Cooperation Work: COMCEC Strategy for Building an Interdependent Islamic World	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(2) -CCO
3.	Report of the OIC General Secretariat on the Implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action (TYPOA)	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(3) -OIC
4.	OIC Economic Outlook 2014	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(4) -SESRIC
5.	Brief on Trade Cooperation	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(5) -CCO
6.	Member States that signed/ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(6) -CCO
7.	Proceedings of the 5 th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(7) -CCO
8.	Proceedings of the 6 th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Woking Group	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(8) -CCO
9.	Trade Woking Group Policy Recommendations of the 5 th Meeting of the Trade Working Group	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(9) -CCO
10.	Policy Recommendations of the 6 th Meeting of the Trade Working Group	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(10) -CCO
11.	Preliminary Study on New Generation of Free Trade Agreement and Their Impact on the Intra-OIC Trade	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(11) -ICDT
12.	Report on Trade Fairs and Exhibitions of OIC Member Countries	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(12) -ICDT
13.	Executive Summary Annual Rapport on INTRA-OIC Trade 2015	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(13)-ICDT
14.	Assesment Report of the Executive Programme of the Road-Map (2009-2014)	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(14)-ICDT
15	Report of the 7 th Meeting of the Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(15)-ICDT

16.	Report on the Issues Relating to the Activities of the World Trade Organisation(WTO)	
17.	IDB WTO-Related Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program	e OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(17)-IDB
18.	Progress Report on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(18)-ITFC
19.	Report of the Activities of the SMIIC	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(19) -SMIIC
20.	Report on the Activities of the ICCIA	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(20) -ICCIA
21.	Brief on Transport and Communications	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(21) -CCO
22.	Proceedings of the 5 th Meeting of the COMCEC Transportation and Communications Working Group	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(22)-CCO
23.	COMCEC Transportation and Communications Working Group	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(23) -CCO
24.	Policy Recommendations of the 5 th C COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group Meeting	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(24) -CCO
25.	Policy Recommendations of the 6 th COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group Meeting	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(25) -CCO
26.	Brief on Tourism	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(26)-CCO
27.	Proceedings of the 5 th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(27) -CCO
28.	Proceedings of the 6 th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(28)- CCO
29.	The Policy Personmendations Highlighted	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(29)- CCO
30.	The Policy Recommendations Highlighted by the 6 th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(30)- CCO
31.	TRANOTT OF THE 3 MARRING OF THE	DIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(31)- Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey

32.	Brief on Agriculture	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(32)-CCO
33.	Proceedings of the 5 th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(33)-CCO
34.	Proceedings of the 6 th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(34)- CCO
35.	Policy Recommendations of the 5 th COMCEC Agriculture Working Group Meeting	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(35)- CCO
36.	Policy Recommendations of the 6 th COMCEC Agriculture Working Group Meeting	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(36)- CCO
37.	Brief on Poverty Alleviation	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(37)-CCO
38.	Proceedings of the 5 th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(38)- CCO
39.	Proceedings of the 6 th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group	
40.	Policy Recommendations of the 5 th COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working	
41.	Group Meeting Policy Recommendations of the 6 th COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group Meeting	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(41) CCO
42.	Progress Report on the Activities of the ISFD	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(42)-ISFD
43.	Report on the Special Programme for the Development of Africa (SPDA)	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(43)-IDB
44.	Progress Report on OIC-VET	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(44)
45.	Brief on Financial Cooperation	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/(45)-CCO
46.	Proceedings of the 4 th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(46)-CCO
47.	Proceedings of the 5 th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(47)-CCO
48.	Group	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(48)-CCO

	COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group Meeting	
49.	Policy Recommendations of the 5 th COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group Meeting	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(49)-CCO
50.	OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum 9 th Meeting	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(50)-BORSA İSTANBUL
51.	Study on the Proposal on Establishing A Gold Exchange among the OIC Member Countries	İSTANBUL
52.	Report COMCEC 4 th Capital Market Regulators Forum	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(52)-SPK
53.	Proposal on Establishing A Real Estate Exchange among the OIC Member Countries	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(53)- SPK
54.	Joint Study on "The Critical Success Factors in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the OIC Member Countries"	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/D(54)-COMCEC- IDB
55.	Country Reports on "The Role of PPP for the Development of the Tourism Sector in the OIC Member States" - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Republic of Tunisia - Republic of the Turkey - Sultanate of Oman - Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus	OIC/COMCEC/31-15/CR

Reports are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org)



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