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REPORT

OF

THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

ON

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIC TEN YEAR PROGRAMME OF ACTION

SUBMITTED TO

THE 31ST MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC (COMCEC)

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I. INTRODUCTION:

1. The year 2014 witnessed renewed activities towards the implementation of the various resolutions bearing on intra-OIC socio-economic cooperation. In addition to the series of interventions by the relevant OIC institutions through on-going projects on trade, infrastructure and agro-industrial development, and microfinance, the convening of the First OIC Investment Forum for Central Asia, the launch of the OIC City of Tourism Award and proposed OIC multistakeholders' forum on Halal standardization, accreditation and certification have heralded new intra-OIC engagements in the area of trade, tourism sector development and regional integration.
2. Considering the fact that the requirements for the take-off of the trade facilitation mechanism represented by the TPS-OIC have now been completed, all OIC participants in this scheme are now in a better position to take advantage of this tariff reduction instrument in enhancing intra-OIC trade exchanges. Similarly, the on-going arrangements to consolidate the structures of the new specialized OIC institution for food security, namely Islamic Organisation for Food Security have been perfected, through the convening of the Consultative Meeting for both the 21 signatories and other OIC member states in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 13 January 2015.
3. This Report will therefore highlight the foregoing activities, which were undertaken in the light of the relevant OIC resolutions, the Ten-Year Programme of Action, and various OIC multilateral agreements. The Report also summarizes the activities of the relevant OIC institutions working in the domain of socio-economic cooperation within the framework of the renewed emphasis on inter-agency coordination, aimed at enhancing synergy and effectiveness of OIC programmes. It will also proffer necessary recommendations for consideration of OIC Member States with particular reference to those activities requiring national actions and high level decisions for their expeditious and effective implementation.

II. INTRA-OIC TRADE:

4. During the year under review, the Organization has continued to accord priority to implementing programmes and initiatives in the area of trade financing, export credit insurance, trade promotion through trade fairs and specialized exhibitions, development of strategic commodities as well as trade facilitation measures. Accordingly, the intra-OIC trade exchanges have continued to grow since the last report in April 2013. The total trade volume of OIC Member States has recorded a slight increase of 1.41% from US\$ 4.126.01 trillion in 2012 to US\$ 4.184.08 trillion in 2013. Similarly, the total value of intra-OIC trade in 2013 amounted to US\$ 778.75 billion, compared to US\$ 751.68 billion in 2012, thereby recording an increase of 3.60%. At the same time, the share of intra-OIC trade in the total trade of

Member States increased from 18.45 % in 2012 to 18.70% in 2013, which represents an increase of 1.33%.

Trade Promotion:

5. Accordingly, the OIC, through its relevant institutions organized the following trade fairs and specialized exhibitions, aimed at promoting trade exchanges and increasing access to goods and products from OIC member states:
 - *The 14th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States (TFOIC), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 28 October-1 November 2013:* The Fair witnessed the active participation of about 300 enterprises from 24 member states. The major exhibiting countries were: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal, Turkey, Tunisia, Uganda and United Arab Emirates. Patronised by more than 2000 visitors, the Fair showcased an array of manufactured and industrial products, featuring notably agriculture and agro-food, trading and home appliances, chemical products, real estate, banking, construction materials, textile products, perfumes and cosmetics and automobiles. Islamic Republic of Iran, State of Kuwait and Republic of Indonesia received awards for their high profile participation.
 - Furthermore, holding of the 15th Private Sector Meeting of the OIC Member States and the 7th Forum of Businesswomen of the OIC Countries, on the sidelines of the Fair provided a desirable opportunity for corporate organisations and businessmen to establish business dealings and partnership relations during the meeting.
 - *The 7th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 13-16 April 2014:* The Exhibition provided a platform for about 400 participating companies from 17 member states to promote their products and exchange information on latest development and innovations in food industry and packaging sectors.
 - *The 1st Exhibition on Furniture and Decoration in the OIC Member States, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 11-14 May 2014:* the Exhibition was attended by 200 companies, in the area of furniture industry and interior designers from 11 Member States.
 - *The 2nd OIC Health Expo, Dakar, Republic of Senegal, 26-29 June 2014:* the Fair was attended by 157 companies and 4,600 visitors, including 2,800 health sector professionals from OIC Member States and Muslim communities from non-OIC Member States, in search of business and partnership opportunities.
6. The planned exhibition and specialized trade fairs for 2015, include the 15th Trade Fairs of the OIC Member States, which was originally scheduled to hold in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 28 October-1st November 2015, will now be held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 8-12 November 2015. It was agreed that Guinea will consider hosting any subsequent edition of the Trade Fair. Similarly, the 2nd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States will take place in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates on 19-21 October 2015; the 1st Hajj and Umrah Expo of the OIC, Al Medina Al Munawara, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 16-20 November 2014; the 8th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia, 17-20 May 2015; and the 1st Organic and Local Products Exhibition of the OIC Member States, Tunis, Republic of Tunisia, 29 October-1 November 2015.

7. There is no doubt that the participation of OIC Member States in OIC Trade Fairs is relatively modest and efforts are now underway to increase patronage of these fairs. Consequently, the General Secretariat has sensitized all relevant OIC institutions working in the domain of trade and commercial cooperation to explore modalities for joint organization of the biennial OIC Trade Fair.

Network of OIC Trade Promotion Organs

8. In order to increase knowledge-sharing, synergy and collaboration among national trade promotion agencies of OIC member states, the inaugural meeting of the Network of OIC Trade Promotion Organs (TPOs) was held in Sharjah, State of the United Arab Emirates on 17-18 March 2014 under the auspices of ICDT and the collaboration of Sharjah Chamber of Commerce. The Meeting agreed to meet biennially to identify areas of joint collaboration and projects as well as mobilizing funds for their implementation. In this regard, the next meeting of OIC-TPOs will be held on the sidelines of 15th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States, scheduled to be held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 8-12 November 2015.

Trade Financing and Export Credit Insurances:

9. The steady increase in trade financing interventions by the relevant OIC organs has contributed greatly to stimulating productivity and appreciable growth among the beneficiary enterprises of the OIC member states. The major preoccupation is to put in place a robust modality for ensuring access of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to trade financing, particularly in the various sub-regions of the Organisation.
10. During the year under review, the Islamic Trade Financing Corporation (ITFC) has continued to expand its operations in developing intra-OIC trade, through implementation of various initiatives, such as Trade Cooperation and Promotion Programme (TCPP), Supporting Strategic Commodities, Access to SMEs and Least Developed Member Countries (LDMCs), as well as regional Trade Development Programmes such as Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States.
11. In supporting intra-OIC trade in strategic commodities, ITFC approved an aggregate of US\$ 333 million facilities for supplying agricultural inputs, staples food and export financing in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gambia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and Zimbabwe. In 2013, ITFC approved 19 operations for agricultural sector, amounting to US\$ 566 million, slightly higher than the previous year. In the first 8 months of 2014, ITFC agricultural sector operations had aggregate financing amount of US\$ 386 million. In addition to agricultural commodities, ITFC has continued to support member states for supply of other strategic commodities, such as polyethylene, polypropylene, oil etc.
12. Supporting SMEs is one of the key pillars of ITFC's strategy as part of the high-level OIC mandate. To this end, ITFC extends Line of Financing and 2-Step Murabaha Financing (2SMF) to local banks who in turn provides the funding to SMEs for specific trade finance

transactions. In 2013, ITFC provided US\$ 125 million under these mechanisms which increased to US\$ 385 million in the first 8 month of 2014.

13. The facility approvals by ITFC doubled from US\$ 2.5 billion in 2008 to US\$ 5.1 billion in 2014. Accordingly, over last 7 years the volume of ITFC trade financing approval reached US\$ 25 billion. The Corporation was able to attract new clients and new countries were penetrated as an alignment to diversification strategy of ITFC for reaching more customers and expanding its coverage.
14. Similarly, the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) has increased its trade expand transactions through encouraging investment flows among Member States. It fulfils this by providing Shariah compliant export credit and investment insurance services to exporters, financial institutions, and investors, to cover the risk of non-payment of export receivable resulting from commercial or non-commercial and political risks. It also provides re-insurance services to the export credit agencies of Member States.
15. The ICIEC business insurance operations increased by 9% in 2013 to reach US\$ 3.4 billion, while the new commitments slightly decreased by 3% from US\$ 2.3 billion in 2012 to US\$ 2.2 billion in 2013. These activities facilitated trade transactions and investment flows totaling US\$ 4.8 billion and US\$ 1.9 billion, respectively in 2013. Cumulatively, since inception, insurance approvals issued reached US\$ 20.2 billion and business insured totaled US\$ 17.9 billion with an overall claims ratio standing at 25 percent, which is significantly below the industry's ratio. The top-6 Member States that benefited most from ICIEC services since the inception of business were Saudi Arabia (25.7%), Bahrain (11.9%), UAE (11.0%), Egypt (8.6%), Pakistan (7.0%) and Turkey (4.7%).

Trade Facilitation:

16. Similarly, the General Secretariat renewed its invitation to Member States to give effect to the various multilateral trade instruments in force among the OIC Member States.
17. During the year under review, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Kuwait ratified the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin. On its part, the Kingdom of Morocco submitted its List of Products under the TPS-OIC on 18 July 2014. Accordingly, the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) on TPS-OIC can now convene to ensure the immediate operationalisation of this OIC trade facilitation mechanism. The status of signing and ratification of OIC economic agreements as of 30 February 2014 is annexed to this Report. In this regard, the COMCEC Coordination Office, in collaboration with Union of Chambers of Commerce of Turkey (TOBB) have organized a seminar for participating member states in the TPS-OIC in Ankara, Turkey on 26-27 January 2015 to examine new developments antecedent to the operationalization of this system.
18. It is, therefore, appropriate to renew invitation to Member States, which are yet to complete the signing, and ratification processes of OIC Economic Agreements to endeavour to do so at their earliest convenience. In the same vein, Member States who have signed and ratified the TPS-OIC may wish to forward their lists in line with the relevant provisions of CFM and COMCEC resolutions. This includes the submission of their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of products (schedules of concessions), sample of certificates and

specimen impression of stamps used in their customs and to complete internal legislative, and administrative measures.

19. Similarly, and in line with the objective of facilitating trade exchanges among OIC Member States, the OIC High Level Forum on Trade Facilitation and Single Window Initiatives for Enhanced Regional Economic Cooperation was held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco on 25-26 February 2013. The Forum agreed to set up a task force to study the possibility of, and follow up, the establishment of a Single Window initiative in OIC Member States. The Forum requested ICDT and ITFC to elaborate a roadmap, and Terms of Reference (ToR) for the implementation of this initiative. In this context, it is noticeable that the following Member States have established their national Single Windows, namely: Benin, Burkina Faso (in progress), Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, United Arab Emirates, Gambia, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali (in progress), Morocco, Mozambique, Uganda (in progress), Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Tunisia and Turkey.
20. In the same vein, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will organize a Workshop on the Single-Window Modality, during the year 2015. The Workshop aims at promoting intra-OIC trade and benefit from the experiences of Saudi Arabia in this critical sector.
21. In line with Resolutions of the 30th Session of COMCEC, the COMCEC Coordination Office in collaboration with the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) organized a seminar on Implementation of the Rules of Origin of Trade Preferential System of OIC (TPS-OIC) in Ankara, Republic of Turkey on 26-27 January 2015. The Seminar was attended by representatives of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan and Turkey. Representatives of OIC General Secretariat, Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have also attended the event. The meeting received presentations and discussed various aspects of implementation of the Rules of Origin of TPS-OIC including: products covered by preferential trading arrangements; TPS-OIC Certificate of Origin; conversion of Concession Lists; and the role of Private Sector.

OIC Halal Food Standards and Procedures:

22. The need to revisit the pending issues on the proposed OIC Halal Standards, Accreditation and Certification Procedures, the General Secretariat held an inter-agency coordination meeting at the OIC Headquarters on 8 December 2014, with representative of three OIC institutions, namely, International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), and Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA). In the light of the foregoing, the meeting recommended the convening of an OIC Stakeholders' Forum at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah during the year.
23. The Forum is expected to bring together various governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental experts, institutions and stockholders in the domain of Halal to address the following themes and objectives: Elaboration of a unified Halal Standard through harmonization of various Islamic Schools of Thought; Cooperation among the various national and regional stakeholders in the Halal Sector; Operationalisation of the current Accreditation Procedure, through an agreed structure; Modalities for registration of Accreditation bodies; Determining and Operationalising the Certificate Procedures of the

OIC; Role of Private Sector on the Development of Halal Industry; Expanding Intra-OIC trade on Halal Sector; and Promoting Research & Development and Best Practices in the Halal Sector.

III. COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF TRANSPORT

Implementation of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project:

24. In line with the on-going alliance with African Union (AU) on the implementation of infrastructure projects in Africa, the General Secretariat and IDB participated in the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure held in Dakar, Senegal on 14-15 June 2014. The Summit agreed to prioritize the financing of the 16 infrastructure projects. One of these approved projects is the modernization of Dakar-Bamako railway line, which is a key component of OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project and AU Dakar-Djibouti Transport Corridor. In the aftermath of the Summit, the General Secretariat is embarking on a working mechanism for regular consultations between OIC and AU/NEPAD on the above mentioned projects and other issues of common interest. This would enable the two Organisations exert more coordinated efforts towards joint mobilization of resources for the execution of these infrastructure projects.
25. In a related development, the General Secretariat and IDB also participated in the West African Investment Forum held in Dubai, UAE on 8-9 September 2014. One of the railway projects presented at the West African Investment Forum was a Rail loop in Dakar-Bamako-Sikasso-Bobo Dioulasso. This project, with a total length of 1793 km and estimated cost of US\$3.50 billion, represents a segment on the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway line and its feasibility study is already available. Consequently, the General Secretariat has initiated arrangements with IDB to promote the implementation of OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project, through mobilization of funds for the Dakar-Bamako-Sikasso-Bobo Dioulasso railway loop. The General Secretariat has also requested Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso to formally submit this cross-border project to the Islamic Development Bank to enable further necessary actions thereon.
26. In this regard, the General Secretariat will continue to sensitize the concerned OIC Member States on the need to include the respective national segments along the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor in their national development plans and submit their well designed feasibility studies for securing adequate technical support and financing from OIC Member States and its development partners.
27. Similarly, the Secretary General was represented at the launching of the Niger's component of the Trans-Sahara Highway, which is sponsored by the African Union and has included the execution of this project on the agenda of its working coordination with the Islamic Development Bank.

Activities of the Organization of the Islamic Ship-owners Association:

28. The 36th Executive Committee and 27th Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of the Islamic Ship-owners Association (OISA) were held in Dubai, United Arab of Emirates (UAE) on 12 November 2014. The outcome of the Meeting was the signing of Memoranda of Understanding with three Maritime and Ship Building Companies, such as Emirates Classification Society (TASNEEF); Arab Ship Building and Repair Yard (ASRY) and Arab Federation of Shipping (AFS). The MoUs envisaged the promotion of cooperation between these organisations and members of the OIC in the area of ships classification, technical consulting, training services, and maritime certificates as well as shipbuilding.

IV. AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

29. While commending OIC Member States, which have already signed the Statute of Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS), the 41st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) underscored the potential role of this newly created specialized OIC institutions on agriculture and food security in operationalizing the various decisions and policies of the OIC towards combating hunger and poverty in its Member States. In this regard, it urged other OIC Member States to conclude all necessary arrangements to accede to the Statute of IOFS at their earliest convenience. It also renewed its call on OIC Member States and their Private Sector Organisations to accord priority to agricultural investment, capacity building and technology transfer in needy OIC Member States.

Establishment of Islamic Organisation for Food Security in Kazakhstan:

30. As at 25 March 2015, twenty three OIC Member States had signed the Statute of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS). These Member States are: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Benin, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Iran, Kazakhstan, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Palestine, Sierra Leon, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Comoros and UAE. In November 2014, the Parliament of Kazakhstan ratified the Statute and set the stage for other OIC Member States, which have signed the same, to follow suit.
31. The Statute of IOFS provides that it shall be applied provisionally upon signing by at least ten OIC Member States and definitively enter into force when ten Member States submit their instrument of ratification. Accordingly and considering the fact that the required number of signatures has been secured for application of the Statute of IOFS provisionally, a Consultative Meeting on IOFS was held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 13 January 2015. The Meeting, which was attended by the both signatories and non-signatories of the IOFS Statute, reviewed the preparations for the Inaugural Session of the General Assembly Meeting of the IOFS, which will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan in - last quarter of 2015.
32. The Meeting congratulated both UAE and Kazakhstan on their recent signing and ratification of the Statute of IOFS respectively. Several delegates commended the actions so far taken by Kazakhstan as the host country of IOFS towards the consolidation of the structure of this new OIC specialized institution on food security. The Meeting underscored the importance of the Organisation in view of the relevance of food security to intra-OIC cooperation and emphasized the need for OIC Member States to speedily sign and ratify the Statute of IOFS. The Meeting further examined the documents presented to it on: Presentation on IOFS; Draft Plan of Action of IOFS; and Draft Internal Regulations (Draft Rules of Procedure, Draft

Financial Regulations, Draft Personnel Regulations, etc) requested OIC Member States to submit their comments and other inputs on them.

33. On the Draft Plan of Action, the Meeting agreed on the need to include projects on fisheries and livestock, trade and market access, reduction of post-harvest losses, enhancing food resilience, nutrition security, investment map of OIC Member States, etc. In view of the activities contained on the Draft Plan of Action, the Meeting suggested the extension of implementation period to 5 years.
34. In the same vein, the Meeting recommended building of synergy, knowledge sharing and partnership through harmonization of actions with relevant OIC institutions, collaboration with regional and international organisations, and synchronization with national strategies and initiatives.
35. The Meeting confirmed that the Statute of IOFS has entered into force provisionally by virtue of its signing by 21 OIC Member States and welcomed the on-going arrangements by the Government of Kazakhstan to convene the Inaugural General Assembly of IOFS in last quarter of 2015.
36. Based on the outcome of the said Consultative Meeting, the inaugural General Assembly is expected to approve a Plan of Action that will seek to implement quick-win programmes, aimed at fast-tracking exchanges and cooperation among IOFS Member States. Such programmes include, among others: creation of a comprehensive database and conducting research on all aspects of the food security; establishment of Agriculture SME Fund; and development of Regional Food Security Programmes (RFSP).

The 7th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development:

37. The Seventh OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCFSAD), which was scheduled to take place in Dakar, Senegal in 2013 will now be hosted by Kazakhstan. The Government has indicated its preparedness to host this Conference during the fourth quarter of 2015 along with the hosting of the General Assembly of IOFS. The 7th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development is expected to examine the practical modalities for the implementation of the various decisions of the previous Ministerial sessions and relationship between the Conference and the new specialised institution, IOFS.

The International Conference on Implementing Food Programme in Uzbekistan:

38. The International Conference on Uzbekistan's Food Security Potentials took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 5-6 June 2014. This event provided a good platform to apprise participants on the on-going activities of the OIC in the area of agriculture, rural development and food security. Furthermore, the OIC interactions at the Conference centered on the need: to increase public and private investment in agriculture and agro-food processing as well as to support smallholder farmers and community-based organisations; create an enabling environment for profitable agricultural ventures; develop an adequate infrastructure; and support the current approach of the OIC on building wider partnerships for the implementation of its various programme and projects in this domain, among others. The

participation of the General Secretariat in this event was within the framework of the OIC on-going efforts to increase interaction with OIC Member States, in line with the principle of granting support for national economic expositions as enshrined in the relevant OIC multilateral agreements and resolutions.

OIC Cotton Action Plan

39. The relevant OIC Resolutions on OIC Cotton Action Plan requested Member States to resubmit their respective cotton projects in a comprehensive bankable format, while calling on SESRIC and the IDB Group to encourage capacity building projects in cotton and cotton related sectors among cotton producing Member States.
40. Consequently, the 5th Project Committee Meeting on Cotton was held in IDB Headquarters, Jeddah, on 16 November 2014. The members of the Committee, including the OIC General Secretariat, IDB Group, SESRIC, ICCIA, five (5) Centers of Excellence (Egypt, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal and Turkey) attended the meeting. In addition to the members of the Committee, member countries and projects owners from Azerbaijan, Cameroon and Mozambique as well as COMCEC Coordination Committee participated at the meeting.
41. The 5th Project Committee Meeting agreed to combine some of the 19 projects, cleared by the Project Committee during its previous meetings but yet to be financed. Among the 19 projects, 14 are technical assistance/capacity building, while the remaining five are investment projects. In this regard, the meeting requested SESRIC to combine the 14 projects into one technical assistance/capacity building project and submit it to the IDB Group for financing. The IDB Group has already approved two (2) investment projects from Mozambique and Cameroon for financing. Most of the projects cleared by the Project Committee were not financed due to lack of official request from member countries. In this regard, the General Secretariat has renewed its communication with all project owners, requesting them to resubmit the proposed Cotton projects in a comprehensive bankable format through the normal official channel.
42. Within the framework of development of the Cotton sector, the IDB has provided US\$ 17 million to 17 OIC Member States, in the form technical assistance grants for capacity building and project preparation (feasibility studies) as well as project financing. Furthermore, ITFC has, during the period 2009-2013, provided US\$ 414 million to OIC Member States to support cotton value chain (production, marketing and trade).
43. On its part, SESRIC has organized, within the framework of its capacity building programmes, fifteen (15) training courses since adoption of the OIC Cotton Programme. In addition, SESRIC has submitted a new technical assistance project to the 5th OIC Project Committee Meeting on Cotton, comprising 13 sub-projects that aim at enhancing the capacity of member countries' institutions and experts in the various cotton sub-sectors. These include quality improvement and treatment of cotton diseases, pesticides, cotton growing and irrigation techniques, marketing and trade policies, cotton varieties and efficient cultivation technologies, study on competitiveness and improvement of cotton sector in Member States, etc.

V. EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY

OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection

44. The relevant OIC Resolutions on Labour, Employment and Social Protection called upon all members of the Steering Committee on Labour, Employment and Social Protection to actively participate in the 1st Steering Committee Meeting. It also urged the Member States to implement various short, medium and long-term programmes, particularly those related to Occupational Health and Safety, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Social Protection.
45. Accordingly, the First Steering Committee Meeting for the Implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection was held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 17-18 June 2014. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency, Mr. Salim Muslumov, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with the participation of delegates from eight member-states of the Committee (out of 9), representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC and IDB Group.
46. The First Steering Committee Meeting finalized the Executive Programme for the implementation of the OIC Framework on Labour, Employment and Social Protection, which defined areas of intra-OIC collaboration for the next two years. The General Secretariat has circulated the Report of the Meeting and the Executive Programme among the Member States on 8 July 2014, and requested the esteemed Member States to kindly submit their needs on the various projects indicated in the Executive Programme. Subsequently, the Republic of Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Togo, Republic of Niger and Burkina Faso have indicated their interest in the area of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) development, popularizing OSH standards, labour market data statistics collection, legal protection for employees and labor market legislations, among others.
47. Similarly, Malaysia organized training programmes on international occupational safety and health law and industrial hygiene for the representatives of a number of OIC Member States in recent years. Within this context, the Government of Malaysia has invited OIC Member States to participate in the Capacity Building Programme related to Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Development under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). The initiative of Malaysia will enhance the execution of the Executive Programme for the implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection.
48. On its part, SESRIC has organized, within the framework of its capacity building programmes, three courses on Occupational Hygiene in Suriname, Sudan and Brunei Darussalam in 2014. It has also organized the following training courses in different OIC member states: International OSH Regulations in Bangladesh; Occupational Security in Albania; Job Creation for Youth and Training Services in Azerbaijan.
49. In addition, SESRIC has also organized two (2) Workshops on Knowledge and Experience Sharing on ISMEK Master Trainers Programme, in collaboration with the Center for Art and Vocational Training Courses of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (ISMEK) in Istanbul, Turkey, on 27-28 October 2014 and 29-30 December 2014 respectively. The First Workshop was attended by managers and master trainers from Palestinian NGOs, which are active in the area of vocational training. The Second Workshop was attended by high representatives of the

universities and research centers of the Republic of Uganda. The aim of these workshops was to provide intensive training to high-level managers and master trainers from competent authorities and agencies within the context of knowledge and experience sharing of the ISMEK art and vocational training system via feasibility, organizational and management structure, and technical aspects of vocational institutions.

50. With regard to the proposed creation of an OIC Labour Center in Baku, Azerbaijan as a specialized institution and in line with the decision of the 2nd ICLM, the General Secretariat has circulated the Draft Statute of the Labour Center of the OIC and the Concept Paper on the establishment of the said Center. Consequently, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Republic of Turkey and the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Lebanon, the State of Kuwait and the State of Qatar have submitted their views and comments on the Draft Statute. The Kingdom of Bahrain agreed with the text of the Statute and the Republic of Turkey, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Lebanon and the State of Kuwait have made some amendments and comments on the Articles of the Draft Statute, particularly on the provisions of Aims and Objectives of the Center, Conventions and Agreements, authorities of the General Assembly and Executive Board, the Secretariat, among others. On its part, the State of Qatar indicated that it has no remarks on the Draft Statute, except that Member States shall not bear any additional expenses other than their contributions to the Organization.
51. The 3rd Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) will be held in the Republic of Indonesia in 2015. In this regard, OIC Member States are to be encouraged to actively participate at this Conference. It is expected that the 3rd ICLM would take note of the various comments on the Draft Statute of the Labour Center of the OIC and refer the entire draft instrument for the consideration of an intergovernmental experts' group meeting. The session would also deliberate on the various mechanisms to operationalize the Executive Programme of the OIC Labour Framework, among others.

VI. TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Fourth Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism

52. The Fourth Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism was held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, on 3 June 2014. The Meeting was chaired by the Minister of Tourism and Culture of the Republic of The Gambia and the Chairperson of the Eighth Session of the ICTM, with delegates from six (6) members of the Committee (out of nine (9)), representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC and ICDT attending. The Republic of Indonesia also participated at the meeting as an observer.
53. The highpoint of the meeting was the selection of the two winning awards for the OIC City of Tourism namely: Al-Quds Al-Sherif (2015) and Konya, Republic of Turkey (2016) respectively. The selection was held on the basis of the scores obtained against the identified selection criteria as approved by the 8th ICTM. Subsequently, the OIC General Secretariat and the concerned OIC institutions initiated the joint Programme of Activities, in commemoration of OIC City of Tourism-2015. In this regard, I commissioned the award during my visit to Al-Quds Al-Sherif on 4-5 January 2015 for the Exhibition of Historical Photos of the City of Al-Quds. The other activities on the Programme include organization of exhibitions, workshops and training sessions, selection and announcement of Awards on "Best Hotel", "Best

Restaurant”, “Best Travel Agency”, “Best Tourism Product” and “Best Print Media”. Accordingly, it would be appreciated if the esteemed Member States would react positively to the request for sponsorship of any befitting activities in their respective countries to commemorate this Award in 2015. It is worth mentioning that in this context, the Republic of Turkey has graciously offered to donate 74 publications to the libraries of Al-Quds Al-Sherif.

54. The 4th Coordination Committee has designated Republic of Indonesia as the coordinating country for Islamic tourism. In the same vein, the Republic of Turkey has graciously accepted to elaborate and coordinate tourism occupational skill standards for OIC Member States, based on sharing national experiences and best practices. In addition, the Committee commended Malaysia for accepting to coordinate tourism marketing and to prepare an appropriate report on tourism marketing strategy for member states.

Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa

55. The 12th Steering Committee Meeting of the “Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development on a Network of Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa” was held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 17-18 December 2014. The Meeting was attended by delegates from six (6) member of the Committee and representatives of the ICDT and IDB Group. The meeting urged participating Member States to submit their national projects in bankable format for further necessary action.

First OIC International Forum on Islamic Tourism

56. The First OIC International Forum on Islamic Tourism took place in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, on 2-3 June 2014. The Forum was attended by delegates from 27 OIC Member States, representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC and ICDT, as well as members of the Private Sector, research institutions and other Civil Society organizations.
57. The Forum made very important recommendations that can complement the on-going efforts at increasing Islamic financial and economic products, in such a manner as to stimulate economic activities in OIC Member States, while as the same increasing economic welfare through social and financial inclusion among OIC citizens.
58. Specifically, the Forum urged the OIC to promote awareness on the significance of Islamic tourism for economic purposes with the aim of fostering unity among the peoples of the Islamic Ummah. It also recommended the convening of an annual forum on Islamic tourism, including developing its branding and positioning in the global tourism market. Furthermore, the Forum recommended the promotion of Sharia-based tourism flows among OIC member states, by implementing national policies to enhance intra-OIC tourist flows, through, inter alia, visa facilitation, provision of conducive climate on investment, and capacity-building.
59. The meeting also identified actions in the domain of capacity-building, a detailed study and research on Islamic tourism and the behavior of the Muslim traveler, investment opportunities, development of cultural sites, information on history of arts and science in Islam, activation of tourism committee by SMIIC, encouraging business transactions in the field of Islamic tourism.

60. In this regard, The Republic of Indonesia has graciously agreed to act as a coordinator for Islamic tourism to further facilitate the development of Islamic Tourism among the Member States. The General Secretariat has taken note of the recent communication by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, indicating the latter's desire to actively participate in the programme. The General Secretariat is embarking on arrangements to invite interested OIC member states to host the second edition of the Forum during the current year with the anticipated participation of relevant stakeholders in the tourism industries of the OIC. The objectives of the Forum will include, among others, sensitization of national tourism associations in OIC member states to the need to develop Islamic tourism products, enhance capacity-building and infrastructure development, and encourage increased certification of Islamic tourism service providers.

2nd OIC Tourism Fair

61. The 2nd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States will be held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates on 19-21 October 2015, under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the State of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah. In this regard, OIC Member States are to be encouraged to actively participate at this Tourism Fair.

VII. COOPERATION IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of OIC Countries:

62. The Annual Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States was held in Surabaya, Indonesia on 5-6 November 2014. The Meeting adopted the Final Communiqué, the important points of which include, inter alia:
- recognizing the need for enhancing intra-OIC cooperation and collaboration to strengthen the Macro-prudential regulatory frameworks in OIC countries through allocation of resources for technical assistance in developing joint capacity building and experience sharing programmes;
 - emphasizing the need to develop dedicated instruments, infrastructure and policies in order to promote Islamic financial system, including internationally recognized standards in this area;
 - recognizing the need to optimize and revitalize the Islamic social finance, which has a huge potential to contribute to socio-economic development in OIC member states; among others.
63. While welcoming the offer of the Republic of Suriname to host the Annual Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States in 2015, the Meeting underscored the need for more intra-OIC cooperation among to discuss common policy issues and concerns relating to development of sound financial systems as well as promotion of Islamic financial products and Islamic social finance for socio-economic development in OIC member states.

64. In view of the foregoing, the OIC Member States are hereby implored to increase intra-OIC cooperation through programmes aimed at promoting free movement of capital and other financial resources in order to enhance trade and investment among the OIC Member States. They are also encouraged to participate actively in the Annual Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States in the Republic of Suriname in 2015.

Development of Microfinance Institutions:

65. The OIC has been pre-occupied with addressing the problem posed by inadequate investment and paucity of resources to support development efforts in its Member States, particularly among its poor and vulnerable segments. In this regard, the diversification of funding sources has become crucial, more so considering the ever increasing demand for financial resources.
66. Keeping in view the importance of microfinance for poverty alleviation and empowerment of poor and low-income people, the OIC and its relevant institutions have initiated several microfinance development programmes. These include IDB Microfinance Development Programme (IDB-MDP); and a US\$ 500 million Microfinance Support Programme (MFSP) of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), among others. Under IDB Microfinance Development Programme, a number of microfinance related projects are being implemented in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sudan, Senegal, Tunisia, Egypt, Pakistan and Tajikistan. In a similar way, up to date, ISFD within the framework of MFSP has approved US\$111.47 million for financing a number of projects in the various OIC countries.
67. In order to overcome the impediments to the expansion of microfinance services and to promote sustainable development of microfinance in OIC Member States, the General Secretariat is closely coordinating this issue with Islamic Development Bank. To this end and as a follow-up to the Leadership Meeting between the OIC General Secretariat and IDB Group held in Jeddah on 17 April 2014, an appropriate meeting of all relevant stakeholders in OIC Member States is being planned in the near future. The aim of the proposed meeting is to examine the inherent opportunities and challenges to microfinance development in OIC Member States and to exchange experiences and best practices in this domain, in addition to the overarching objective of resource mobilization for this important programme.
68. Against this background, the OIC Member States are invited to consider the initiative of OIC General Secretariat and IDB to convene the meeting of all stakeholders working in the domain of microfinance in OIC Member States.

Development of Islamic Social Finance:

69. In recent years, Islamic social finances such as zakah and awqaf are assuming great significance within the OIC development agenda, as an effective tool for mobilizing funds to address the problem of financial exclusion faced by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in OIC Member States, within the framework of its poverty alleviation initiatives.
70. Within this context, the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), a research and training arm of the IDB Group, has embarked on documenting the development of Islamic social finance sector in OIC Member States as well as non-OIC countries and has accordingly produced its first report on Islamic Social Finance. This report presents the historical trends,

future challenges and prospects for the various segments of the Islamic social finance sector in South and Southeast Asia and it covers Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam. This is in addition to training activities, which IRTI and other OIC institutions are organizing with regard to development of the Islamic social finance sector.

71. In a similar vein, the Leadership Meeting between the OIC General Secretariat and IDB Group which was held in Jeddah on 17 April 2014, underscored the need for mainstreaming the various initiatives within OIC family in the area of Zakat and Awqaf, as well as the convening of an annual forum on Islamic social finance, in order to optimize capacity building and exchange of best practices. In this regard, IRTI will organize a roundtable discussion on the development of Islamic social finance sector in OIC Member States in Nigeria in July/August 2015.
72. In view of the foregoing, the OIC Member States are hereby invited to support the ongoing efforts of OIC institutions to popularize Islamic social finance in OIC countries, in order to improve financial inclusion of the poor and vulnerable segments of population in OIC Member States. Similarly, the OIC Member States are requested to encourage participation of their respective experts in a roundtable discussion on the development of Islamic social finance sector in OIC Member States scheduled for Nigeria in July/August 2015.

VIII. ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR

73. The General Secretariat has, during the year under review, intensified its collaboration with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) to ensure proper coordination between this Private Sector institution and other OIC institutions operating in the domain of trade and commercial cooperation. Accordingly, efforts are underway to ensure that the relevant resolution on the joint holding of trade fairs and investment forums is implemented in a timely fashion. In the same vein, the General Secretariat has been coordinating its action on the proposed convening of an OIC Stakeholders' Forum on Halal Standards Accreditation and Certification with the ICCIA and other OIC institutions, such as SMIIC and IIFA. Furthermore, the current demarche of ICCIA on the creation of an arbitration mechanism is being encouraged.

The Food Trade Exchange Meeting between Saudi Arabia and other Islamic Countries:

74. The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), in collaboration with the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce, organized The First Food Trade Exchange Meeting between Saudi Arabia and other Islamic Countries in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 5-6 November 2014. The meeting, which was attended by the representatives of Private Sector Organisations working in the domain of food trade in OIC Member States, discussed the ways and means of increasing trade between Saudi Arabia and other OIC Member States in such food commodities as grains, rice fruit and vegetables, medical plants, meat, poultry and fish.

20th Meeting of Board of Directors of ICCIA:

75. The 20th meeting of Board of Directors of ICCIA was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 26-27 November 2014. The meeting reviewed the current programmes and activities of ICCIA, with

particular reference to the findings of the Special Committees to study the adoption of a trade mark for Halal products and certificate, resource mobilization, and establishment of a commercial arbitration center. The meeting received the pledges by member chambers from Djibouti, Iraq and Jordan, among others, to double their annual subscription to the Chamber in order to shore up its finances.

76. The meeting welcomed the proposal of the Secretary General with regard to the need for all OIC institutions working in the domain of trade promotion, including ICCIA to jointly organize OIC trade fairs, exhibitions and specialized forums to ensure their wide coverage. In the same vein, the meeting also welcomed the idea of re-introduction of the annual OIC Business Forum organized on the sideline of CFM as was done in Kampala in 2008 and in Dushanbe in 2010.

IX. SPECIAL FUNDS AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROGRAMMES

Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD):

77. The 30th Session of COMCEC reiterated its request to the Member States, which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments so as to enable it to finance more projects in Member States.
78. Within this context, it is worthy of note that, as at 30 September 2014, the ISFD capital contribution has reached US\$2.68 billion, committed by 44 OIC Member States (US\$1.68 billion) and the IDB (US\$1 billion). This represents 26.8 % of the targeted capital of the Fund. Out of the total amount committed, US\$2.26 billion was redeemed (US\$700 million by the IDB and US\$1.56 billion by Member States).
79. In terms of programmes, the ISFD has, since its inception in 2007, approved 64 operations, the cumulative cost of which is estimated at US\$2.2 billion. Out of these 64 operations, two Micro Finance projects in Kyrgyzstan (US\$ 1.7 million) and one Community Driven Development Project in Indonesia (US\$ 7 million) have been completed, while the remaining projects are under implementation.
80. It is also worth mentioning that during its Five-Year Strategy, which was completed in 2012, the ISFD created such flagship programmes as Vocational Literacy Programme (VOLIP), Microfinance Support Programme (MFSP). The total cost of each programme is estimated at US\$500 million. So far, a number of projects have been approved under these two programmes with a total value of US\$247.52 million (US\$136.05 million for VOLIP, and US\$111.47 million for MFSP).
81. In addition, the ISFD has initiated a US\$ 120 Sustainable Villages Programme (SVP) in May 2011. So far, SVPs have been launched in Chad, Sudan and Mozambique, while arrangements are underway to launch two projects in Niger and Kyrgyzstan. The Renewable Energy for Poverty Reduction Programme with a total amount of US\$180 million, which was launched in Dakar in June 2014, represents another initiative of the ISFD, aimed at improving access to electricity in the various communities in OIC Member States.

82. Notwithstanding the above programmes, the ISFD is urgently in need of funds to expand its activities towards alleviating poverty and improving social services and infrastructures, including encouraging the Private Sector establishments in OIC Member States to engage with ISFD for the purpose of mobilizing resources to the Fund. Accordingly, the General Secretariat, in collaboration with relevant OIC institutions, intends to organize a multi-stakeholders' forum to explore ways of increasing fund mobilization for micro-finance programmes in OIC Member States, including the involvement of Private Sector and Civil Society establishments.
83. In addition to the foregoing, the OIC Member States are invited to pay-up their subscribed contributions to the Fund and announce additional pledges to meet the target of US\$10 billion set for the Fund by the OIC Leaders in 2005.

Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA):

84. Considering the fact that, the approval phase of SPDA was accomplished in November 2012 resulting in the approval of a total of 480 projects in 22 OIC African Member States, The Secretary General has intensified its consultations with concerned OIC Member States and relevant OIC institutions for the evaluation of the achievements made under SPDA and the elaboration of a successor programme to the SPDA.
85. It is worth mentioning that the level of funding commitments to the Programme by IDB Group reached US\$ 5 billion, which is 25% more than its initial commitment to SPDA. In addition, an amount of US\$7 billion was mobilized from other development agencies for projects under the SPDA. Most of the projects relate to the following sectorial activities: Agriculture (29%), Transport (19%), Energy (14%), Water and Sanitation (9%), Industry and Mining (7%), Education (7%), Finance (7%) and Health (4%).
86. With this impressive performance, the implementation of the SPDA has proved to be an effective tool in supporting the development aspirations of OIC African Member States. Accordingly, the successes achieved in the course of the implementation of the SPDA underscored the need to elaborate a successor programme for OIC African Member States (SPDA-2), so as to consolidate the successes recorded in the various domains. To this end, three Working Sessions of the Governors of IDB from African Countries on the implementation of SPDA were held on the sidelines of the 37th, 38th and 39th Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors of IDB in Sudan in April 2012, in Tajikistan in May 2013, and in Saudi Arabia in June 2014, respectively. These meetings concluded with unanimous support for the elaboration of a successor programme.
87. Consequently, the General Secretariat requested all OIC Member States to communicate their views on the implementation of SPDA as well as any relevant proposals for the impending successor programme of SPDA. On its part, the IDB has recruited a team of 2 consultants to undertake independent assessment of SPDA implementation and to prepare outlines for a successor programme. A team of consultants will undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the SPDA, including country review missions to the concerned

Member States as part of the exercise. It is expected that the consultants will submit the assessment report to the 40th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of IDB scheduled for Mozambique in June 2015.

88. While the implementation of the approved projects continues, it is noteworthy that at the end of the execution of all the projects under SPDA, the following outcomes, among others, would have been realized: In infrastructure: over 2,500 KM of roads would have been either constructed or upgraded in 13 Member States, in addition to two new airports in Senegal and Sudan. Similarly, more than 900MW of electricity would have been produced in six countries with increased access to over 40,000 households; while almost 700 KM of power lines would be laid. On human development, more than 325 new primary and secondary schools and over 1000 classrooms would be built and equipped. This will be in addition to the building of three technical colleges and 8 university faculties built or equipped; over 10 new hospitals and over 120 clinics, health centers and primary healthcare centers, resulting in an increase in bed-capacity of about 1200. On agriculture, over 800,000 hectares of land would be developed and cultivated, in addition to the execution of 8-10 strategic grain reserves to support food security programmes, including the building of about 5-6 soil and/or seed research laboratories.
89. In view of the foregoing, the OIC Member States are hereby invited to react positively to the request of the General Secretariat on the proposals for a successor programme as well as to indicate their possible contributions in support of this sub-regional development programme.

OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia:

90. In line with provisions of relevant resolutions of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) on OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia, the OIC General Secretariat organized the First Investment Forum on OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan on 27-28 October 2014. The Forum brought together 324 representatives of Public and Private Sectors from 19 Member States. Representatives of Thailand, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and USA also attended the Forum as observer. The Forum was also attended by various regional and international organizations as well as relevant OIC institutions.
91. The Forum adopted various projects identified in the domain of transport and infrastructure, trade and investment, export and agro-food sectors' development, and Small and Medium Enterprises and tourism. The Forum succeeded in identifying 23 priority projects in Central Asia, foremost of which are the following:
- a. Regional Power Transmission Project (CASA 1000);
 - b. Construction of 3 Dry-Cargo Terminals and Dredging of the water Area of Aktau Port in Kazakhstan;
 - c. Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Turkmenistan Railway Construction;
 - d. Construction of a Logistics Center "Tursunzade" in Tajikistan;
 - e. Free Economic Zones in Tajikistan (Sughd, Danghara, Pandj and Ishkoshim);
 - f. Creation of food industries with the use of modern technology;
 - g. Providing concessional financing for importation of commodities and goods from Islamic countries, including providing the importing institutions with low mark-up and relatively longer period of repayment

92. The active participation of multilateral development banks, development agencies, Public and Private Investors along with their counterparts from national institutions of OIC member states contributed to the success of the Forum. The Forum adopted to meet biennially in one of the OIC Member States in Central Asia.
93. In order to proceed expeditiously with the implementation of these projects, the General Secretariat has addressed member states and OIC institutions to identify relevant implementation modalities accordingly. To this end, IDB has indicated its intention to actively incorporate projects on transport, infrastructure, trade financing, investment promotion and export credit through the relevant arms of the IDB, including ITFC and ICIEC.
94. In this regard, the Forum recommended the convening of an Investment Forum for Central Asia every two years, on the sidelines of the relevant OIC trade fair or specialized forums. Accordingly, - efforts would be made with the relevant OIC institutions to harmonize the date of their respective fairs to coincide with this Investment Forum.

X. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO OIC MEMBER STATES AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN NON-OIC COUNTRIES

95. In line with the objectives of promoting partnership, mutual assistance and solidarity among OIC Member States, the OIC Member States and institutions continued to provide assistance to some OIC Member States and Muslim communities in non-OIC countries. These countries and communities include: Benin, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Comoros, Somalia and people of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, the following projects were submitted for the purpose of mobilizing funding from OIC Member States. The projects include:
- Equipping Technical and Vocational Training Institutions in 120 days (Government of Benin);
 - Establishment of a Micro-Finance Office in the three provinces (Government of Burkina Faso);
 - Construction of a Training Center (Government of Burkina Faso);
 - Improvement of Cattle Breeding (Government of Burkina Faso);
 - Development of Women Entrepreneurship in Comoros (Government of Comoros);
 - Design of a Fenton Oxidative Waste Water Treatment Plant (Government of Nigeria);
 - Construction and Equipment of a Vocational Training Facility for Somali Youth (Government of Somalia);
 - Joint OIC-UNOSSC project on Livelihoods Improvement and Economic Regeneration through South-South Cooperation in Somalia.

Malaysian Capacity Building Programme for OIC Countries (CBP4OICC)

96. The Government of Malaysia in March 2005 launched a Capacity Building Programme for OIC Countries (CBP4OICC). The three projects were identified for the implementation in Phase I of the CBP4OICC in Sierra Leone (Capacity Building in the Palm Oil Industry), Mauritania (Exploitation of Oil and Mineral Resources and Capacity Building in Administrative, Planning and Management Functions) and Bangladesh (Development of the

Fisheries Sector), respectively. The two projects in Mauritania and Sierra Leone have been successfully completed, while the third project in Bangladesh is presently being implemented. The success achieved during the phase I underscores the need for the launching the next phase of this flagship programme. To this end, the General Secretariat is currently holding consultations with the Government of Malaysia and IDB with regard to the next phase of the CBP4OICC.

97. In view of the foregoing, the OIC Member States are kindly requested to provide the General Secretariat with information about their respective assistance to OIC Member States and Muslim communities in non-OIC countries as well as consider the possibility of making resource or in-kind contributions for the implementation of the above mentioned projects.

XI. COOPERATION WITH OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

98. During the Year under review, the General Secretariat has continued to interface with international organisations for the sake of widening partnership for the implementation of OIC resolutions in the following manner:

UN-OIC Collaboration:

99. The biennial meeting between the organizations and agencies within the United Nations system and the various institutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 20-22 May 2014. The meeting provided an opportunity for review of the various bilateral projects between OIC and UN agencies and institutions. These include conflict situations in OIC countries; combating terrorism and countering radicalism and violent extremism; joint projects on Somalia, trade facilitation, agriculture and food security; cooperation within the framework of UN Alliance of Civilizations and Istanbul Process; combating Islamophobia, among others.
100. In the economic domain, the meeting examined the status of implementation of their joint projects on Somalia, trade facilitation, agriculture and food security, Aid-for-Trade initiatives, as well as joint organization of business/trade forums and exhibitions, mobilization of funds for joint projects, capacity building programme for trade and agriculture related activities.
101. At the end of its proceedings, the meeting adopted its Report and Updated Matrix of Activities, which under 41 objectives contains 154 activities and timelines for their implementation in the next biennium. The economic components include such activities as capacity-building for trade negotiations, Aid for Trade, organization of Business Forums and Private Sector meetings, capacity building programmes in agricultural sector, and partnership funding under Jeddah Declaration for food security, among others. It was agreed that the Director-General of Science and Technology in the OIC General Secretariat and the Senior Political Officer responsible for the OIC file in the Department of Political Affairs in the United Nations Secretariat act as focal points for OIC and UN respectively to coordinate activities relating to the UN-OIC cooperation and implementation of the Matrix.

102. In the domain of South-South Cooperation, the OIC is collaborating with UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) through participation in the Global Expo on South-South Cooperation as well as support for ICCIA capacity building project for business women in OIC Member States. Owing to the current proposal to expand partnership on post-recovery assistance to other OIC Member States, including Yemen, the General Secretariat and the UNOSSC are presently negotiating a bilateral framework for cooperation.

Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda

103. As the deadline of 2015 for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has reached, the OIC has submitted to UN-side its perspective on the ongoing global debate on the SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda. The OIC perspective articulated on the issues relating to development of the human productive capacity in Member States through its poverty alleviation, vocational training and micro-finance programmes. Specifically, the OIC perspective with regard to Post-2015 Development Agenda emanates from its on-going initiatives on poverty eradication, employment and decent work for all, financing development, sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition and popularising social finance and islamic financial products, among others.

Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure:

104. The OIC attended the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, which was held in Dakar, Senegal on 14-15 June 2014. The Dakar Financing Summit (DFS) was aimed at mobilizing various stakeholders to support efforts of the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to accelerate the implementation of priority regional infrastructure projects.

105. The Summit issued "The Dakar Agenda for Action (DAA)", which identifies infrastructure development as a key driver and a critical enabler for sustainable growth in Africa and how the continent's public and private sector will partner with other development players to ensure financing and investment for key regional infrastructures. To this end, the Summit agreed to prioritize the financing of the 16 infrastructure projects as pilot to accelerate the implementation of PIDA, while the African Development Bank was invited to finance the preparation of these projects.

106. Recommendations contained in the DAA cover the areas of project preparation; project segmentation; Diaspora Funds; increased private sector participation; enabling policy environment; and Sovereign Wealth Funds. Highlights of the recommendations include, among others:

- Countries should enact laws to facilitate the participation of private sector in projects;
- Government and public institutions must focus on financing the preparation phase of projects;
- Countries should promote the participation of local private sector in Africa's infrastructure development, notably through favorable local laws and provision of capacity building opportunities; and
- Harmonizing regional regulatory frameworks for infrastructure development in order to minimize disparities in rules and regulations, including on Public Private Partnerships.

107. Participation of the OIC at the DFS was within the framework of its on-going alliance with AU/NEPAD for the implementation of the OIC Dakar Port Sudan Railway. It is more so considering the fact that one of the 16 projects is modernization of Dakar-Bamako railway line, which is a key component of OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project and AU Dakar-Djibouti Transport Corridor. Accordingly, the OIC will further intensify its interaction with AU/NEPAD for the above purpose.

OIC-GCC:

108. The General Secretariat and the Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, have explored the modalities for creating joint programmes within the purview of OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection during the official visit to the OIC General Secretariat by the Director General of the Executive Bureau on 30 December 2014.

OIC-LAS:

109. Within the framework of extant MoU between the OIC and the League of Arab States (LAS), the Arab Tourism Organisation participated in the 8th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers held in Banjul, The Gambia, on 4-6 December 2013, and delivered a keynote address, containing the criteria for selection of the award of “Arab Tourism City”, which proved useful in the finalization of the OIC criteria and mechanism for the award of “OIC City of Tourism”.

XII. CONCLUSION:

110. The follow-up and implementation of the various programmes and activities in the relevant socio-economic domain have been greatly facilitated by the active contribution of the relevant OIC institutions. In this regard, the valuable contribution of IDB Group in successful staging of the First OIC Investment Forum for Central Asia and subsequent incorporation of identified projects in the operational scheme of IDB Group is highly commendable.

111. Equally commendable is the support respectively accorded by IRCICA, SESRIC, ICDT and ISESCO towards the launch of the first OIC City of Tourism Award 2015 as well as the year-long activities already lined-up to commemorate the award, which was given to Al Quds Al Sharif.

112. It is expected that in the aftermath of the Consultative Meeting held on 13 January 2015 in Jeddah, the imminent convening of the General Assembly of IOFS and 7th Session of Ministerial Conference of Food Security and Agricultural Development would provide short- and medium-term actions plans for the realization of quick-win joint projects in the area of food security, agriculture and rural development.

113. Similarly, the on-going efforts to closely synergize the programmes and activities of relevant OIC institutions in the domain of trade, standardization, tourism, labour and productivity, Islamic, social and micro finance, would bring about such tangible results in line with OIC

objectives of an integrated OIC economy as well as rapid growth and development of its member states.

114. In this regard, it is gladdening to acknowledge the various support and cooperation received from OIC Member States both in the form of early accession to the various OIC multilateral agreements, and commitments to the funding of relevant OIC projects. However, it is necessary to underscore the importance of increased ownership of, and early feedback on, various OIC projects and programmes by the esteemed member states.

**Department of Economic Affairs,
8 April 2015**