



COMCEC

REPORT

THIRTY SECOND SESSION

OF THE COMCEC



İstanbul, 21-24 November 2016

COMCEC Coordination Office

OIC/COMCEC/32-16/REP

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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

PART I

RESOLUTIONS OF THE OIC FORMING THE BASIS AND GUIDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMCEC

I.	Resolution adopted at the Third Islamic Summit Conference Establishing the Standing Committees of the OIC chaired by Heads of State	8
II.	Final Communiqué of the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference Entrusting the Chairmanship of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation to the President of the Republic of Turkey	10
III.	Final Communiqué of the Thirteenth Islamic Summit Conference “Unity and Solidarity for Justice and Peace” Republic of Turkey.....	11

PART II

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

I.	Agenda of the Thirty Second Session of the COMCEC	15
II.	Resolution of the Thirty Second Session of the COMCEC.....	17
III.	Report of the Thirty Second Session of the COMCEC.....	43

ANNEXES

1.	List of Participants of the 32 nd Session of the COMCEC.....	54
2.	Inaugural Address by H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, at the Opening Session.....	81
3.	Speech of H.E. Dr. Yousef A. Al-OTHAlMEEN, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), at the Opening Session	93

	<u>Page No.</u>
4. Address by H.E. Dr. Bandar M. H. HAJJAR, President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB Group), at the Opening Session	97
5. Report of the 29 th Sessional Committee Meeting.....	103
6. Closing Statement by H.E. Lütü ELVAN, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey.....	177
7. Policy Recommendations of the Ministerial Exchange of Views of 32 nd Session of the COMCEC.....	182
8. Policy Recommendations of the COMCEC Working Group Meetings.....	186
9. List of Basic Documents Considered and/or Presented at the Thirty Second Session of the COMCEC	222

PART ONE

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

I

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,

Proceeding 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.

II

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 Communiqué 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).

III

**FINAL COMMUNIQUE
OF THE THIRTEENTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE
“UNITY AND SOLIDARITY FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE”
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, İSTANBUL
(14-15 April 2016)**

OIC/13TH SUMMIT 2016/FC/FINAL

129. The Conference attached great importance to multi-modal connectivity to further advance economic cooperation among OIC Member States. In this regard, it noted the recent developments on execution of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project and encouraged OIC project owners and stakeholders to continue their efforts towards mobilizing technical and funding support for the successful implementation of this integrative project.

130. The Conference commended the role of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey in contributing to the realization of OIC objectives in the economic domain.

131. The Conference expressed its profound appreciation for the successful implementation of the COMCEC revised statute and strategy adopted at the 4th Extraordinary Summit. It called on Member States to enhance the implementation of the revised COMCEC statute and strategy, in close coordination and cooperation with the General Secretariat and in accordance with the OIC Charter, and requested Member States to continue to actively participate in the work of the COMCEC under the chairmanship of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey.

PART TWO

**AGENDA, RESOLUTION AND REPORT
OF THE THIRTY SECOND SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

I

AGENDA OF THE THIRTY SECOND SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(İstanbul, 21-24 November 2016)

Original: English



**AGENDA
OF THE 32nd SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(İstanbul, 21-24 November 2016)**

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. Alleviating Poverty
11. Deepening Financial Cooperation
12. Exchange of Views on “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”
13. Date of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Resolutions

II

RESOLUTION OF THE THIRTY SECOND SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(İstanbul, 21-24 November 2016)

Original: English

**RESOLUTION
OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(İstanbul, 21-24 November 2016)

The Thirty-Second Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 21-24 November 2016 in İstanbul, Turkey;

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 13th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, which commended the role of the COMCEC under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey in contributing to the realization of OIC objectives in the economic domain and expressed its profound appreciation for the successful implementation of the COMCEC revised statute and strategy adopted at the 4th Extraordinary Summit;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the 31st Session of the COMCEC;

Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the OIC-2025: Programme of Action adopted at the 13th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 April 2016 in İstanbul, Turkey 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; **commends** the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to its implementation and **requests** the Member States and OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

2- **Welcomes** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 31st Session of the COMCEC and **also welcomes** the research studies and sectoral outlooks conducted and prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for enriching the discussions in each COMCEC Working Group Meeting.

3- **Commends** the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their fields of competence and **welcomes** the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in February-March and September-November 2016.

4- **Invites** all the Member Countries to exert efforts, to the extent possible, to implement the policy recommendations and **urges** relevant OIC Institutions to support the Member States in this regard.

5- **Welcomes** the finalization of the fourteen projects funded under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2015 and the progress achieved in the implementation of the nine new projects under the third project call in 2016, and **also welcomes** the fourth project call, made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in September 2016.

6- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to regularly report the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Sessions, the Follow-up Committee Meetings and other relevant OIC fora.

7- **Encourages** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Working Groups to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the relevant Working Groups and benefit from the COMCEC Project Funding for realizing their cooperation projects.

8- **Noting with appreciation** that the number of Member Countries having registered to at least one working group has reached 50, **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.

9- **Welcomes** the holding of the Fourth Annual Coordination Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office on 1-2 June 2016 in Ankara, Turkey.

10- **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.

11- **Calls upon** the Member States concerned to respond to the “Evaluation Forms” circulated each year by the COMCEC Coordination Office with a view to following-up the implementation of the Policy Recommendations of the COMCEC Working Groups.

12- **Also calls upon** the working group focal points to be actively involved in knowledge production efforts of the COMCEC through, among others assisting in collection and verification of country specific data and providing feedbacks to research studies.

13- **Expresses** its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, and SMIIC for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

14- **Adopts** the recommendations of the 32nd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC held on 17-18 May 2016 in Ankara, Turkey.

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

15- **Welcomes** the adoption of OIC-2025: Programme of Action by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, which sets ambitious targets in various fields for the Member States of the OIC to achieve in the next ten years.

16- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 30th and 31st Sessions of COMCEC, **underlines** the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial

section of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action by the COMCEC and **requests** the OIC General Secretariat to regularly submit comprehensive progress reports on the implementation of the Programme to the COMCEC Sessions and to the Follow-up Meetings.

17- **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat, in consultation with the relevant OIC organs including COMCEC to propose an implementation plan to the Member Countries for their consideration.

18- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, **also requests** the Member States to sign and ratify the agreements in the economic domain for furthering economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.

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

19- **Takes note** of the 2016 edition of SESRIC's annual economic report titled "Transforming the Potentials into Impact". In line with the findings of the report:

- **Calls upon** the Member States to improve accessibility, relevance and quality of education and training programmes in order to equip younger generations with the right mix of skills and competencies in line with the requirements of the labour market and facilitate their participation in the economy by developing young entrepreneurship programmes.
- **Taking into consideration** the opportunities offered by great market potential of the OIC region, **invites** Member States to take effective steps to reduce barriers to intra-OIC trade and investment that hinder the movement of goods, services, people and capital among the Member States.
- Given their rich natural resources and renewable energy potentials, **calls upon** the Member States to diversify their energy sources with a view to improving overall energy security.

20- **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.

21- **Takes note with appreciation** of the sectoral outlook reports prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office and submitted to the relevant Working Group meetings.

Intra-OIC Trade (Agenda Item: 5)

22- Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the Seventh Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on February 25th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Strengthening the Compliance of OIC Member Countries to International Standards”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Developing/Strengthening a National Quality Infrastructure,
- Supporting the Member States’ Efforts for their Active Participation in the work of International Standardization Bodies,
- Strengthening SMIIC for the Adoption of Harmonized Standards for the Development of Quality Infrastructure in the OIC for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

23- Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the Eighth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on October 6th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving the Border Agency Cooperation among the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Promoting the adoption of international standards in customs and other relevant cross border trade and logistics matters as well as accession to the relevant international conventions for harmonizing and simplifying rules and procedures related to the cross border trade and logistics operations,
- Promoting mutual recognition arrangements/agreements for border controls and trusted traders,
- Enhancing information exchange among the border agencies of the Member Countries through enhancing connectivity of information and communication technology systems, providing regular knowledge exchange platforms and participating in relevant international networks,
- Improving the infrastructure of land border crossing points and transport connectivity through the joint efforts of the neighboring countries e.g. through establishing joint technical/working committees, which include relevant stakeholders to identify the factors which cause bottlenecks.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

24- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to attend the Ninth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be held on March 9th, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “*Single Window Systems in the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade*” and the Tenth Meeting to be organized on November 2nd, 2017 with the theme of “*Special Economic Zones in the OIC Member States: Learning from Experiences*” and also **calls upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Trade Working Group.

25- **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 2017 and also **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.

26- **Commends** the efforts of the Gambia in partnership with Turkey and Senegal for the successful implementation of the project titled “Capacity-building and Institutional Strengthening of the Gambia Standards Bureau for the Adoption and Implementation of OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards and related Conformity Assessment” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

27- **Also commends** efforts of Qatar in partnership with five other member countries for the successful implementation of the project titled “Trade Agreements and Economic Diversification in Qatar, Opportunities and Challenges for Entrepreneurs” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

28- **Recognizing** the COMCEC’s efforts in its Working Group Meetings in the issue of travel facilitation, **invites** the COMCEC Coordination Office to dwell on facilitation of the movement of business-people in the forthcoming Working Group Meetings.

29- **Takes note** of the joint report of IDB and ITC entitled “Halal goes Global”.

i) TPS-OIC

30- **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 and **expresses** its intention to work with the regional trading blocs for the completion of the necessary requirements for the implementation of the System.

31- **Welcomes** the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, and Islamic Republic of Iran.

32- **Takes note with appreciation** that the Kingdom of Morocco would convey its updated concession list to the TNC Secretariat in the forthcoming months.

33- **Appreciating** the commitment of Indonesia to join the TPS-OIC System, **welcomes** the offer of Indonesia to host “Training Seminar for the benefit of the Member States of the Asian Countries on the TPS-OIC” in Jakarta in 2017.

34- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 31st Session of the COMCEC, **invites** the GCC Secretariat, on behalf of its six member states, to convey their updated concession lists at their earliest convenience to the TNC Secretariat with a view to early utilizing market access opportunities to be brought by the TPS-OIC.

35- **Welcomes** the notification made by Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Morocco and Turkey to the TNC Secretariat on their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin, and **requests** the other participating Member States to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience.

36- **Commends** the ICDT and the IDB for organizing the 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 and its Protocols for the benefit of the African Countries”, organized on 28-30 March 2016 in Casablanca, Morocco;
- Training Seminar on “TPS-OIC and its Protocols for the benefit of the State of Palestine and Jordan” held in Amman, Jordan on 4-5 April 2016.

37- **Requests** the ICDT, COMCEC Coordination Office, IDB and other relevant OIC Institutions to continue organizing awareness raising and capacity building activities with regard to TPS-OIC.

ii) Islamic Trade Fairs

38- **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 State of the United Arab Emirates for hosting concomitantly the “2nd Tourism & Travel Exhibition” and the “4th OIC Halal Expo” in Sharjah on 8-10 December 2015,

- The Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the “3rd OIC Health Expo” in Casablanca on 24-26 March 2016,
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the “9th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” in Jeddah on 9-12 May 2016 and 15th OIC Trade Fair in Riyadh on 22-26 May 2016,
- The Republic of Senegal for hosting the 1st “African Halal Business Forum” in Dakar on 3-5 March 2016 and the “2nd Higher Education Expo” in Dakar on 9-12 May 2016.

39- **Welcomes** the offer of the following Member States to host Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT in 2017/2019 and **requests** the Member States to encourage active participation of their private sector and relevant institutions in these events:

- The Republic of Iraq to host the 16th OIC Trade Fair of the Islamic Countries in Baghdad on 2-7 April 2017,
- The Arab Republic of Egypt to host the “3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States” in Cairo on 18-21 October 2017,
- Republic of Senegal to host “1st OIC Green Economy Expo” on 26-29 October 2017 and “1st OIC Fisheries and Marine Expo”, in 2017 in Dakar,
- The Republic of Turkey to host the “5th OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 23-26 November 2017 in cooperation with SMIIC,
- Republic of Guinea to host the 17th OIC Trade Fair in 2019,
- The State of Kuwait to host a “Special OIC Trade Fair” in Kuwait-City 6-10 February 2018,
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the “10th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” in Jeddah on 10-13 April 2017,
- The Republic of Azerbaijan to host the “1st Exhibition of Sport Equipment and Leisure of the OIC Member States” in Baku on 13-15 May 2017 in collaboration with Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation,
- The Republic of Côte d’Ivoire to host the “2nd OIC Building and Real Estate Exhibition” in 2017 and “4th Health Expo” in 2018 in Abidjan.

40- **Endorses** amendments submitted by ICDT in the Internal Regulations of the OIC Islamic Trade Fair specifically by adding the following paragraph in the article no.2: any applicant for hosting the Islamic Trade Fair or a Specialized Exhibition shall meet the following conditions;

- The selected venue shall have a fairground with international standards,
- The co-organizing company shall have a robust experience in organizing international exhibitions,
- The company shall have a sound financial basis,
- The selected city shall be linked with regular flights,
- The applications for hosting Islamic Trade Fair and Specialized Exhibitions are examined by a “selecting committee chaired by ICDT”.

41- **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.

42- **Also reiterates** its request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

iii) WTO Related Technical Assistance

43- **Notes with satisfaction** the organization of “Ministerial Consultative Meeting of OIC Trade Ministers” held on December 14th, 2015 on the sidelines of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

44- **Expresses** its thanks and appreciation to the IDB Group and ICDT for organizing WTO- related training courses and seminars for the benefit of the Member States.

45- **Calls on** IDB, SESRIC and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and to carry on with 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 synergize and coordinate their efforts to strengthen 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.

46- **Calls upon** the WTO members of the OIC to assist non-WTO Members of the OIC in their accession process to WTO.

47- **Welcomes** the willingness of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to continue to share its WTO-accession experiences with the non-WTO Members of the OIC.

48- **Expresses** its appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting, ICDT and the IDB Group for organizing the Seminars on “Administration of Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and Prospects of the Regional Trade Integration in the OIC

Member States” in Casablanca on 21-23 December 2015 and “The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Prospects of Activating The OIC Single Window” for the benefit of the member states of the African Countries in Casablanca on 30 May-01 June 2016.

49- **Also expresses** its appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting ICDT and Agadir Technical Unit for organizing a workshop on “Trade in Services among the Regional Economic Groupings: What lessons for the QUAD Countries” in Cairo on 21-23 December 2015.

iv) Trade Financing Activities

50- **Appreciates** trade finance and trade promotion and development activities of ITFC and the mobilization of funds from the international market and development partners for funding the trade operations in the Member States, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 25 percent.

51- **Commends** the efforts of ITFC in financing SMEs and Least Developed Member Countries and **takes note** of its efforts to diversify its portfolio and extend more financing for agriculture sector that has direct and prominent impact on improving productivity, job creation, increasing export revenues and alleviating poverty.

52- **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.

53- **Takes note** of the trade promotion and capacity development initiatives being implemented by ITFC under its various flagship programs including Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS), Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program and Trade Knowledge Program.

54- **Also 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** the private sector organizations of the Member States to actively participate in the Forum.

55- **Welcomes** the official launch of the Special Program for Central Asia (SPCA), with its trade financing component, during the 41st Annual Meeting of the IDB Group Board of Governors and **takes note of** the preparatory efforts being undertaken by IDB Group (ITFC) for its effective implementation.

56- **Takes note** of the efforts of the ITFC in implementing integrated Trade Programmes for commodity development through blending its trade finance facilities with its trade related technical assistance interventions and **requests** ITFC to develop similar programs for other strategic commodities.

57- **Commends** ITFC's efforts for the diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments, supporting training programs on Islamic finance and promoting Islamic Finance solutions at international foras and **welcomes** the announcement of organizing a side event on Islamic Trade Finance during the next WTO Public Forum.

v) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

58- **Welcomes** the activities of Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in the area of standardization, metrology and accreditation and their impact on trade facilitation and capacity building projects for Member States.

59- **Invites** the Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Committees.

60- **Welcomes** the increasing visibility of the SMIIC and **expresses** its appreciation to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence.

61- **Takes note with appreciation** of the organization of SMIIC Halal Conference on 14-15 December 2015 in Malaysia jointly by the SMIIC General Secretariat and Department of Standards Malaysia.

62- **Invites** the Member States to participate in the World Halal Summit to be held on the sidelines of the 10th SMIIC General Assembly Meeting on 15-17 December 2016 in Istanbul.

63- **Takes note** of the following capacity building activities organized by SMIIC:

- Training programs on Scientific Metrology on 22-26 February 2016 in Turkey in coordination with SMIIC Metrology Committee Chair, SMIIC General Secretariat and SESRIC,
- SMIIC Information System Training on 19-21 April 2016 in Turkey.

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

64- **Taking note** of the report of the ICCIA submitted to the 32nd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up the Committee and the explanation given by the ICCIA during the Session regarding the relevant resolution of the 31st Session of the COMCEC and

recommendation of the 32nd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee, **encourages** the ICCIA to strive to continue to serve the emerging needs of the private sector in the member countries and report the progress to the 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee and 33rd Session of the COMCEC.

65- **Also encourages** their Chambers of Commerce to be actively involved in the ICCIA's activities.

66- **Welcomes** the holding of the 9th Businesswomen Forum for Islamic Countries, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with the 15th Islamic Trade Fair on 25 May 2016.

67- **Commends** the Republic of Turkey for the successful organization of the Second Workshop on “Enhancing Cooperation among the Trade Registry Agencies of the OIC Member States” on 16-17 November 2016, in Ankara.

68- **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 of the OIC Countries to be held in 2017,
- 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Countries to be held in Sudan / Egypt in 2017,
- Workshop on Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries to be held in Lahore, Pakistan on 29th November to 1st December 2016,
- Training Program on Entrepreneurship Development through IT for OIC Countries to be held in 2017,
- Trade Exchange Forum/Exhibition (Sector-wise) to be held in 2017.

69- **Takes note** of the strategy for increasing trade in services in the Member Countries prepared by the ICCIA in collaboration with IDB Group and ICDT.

70- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 43rd Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting of the OIC and the relevant recommendation of the 32nd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee, **takes note** of the briefing by ICCIA and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) on the setting up of the OIC Arbitration Center affiliated with ICCIA in Istanbul and **requests** them to submit a progress report on this issue to the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

Improving Transport and Communications (Agenda Item: 7)

71- Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the 7th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group held on March 24th, 2016 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey with the theme of “Enhancing Road Maintenance in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a National Road Maintenance Strategy Based on Evidence and Data,
- Ensuring the Allocation of Adequate and Sustainable Funding for Road Maintenance and Increasing Effective Utilization of Available Road Funds through a Sound Legal Framework and Institutional Structure,
- Making Use of Performance-Based Contracts in Road Maintenance,
- Establishing a Road Database Management System.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

72- Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the Eighth Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on October 27th, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "Improving Road Safety in the OIC Member States", **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Raising Awareness of Road Safety in the Member States,
- Adhering to the Major UN Road Safety Agreements and Conventions and Adapting the Safe Systems Approach to the National Road Safety Management System,
- Establishing a Reliable and Sustainable Road Safety and Crash Data System,
- Developing a National Road Safety Strategy and Assigning a National Lead Agency/Institution Responsible for Road Safety Management.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

73- Calls upon the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group, to actively participate in the Ninth Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group to be held on March 16th, 2017 with the theme of “Increasing Broadband Internet Penetration in OIC Member Countries”, as well as its Tenth Meeting to be held on October 19th, 2017 with the theme of “Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries” and **also calls**

upon the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group.

74- **Commends** the efforts of Turkey for the successful implementation in partnership with six member countries of the project titled “Measuring and Benchmarking of Passenger Movement Performance Index among the OIC countries” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

75- **Appreciates** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat to sensitize the OIC Member States concerned 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 Member states concerned to submit their well-designed feasibility studies to the IDB Group and other international development banks for securing adequate technical support and financing for this project.

76- **Commending** the efforts of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group for enhancing multimodal transport in the OIC Region including railway connections, **invites** the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to revisit railway connectivity, including the major problems faced, in its future meetings.

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

77- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 7th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on February 4th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Understanding the Demand and Supply Sides in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing basic guidelines for improving the basic MFT related services,
- Increasing awareness of MFT market among the travel industry stakeholders through standardizing terminology used in MFT, introducing market awareness and customer service training programmes and utilizing social media for promotion and marketing,
- Developing healthcare services and facilities for the MFT market through identifying the different strengths of the OIC Region, building specialization hubs, developing alternative/traditional treatments and wellness programs,
- Launching an alliance among the Muslim-friendly travel agents/ tour operators targeting MFT market.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

78- Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the 8th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on September 1st, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Muslim Friendly Tourism: Developing and Marketing MFT Products and Services in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a national Muslim Friendly Tourism strategy that links to the country’s overall tourism goals through focusing on building stakeholder awareness, establishing a dedicated MFT body/committee and developing a national MFT products/services and marketing development strategy,
- Conducting government-led MFT-focused destination marketing through developing an MFT branding and positioning for the benefit of local service providers and measuring the potential of a destination for MFT by funding/organizing short-term campaigns.
- Supporting SMEs through developing training and mentorship programmes,
- Developing bilateral tourism cooperation within the OIC through technical knowledge exchange and joint promotion efforts for MFT destinations.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

79- Calls upon the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the 9th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group to be held on February 16th, 2017 in Ankara with theme of “Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Regulations for Accommodation Establishments in the OIC Member Countries” and its 10th Meeting to be held on September 21st, 2017 with the theme of “Risk and Crisis Management and Recovery from Crisis in Tourism Sector in the OIC Member Countries” and **also calls upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

80- Commends the Gambia for the successful implementation in partnership with Senegal and Guinea Bissau of the project titled “Strengthening Community Resilience through Eco tourism” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

81- Welcomes the holding of the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) on 21-23 December 2015 in Niamey, Republic of Niger, and **commends** the selection of al-Madinah al-Munawwarah as the OIC City of Tourism, 2017, and Tabriz as the OIC City of Tourism, 2018 by the Conference.

82- **Also welcomes** the offer of People's Republic of Bangladesh to host the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in November 2017 and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

83- **Takes note** of the report of the Fourth Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held on 14-15 January 2016 in İstanbul with the theme of "Promoting Muslim-friendly Tourism Products and Services in the OIC Member Countries."

84- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 5th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum in the first quarter of 2017 and **requests** the Member States to encourage their private sector representatives in tourism sector to actively participate in this event.

85- **Welcomes** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 10th Tehran International Tourism Exhibition on 6-9 February, 2017 and **requests** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

86- **Welcomes** the organization of the Workshop on "the Future of Tourism Development in Konya" by SESRIC in cooperation with ICDT on 15-16 November 2016, in Konya, the Republic of Turkey.

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

87- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 7th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group on March 3rd, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of "Reducing On-Farm Food Losses in the OIC Member Countries", **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Identifying the knowledge and information gaps regarding the levels and specific causes of on-farm food losses for key crops and food products with a view to providing solutions for each OIC Member Country,
- Improving/developing agricultural extension, training and outreach activities for reducing on-farm food losses,
- Developing specific programs/projects to address on-farm losses in agricultural value chains in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

88- Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the 8th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group held on October 13th, 2016 with the theme of “Reducing Post-Harvest Losses in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Setting up national post-harvest losses reduction coordination committees with a view to identifying, prioritizing and sharing post-harvest losses data and practices across a range of strategic commodities and raising awareness on post-harvest losses,
- Mobilizing agricultural finance providers to allocate more financial resources with a view to addressing agricultural infrastructure investment needs in post-harvest losses,
- Improving and developing agricultural extension, training and outreach activities for reducing post-harvest losses.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

89- Calls upon the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in the 9th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group to be held on February 23rd, 2017 in Ankara with theme of “Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries” and its 10th Meeting to be held on September 28th, 2017 with the theme of “Improving Agricultural Market Performance: Creation and Development of Market Institutions” and **also calls upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group.

90- Commends the efforts of Chad, Indonesia, Suriname and Turkey for the successful implementation of the following projects respectively under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- “Project for supporting the Agricultural training centers in Chad”; Chad in partnership with Turkey and Burkina Faso,
- “The project on improving the income of small and medium scale farmers in OIC Member States through Integrated Farming System” by Indonesia in partnership with the Gambia, Egypt and Sudan,
- “The project on the gaps for greenhouse vegetable Crops; Principles for tropical climate areas” by Suriname in partnership with Guyana and Turkey,
- “The project on the establishment of database, network connection and web pages of smallholders/family farmer’s agricultural cooperatives between OIC member states” by Turkey in partnership with 19 member countries.

91- **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.

92- **Takes note with appreciation** of the organization of the 7th Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development and the Inaugural General Assembly of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) held on 26–28 April 2016 in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan.

Alleviating Poverty (Agenda Item:10)

93- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 7th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group on February 11th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “*Accessibility of Vulnerable Groups to Social Protection Programmes in the OIC Member Countries*”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Promoting formalization in the labor market through creating a regulatory environment for facilitating the transition of informal businesses to formal sector, and increasing the productivity of informally employed and long-term unemployed people via training and skill-development programs, credit and business development services,
- Promoting free and universal health care coverage for vulnerable groups,
- Developing specific social safety net programs to improve the access of vulnerable children to health and education services for preventing intergenerational transmission of poverty,
- Designing specific social safety net programs to offer a minimum regular income to people who cannot work (disabled, poor female-headed households, elderly without a pension) as well as developing social safety net programs (including activation programs) for people who can work.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

94- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 8th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group held on November 3rd, 2016 in Ankara, with the theme of “*Forced Migration in the OIC Member Countries: The Policy Framework Adopted by Host Countries*”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a sound policy framework at the national level coherent with legislations and mechanisms in the host countries and strengthening their

institutional and human capacity in order to manage diverse set of forced migration flows and address the needs of migrants,

- Facilitating access to safe and affordable housing with a view to decreasing housing shortages and the economic burden on both migrants and host communities and allowing them to actively participate in daily life in the host country,
- Increasing the forced migrants' access to labour market through providing work permits and developing programs for upgrading their skills with a view to enhancing self-sustainability,
- Facilitating forced migrants' access to health and education services through eliminating the practical barriers including linguistic disparities and service fees,
- Collecting reliable data on forced migrant population with a view to increasing the efficiency of policy making and monitoring as well as evaluation processes,
- Mobilising the international and OIC support and resources for alleviating poverty among the forced migrants.

95- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to actively participate in the Ninth Meeting of the Working Group to be held on April 6th, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “*Malnutrition in OIC Countries: A Trap for Poverty*”, as well as its 10th Meeting to be held on October 5th, 2017 with the theme of “*Education of Disadvantaged Children in OIC: the Key to Escape from Poverty*” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

96- **Commends** the efforts of Cameroon, Iran, Suriname and SESRIC for the successful implementation of the following projects respectively under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- “The project on building productivity capacities of agriculture small scale producers of the coffee and cocoa within some Central African and West African States through the improvement of phytosanitary practices” by Cameroon in partnership with Nigeria and Benin,
- “The project on the Role of Community-Based Rehabilitation in Poverty Reduction” by Iran in partnership with Malaysia and Indonesia,
- “Design and implementation of the Management Information System for SSNs within the Ministry” by Suriname in partnership with Turkey and Guyana,

- “Improving Statistical Capacities of OIC Member Countries in Poverty Statistics” by SESRIC in partnership with 25 Member Countries.

i) Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for the Development of Africa (SPDA)

97- **Reiterates** its requests to the Member Countries which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and those who have not yet pledged to the ISFD to do so in order to enable the Fund to undertake more developmental projects in the member countries. The Session **also requests** the Member Countries to consider making additional commitments on a voluntary basis.

98- **Calls on** the Member Countries to implement the IDB Board of Governors resolution in donating Waqf land for the ISFD to invest and enhance its income resources for poverty alleviation.

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

100- **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

101- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 30th and 31st Session of the COMCEC on OIC Cotton Programme, **welcomes** the IDB’s allocation of the necessary funding to the capacity building project of SESRIC for 2017.

102- **Welcomes** the successful finalization of the Programme with the SESRIC’s capacity building project and expresses its thanks and appreciation to all stakeholders, which contributed to the Programme.

103- **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 **urges** the Cotton Research Centers of Excellence to enhance their cooperation with SESRIC in implementing these training courses.

iii) OIC-VET Program

104- **Appreciates** the continuous efforts of SESRIC towards initiating and implementing various vocational 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.

105- **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 programmes of SESRIC under the OIC-VET Programme through, among others, activating the role of their National Focal Points (NFPs) in this important Programme.

iv) Implementation of the SDGs

106- **Recalling** the relevant recommendation of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee, **welcomes** the study titled “Contributions of the OIC Institutions in Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” conducted by the IDB and COMCEC Coordination Office in cooperation with SESRIC, ICDT, ICCIA, SMIIC and **calls upon** the Member States and relevant OIC Institutions to utilize the findings of this Study.

107- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to compile the activities, which are conducted on the implementation of the SDGs in the Member Countries and submit a report to the next COMCEC Session.

108- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 31st Session of the COMCEC on identifying the priority SDG areas for the Member States, **invites** the Member States to duly complete the “Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries” designed and circulated by the SESRIC and requests SESRIC to submit a report on the results of the survey to the 33rd Follow-up Committee Meeting and 33rd COMCEC Session.

109- **Entrusts** SESRIC to be the focal point, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat, at the OIC level for following up the SDGs indicator framework, currently being developed by the international statistical community and to report regularly the progress recorded in the finalization of the SDG indicator framework to the annual sessions of COMCEC.

Deepening Financial Cooperation (Agenda Item: 11)

110- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on 17-18 March, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member States”,

welcomes its policy recommendations, as reference guidelines for the interested Member Countries for developing Islamic Finance Strategies.

111- Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the Seventh Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on October 20th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “National and Global Islamic Financial Architecture: Problems and Possible Solutions for the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations, as reference guidelines for the interested Member Countries to develop Islamic Financial Architecture;

- Developing/ Supporting Legal Framework for Islamic Finance by Reviewing Islamic Financial Laws, Tax Regimes, Dispute Settlement Framework and Bankruptcy Law,
- Developing Necessary Regulatory and Supervisory Institutional Framework for the Islamic Financial Services Industries (IFSI) through Adopting Standards Developed by Islamic Financial Architecture Institutions and Improving the National Framework,
- Establishing a Sound Governance Framework by Introducing the Requirement of Shariah Governance at the Financial Institution Level in Islamic Financial Laws and in Regulations,
- Enhancing Consumer Protection and Financial Education through Ensuring Full Disclosure in Islamic Finance Contracts and Having Financial Education Programs to Increase Awareness and the Level of Understanding of Islamic Financial Transactions,
- Developing Liquidity Infrastructure for Islamic Financial Sector by Issuing Shariah Compliant Liquidity Instruments, Developing an Active Islamic Money Market and Ensuring Lender of the Last Resort to Offer Shariah Compliant Facilities.

(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex 8.)

112- Calls upon the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively participate in the Eighth Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group to be held on March 30th, 2017 with the theme of “Improving Public Debt Management in the OIC Member Countries”, as well as its Ninth Meeting to be held on October 26th, 2017 with the theme of “Diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.

113- **Commends** the efforts of the Gambia for the successful implementation in partnership with Nigeria and Sierra Leone of the project titled “Capacity Building on Islamic Financial Instruments” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

114- **Also commends** the efforts of Malaysia for the successful implementation in partnership with Azerbaijan, Turkey and the UAE of the project titled “Islamic Capital Market Capacity Building Programmes” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

i) OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum

115- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 30th and 31st Sessions of the COMCEC, **takes note of** the report of the 10th Meeting of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum hosted by Borsa Istanbul on October 27th, 2016 and **welcomes** the Forum’s proposal to establish a highly adaptable web-based gold trading and clearing platform with the ultimate aim of a gold exchange/platform among the volunteering Member Countries. The Session also **requests** the Forum/Forum’s Secretariat to carry out necessary studies for the suggested platform/exchange.

116- **Also invites** the interested member states to actively participate in Forum’s Task Force to support the suggested platform/exchange through accelerating the process of integration of exchanges and harmonization of regulatory frameworks.

117- **Welcomes** the offer of the Borsa Istanbul as the Secretariat of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum, to host the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum in 2017 in İstanbul and requests all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

118- **Requests** the Member States and IDB to support the promotion of both the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index and sub-indices.

ii) Cooperation among Capital Markets’ Regulatory Bodies

119- Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 30th and 31st Sessions of the COMCEC, **takes note of the** Report of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum hosted by the Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey on October 27th, 2016 in İstanbul and **takes note of** the Forum’s proposal to establish COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform among the interested OIC Member States participating in the Forum. The Session **also requests** the Forum/ the Forum’s

Secretariat to conduct comprehensive studies to identify necessary stages towards establishing the suggested platform, with the support of the relevant national authorities and securities exchanges from volunteering Member States.

120- **Also invites the** interested member states to actively participate in studies to support the suggested platform by identifying their authorized bodies to expedite further technical work for establishing the platform.

121- **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.

122- **Welcomes** the offer of the Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum in 2017 in Istanbul and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

iii) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities

123- **Welcomes** the offer of the Central Bank of Turkey to host the 15th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States in the second half of 2017 and **urges** the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.

124- **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 “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” (Agenda Item: 12)

125- **Welcomes** the policy recommendations of the 6th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group on “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” organized on 17-18 March 2016 in Ankara, Turkey, as reference guidelines for the interested Member Countries to develop Islamic Finance Strategies.

Ref: Policy Recommendations Document (Annex 7.)

Theme of the next Exchange of Views Session

126- **Decides** on “Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries” as the theme for the Exchange of Views Session at the 33rd Session of the COMCEC and **requests** the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 33rd COMCEC Session.

Date of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC (Agenda Item: 13)

127- **Decides** that the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 10-11 May, 2017 in Ankara, Turkey and the 33rd Session of the COMCEC will be held on 20-23 November, 2017 in İstanbul, Turkey.

Any Other Business (Agenda Item: 14)

1) Renewal of the Bureau Members

128- **Elects** State of Qatar, Malaysia and Republic of Gabon as Vice Chairmen of the Bureau of the COMCEC to represent the Arab, Asian and African Regions, respectively, and Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Rapporteur, to assume their posts as of the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC; as a result of the election, the composition of the Follow-up Committee is as follows;

<u>Country</u>	<u>Status</u>
Republic of Turkey	: Chairman (Permanent)
State of Palestine	: Vice-Chairman (Permanent)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	: Vice-Chairman (Permanent)
State of Qatar	: Vice-Chairman (Representing the Arab Region)
Malaysia	: Vice-Chairman (Representing the Asian Region)
Republic of Gabon	: Vice-Chairman (Representing the African Region)
State of Kuwait	: Member of the Previous Bureau
Republic of Indonesia	: Member of the Previous Bureau
Republic of Niger	: Member of the Previous Bureau
Islamic Republic of Pakistan	: Rapporteur

III

REPORT OF THE THIRTY SECOND SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(İstanbul, 21-24 November 2016)

Original: English

**REPORT
OF THE THIRTY SECOND SESSION
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC
AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC
(İstanbul, 21-24 November 2016)**

1. The Thirty-Second Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 21-24 November 2016 in İstanbul.

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

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

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

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 the COMCEC Coordination Office 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- Organization of the Islamic Ship-owners Association (OISA)
- 8- Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC)
- 9- Federation of Contractors from Islamic Countries (FOCIC)
- 10- Islamic University of Technology (IUT)
- 11- Association of National Development Finance Institutions in Member Countries of the Islamic Development Bank (ADFIMI)

5. Representatives of the following international organizations attended the Ministerial Session and Special Sessions:

- 1- Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)
- 2- Developing Eight (D-8)
- 3- Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
- 4- Economic Cooperation Organization Trade and Development Bank (ECOBANK)
- 5- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- 6- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

(A copy of the List of Participants of the Thirty-Second 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 21st and 22nd November 2016 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Salih Mutlu ŞEN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC. 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-Second Session of the COMCEC was held on November 23rd, 2016 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, congratulated the new Secretary-General of the OIC H.E Yusuf bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen and the new President of the Islamic Development Bank H.E. Bandar Al Hajjar and wish them success in their endeavors.

9. H.E ERDOĞAN highlighted that the world has been struggling with political, social and economic turmoils for decades, particularly across the region where OIC countries are located. H.E. ERDOĞAN pointed out that Islamic countries have been the centers of disastrous events. On the other hand, H.E.ERDOĞAN mentioned that we, as the representatives of the Islamic world, have convened to reach more equitable prosperous and peaceful world is possible.

10. H.E. ERDOĞAN reiterated the emphasis made on the COMCEC Strategy during the 13th Islamic Summit and pointed out that the successful implementation of the strategy is carried out by virtue of the thriving operation of the Working Groups and the

COMCEC Project funding. Stressing the significance of the policy recommendations of the Working Groups, H.E. ERDOĞAN invited the Member States to effectively utilize the Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding.

11. H.E. ERDOĞAN referred to the gradual increase of intra-OIC trade and pointed out the potential of our member states in trade. H.E. ERDOĞAN underlined that intra-OIC trade volume can be increased to 25 percent. In order to realize this target, the Trade Preferential System, which serves as a very important COMCEC project, needs to be put into effect. Thus, he invited the member states to submit their updated concession lists to the COMCEC immediately for the operationalization of the system.

12. As he addressed the global financial challenges, H.E. ERDOĞAN pointed out that Islamic finance presents a substantial potential for the Muslim Countries. With regards to the financial instruments which can widen the scope of economic cooperation among OIC Member States, H.E. ERDOĞAN invited the Member States to support and facilitate the process of establishing a Gold Exchange, which will offer an enormous cooperation and benefit avenue for the Islamic World. H.E. ERDOĞAN also reiterated his proposal made during the 13th Islamic Summit in Istanbul on the establishment of OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul. H.E. ERDOĞAN implored that the efforts and the works should be finalized to this end.

13. H.E. ERDOĞAN expressed that we should make sure that our countries are resilient to global crises. Within this context, Islamic finance with its real asset-based approach and importance attached to ethical principles, offers solutions as a remedy for such crises. In this respect, H.E. ERDOĞAN emphasized that 31st Ministerial Exchange of Views Session theme, “Development of Islamic Finance Strategies in OIC Member Countries” is quite meaningful.

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

14. Following the Inaugural Statement made by H.E. ERDOĞAN, representative of OIC General Secretariat made a statement at the Opening Session.

15. His Excellency Dr. Yousef Al-OTHAIMEEN the Secretary General of the OIC thanked the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the hospitality extended to the delegates and highlighted the adoption of the OIC-2025 Strategic Programme of Action by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, which endorsed several targets and goals in the area of socio-economic cooperation including the new intra-OIC trade target of 25% by 2025 among others. While emphasizing his commitment to the speedy implementation of OIC-2025 Programme of Action and the various initiatives and multilateral instruments already agreed upon at the

OIC meetings in the area of trade and investment promotion, he reiterated that the Trade Preferential System of the OIC (TPS-OIC) would need to remain at the center of our trade facilitation agenda. He therefore urged member states to commence the implementation of this tariff reduction mechanism to ensure access to OIC markets and the consequent increase in intra-OIC trade.

16. The Secretary General also enumerated on the various flagship programmes initiated during the year in the domain of trade and investment promotion, tourism and Halal food development, and the Special Programme for Central Asia and expressed his satisfaction at the progress realized in these projects.

(The text of the Statement of the Secretary General of the OIC is attached as Annex III.)

17. The Heads of Delegations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Niger and Indonesia 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 expressed their gratitude to H.E. ERDOĞAN for his wise guidance and leadership in enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States. Highlighting the challenges emerging from economic stagnation in the globe, they emphasized the importance of projects/programs initiated under the umbrella of COMCEC. They also underlined the role of COMCEC to further enhance solidarity and cooperation among the Member Countries.

18. 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.

19. H.E. Dr. Bandar M. H. HAJJAR, President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group also delivered a statement at the Opening Session. H.E. Dr. HAJJAR congratulated COMCEC for the selection of the theme of Exchange of Views session and underlined the role of the IDB in reviving, rehabilitating, modernizing the Islamic Finance and paving the ways for the contemporary Islamic Finance Transactions.

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

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

Ministerial Working Session

21. The Ministerial Working Session of the Thirty-Second Session of the COMCEC was held on November 23rd, 2016 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Lütfi ELVAN, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey.

22. The Session adopted the Agenda of the Thirty-Second Session of the COMCEC.

23. Following the adoption of the agenda, H.E. Ambassador Salih Mutlu ŞEN, as the Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), informed the Session on the outcomes of the Senior Officials Meeting as well as the recommendations of the 6th Meeting of COMCEC Financial Working Group on “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” considered by the SOM for submission to Ministerial Session.

24. Following the presentation of H.E. Ambassador Salih Mutlu ŞEN, the Exchange of Views Session of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC was held with the theme of “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”.

25. H.E. Dr. Bandar M. H. HAJJAR, President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, made a statement on the importance of Islamic finance for the development endeavors of the Member Countries. In this sense, H.E. HAJJAR mentioned the significance of developing Islamic finance strategies in the Member Countries. H.E. HAJJAR stated that enhancing the visibility of and financial literacy about Islamic finance is crucial for extending the usage of Islamic financial instruments. In this framework, H.E. HAJJAR pointed out that the IDB will enhance cooperation with the Member Countries and OIC institutions and other multilateral development Banks.

26. Afterwards, the Ministers and heads of delegations of Member Countries made presentations on their country experiences with regards to Islamic finance industry/sector in the Member Countries as well as the potential role of the COMCEC in this regard.

Side Events/Special Sessions

27. The 29th Meeting of the Sessional Committee was held on November 20th, 2016 as a sideline event with the participation of the relevant OIC Institutions.

(A copy of the report of the 29th Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex V.)

28. A special signing ceremony was held at the Closing Session of the Senior Officials Meeting. During this ceremony, OIC General Secretariat and TURKIC Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on “Strengthening the cooperation between OIC General Secretariat and TURKIC Council”.

29. The special session on the “Panel on COMCEC Project Funding” was made on November 22nd, 2016. During the panel, the owners of the successful projects funded under the third project call of the COMCEC Project Funding made presentations with respect to the implementation of their projects.

30. The special session on “Governors’ Perspective on Designing National Strategies to Develop Islamic Finance” was held on November 24th, 2016. The session was moderated by Dr. Hamed Hassan MERAH, Secretary General of Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI). The speakers of this special session were as follows: Mr. M.Alper BATUR, Acting Deputy Director General of Financing Sector Relations and Exchange; Mr. Saeed AHMAD, Deputy Governor of State Bank of Pakistan; and Mr. Yousuf Mohamed AL-JAIDA, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Board Member of Qatar Financial Center.

31. The special session on “Private Sector Perspective on Designing National Strategies to Develop Islamic Finance” was held on November 24th, 2016. The session was moderated by Mr. Rafiuddin SHIKOH, CEO and Managing Director of Dinar Standard. Mr. Hani Salem SONBOL, Chief Executive Officer of International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), IDB Group; Mr. Haluk DORTLUOĞLU, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of BİM A.Ş.; Ms. Siti Rosina ATTAULLAH, Principal Consultant of Sphere Consulting Services and Former Head of Islamic Capital Market Unit of KFH Research; and Mr. Fawaz Al ISSA, Vice-Chairman and CEO Turkapital Holding were the speakers of this special session.

32. The special session on “Essentials of Islamic Finance” was held on November 24th, 2016. The session was moderated by Prof. Mehmet ASUTAY, Director of Durham Centre for Islamic Economics and Finance. The speakers of this special session were as follows: Dr. Mohamad HAMMOUR, Chairman and Managing Director of Guidance Financial Group; Prof. Habib AHMED, Sharjah Chair in Islamic Law and Finance at Durham University and Former Economist at Islamic Research and Training Institute; and Prof. Monzer KAHF, Professor of Islamic Economics and Banking at Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

33. The special session on “Utilizing Islamic Finance in Financing Infrastructure Projects” was held on November 24th, 2016. The session was moderated by Prof. Mohamed Azmi OMAR, Director General of IRTI-IDB Group. Mr. Khalid Sulaiman ALSAEED, Senior Financial Sector Specialist at International Monetary Fund (IMF); Mr. Aykut Zafer TAŞEL, Investments Planning Director at Turk Telekom Group; Mrs. Dato’Noorizah Hj ABD HAMID, CEO of Plus Malaysia Berhad; and Dr. Vahdettin ERTAŞ, Chairman of Capital Markets Board of Turkey were the speakers of this special session.

34. As a sideline event of the 32nd Session of COMCEC, COMCEC Project Funding Exhibition (November 21st – 24th) took place on 21-24 November 2016.

Closing Session:

35. The Closing Session of the Thirty-Second Session of the COMCEC was held on November 24th, 2016 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Lütü ELVAN, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey.

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

37. The Session adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/32-16/RES.

38. Two special signing ceremonies were held at the Closing Session. Firstly, Kuwait International Fair Company and Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on organization the special OIC trade fair on 6-10 February, 2018 in Kuwait City, Kuwait. Secondly, the Ministry of National Entrepreneurship, Handicraft and SMEs Promotion of the Republic of Côte D’Ivoire and ICDT signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for organization of the 3rd African Forum on Halal Business in 2017.

39. H.E. Ambassador Hameed OPELOYERU, Assistant Secretary General delivered the message of H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-OTHAIMEEN, Secretary General of the OIC. H.E. Ambassador Hameed OPELOYERU thanked H.E Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN for his wise leadership and support for the COMCEC activities. H.E. Ambassador OPELAYERU also mentioned that OIC Member Countries are benefiting from the COMCEC activities and wished for the continuation of such beneficial activities.

40. H.E. Dr. Abdusalam OMER, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion of Somalia, made a statement on behalf of all participating Member Countries. His Excellency the Minister expressed his gratitude towards the Republic of Turkey, OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, and all OIC and other institutions for their efforts in the successful finalization of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC. The heads of delegations of Cameroon and Gabon also expressed their thanks and appreciations to the peoples of the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality extended to all delegations.

41. H.E. Lütü ELVAN, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey, made a closing statement at the Session. H.E. ELVAN expressed that uncertainty and stress

within the financial markets cause the growth of the world trade to remain low. H.E highlighted that in such a stagnant environment, the member countries, should have more competitive economies in order to reach higher trade volumes; the member countries should also take necessary procedures to promote investment and value added production in the real economy rather than depend on the export of raw materials. To that end, our member countries, should diversify their trade partners and strengthen ties among each other. In this respect, H.E. underlined the importance of the operationalization of the TPS-OIC to boost our intra-OIC trade, should be operationalized urgently.

42. H.E. ELVAN also stressed that the current size of Islamic finance is around 2 trillion US Dollars, which represents nearly 1 percent of the global financial market; with its strong ethical principles and asset-based approach, Islamic finance instruments can play an important role in promoting asset -based banking and infrastructure investments. In that sense, the member countries should pave the way for the establishment of a strong Islamic finance industry upon well designed strategies and national legislations. The private sector should also be encouraged to be engaged in both producing and benefiting from Islamic finance instruments. H.E. ELVAN also underlined the successful implementation of the COMCEC Strategy through COMCEC Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding mechanisms.

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

(The text of the Closing Statement of Lütfi ELVAN is attached as Annex VI.)

44. All documents submitted to the 32nd Session of COMCEC will be available on the COMCEC web site (www.comcec.org).

A N N E X E S

ANNEX

1

Original: English

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
OF THE THIRTY SECOND SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(İstanbul, 21 - 24 November 2016)**

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- Amb. MOUHAMADOU DOUDOU LO
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MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADFIMI)

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- Mr. NİHAT AKBALIK
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- Mr. OKAN POLAT
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- Mr. FAZIL ALATA
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ANNEX

2

Original: Turkish

**THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY H.E. RECEP TAYYİP ERDOĞAN,
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE COMCEC AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

(İstanbul, 23 November 2016)

Distinguished ministers,
Distinguished Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Esteemed delegates,
August brothers and sisters, ladies and gentlemen,
May the Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Allah be Upon You.

I would like to wholeheartedly, affectionately and respectfully greet you all as we inaugurate the 32nd Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC).

In my capacity as the Chairman of the COMCEC, I would like to welcome all our guests in Istanbul, the blessed city where continents and civilizations meet. I am delighted to host you once again in Istanbul, the city of the Prophet Joshua, Abu Ayyub al-Ansari and Mehmed the Conqueror.

Today, we have gathered here to share the burden of a grave responsibility.

Today, we have gathered in Istanbul to give a modicum of hope to the millions of aggrieved people around the world no matter what their religion, sect or ethnicity is.

At a time when hearts become callous and eyes are blinded by the ambition to make profit and more money, we are here together to prove that it is possible to triumph all together by sharing.

As the representatives of the Islamic world, we have gathered to show that a fairer, more prosperous and peaceful world is possible.

Today, we are here to provide our children with a brighter future.

In compliance with the mandate "Advice is ever in want", we are here to discuss over our issues without drawing our soul apart from our actions.

I supplicate to Allah to make our session fruitful and pave the way for the solution of the problems suffered by the Ummah and the entire mankind.

I would like to thank in advance all our brothers, sisters and guests who will contribute to our session with their ideas, criticism and suggestions.

My brothers and sisters,

The world especially the region we live in has been struggling with political, social and economic depressions for a long time.

We have been going through times in which the fault lines of the global system are activated and experiencing breaking points, shocks and even major tremors that have turned Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen upside down.

We are all affected by this critical process one way or another.

In fact, almost all of the crises that occupy the world politics and take up its agenda break out in the Islamic Countries.

As Muslims, we shoulder the burden of the entire world so to speak.

The Palestinian children, the orphans of Arakan and the aggrieved people of Turkestan are forced to face the painful consequences of the issues that they have never been a part of.

The news covered across the Islamic world deeply wound each one of us who has the auspicious gem, human heart.

We become grieved once we watch the news of the incidents and atrocities that you cannot wrap our head around and our conscience would never approve.

Just a few days ago, the last hospital, which used to serve for the civilians in East Aleppo, was turned into a wreck by the Syrian regime and its proponents.

Within the past year alone, the Mediterranean waters have grown into a graveyard for 5 thousand aggrieved people while trying to flee hunger, poverty and misery.

10 thousand children, who were forced by the civil war in Syria and Iraq to migrate to Europe, are missing. It is unknown who has them.

Those who give us a lecture about human rights, democracy and freedom are incapable of protecting the children taking shelter in their countries.

They have not opened their doors to them and they still are not. On the contrary, they confine them to barbed wires. I know that each and every one of my brothers and sisters in this hall has faced many grave tests ranging from terrorism and conflicts to domestic political problems and economic challenges.

I know that our sources of hope sometimes run out given what we have seen, heard, read and witnessed. But please rest assured: Everything contains its opposite. The graver the test is, the bigger the reward is.

We have a gnomic maxim in Turkish.

Our ancestors say "A man is known by his rise to the occasion in times of need just like Al-Khidr".

This means that Allah the Almighty never puts in difficulty those in trouble and with faith in Allah. Allah undoubtedly helps them in the hardest times.

We have witnessed this divine blessing for the umpteenth time throughout our thousands-year old Islamic history and our own past.

It was the tiny stones of the swifts that destroyed the ferocious army of Abraha.

It was a thin spider web that protected Muhammad the Prophet, the Messenger of Allah, in Sevr Cave.

It was the faith of our nation rather than arms and ammunition that turned the Dardanelles into an impassable strait and made the Bosphorus unbearable for world's most powerful armies.

During the most challenging times of our 40 year-long political career, we have always felt Allah's grace, assistance and mercy by our side.

The most recent case in point is what we went through on July 15.

My brothers and sisters,

I am sure you have heard and known well about what we experienced and what a crisis we survived on July 15.

At that night, a handful of terrorists, who infiltrated into our Military Forces, pointed their guns, entrusted by their own people, to the nation itself upon the order given by their ringleader residing in Pennsylvania.

They tried to spread terror by means of military F16s, helicopters, tanks, artillery and all types of weapons to hijack our nation's will and topple a democratically-elected government.

The militants of the Gulenist terrorist organization martyred 248 Turkish people and injured 2193 on July 15.

On this occasion, I would like to supplicate to Allah to rest the souls of our martyrs and wish a swift recovery for those wounded.

The morning after the night that began in dark was bright thanks to the blessings of Allah.

Having faced the risk of losing its independence, dignity and future, our nation has moved towards a stronger, more democratic and a freer future by eliminating such a grave threat.

My brothers and sisters; Having been bombarded by F16s and helicopters and subjected to machine guns, our nation never did shy away from them. On the contrary, they marched to confront them. It is because there was the Shahada on my nation's mind while marching against them. While marching against them, they had Allah's pledge on their mind. They had the future and the faith in democracy on their mind while marching against them. Millions of Muslim people from all corners of the world ranging from Karachi and Cape Town to Mogadishu and Kuala Lumpur and from Indonesia to Europe kept us in their prayers and shed tears for us just like they did one hundred years for the Dardanelles Campaign and they filled up city squares.

We will never forget your gratitude and loyalty.

I am particularly pleased to see that your moral support for our fight against the FETO persists by growing into actions.

The member states of the OIC unanimously declared the FETO a terrorist organization during the meeting of the Council of the Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent.

Many countries such as Chad, Guinea, Pakistan, Gabon and Turkic republics have begun to take decisions that fit for our gratitude and solidarity.

I would like to take this occasion to underline a fact once again:

The Gulenist terrorist organization and its ringleader residing in Pennsylvania and fancying himself as the Mahdi are major threats not only to Turkey but also to all the countries they have somehow infiltrated.

Does this organization provide education for the children of the officials of the countries that it operates in? Overwhelmingly, yes. Does it provide education for the children of high-level officials? Yes, it does. Remember: All of these children will take office in the future for high-level positions for those countries. They will obtain a footing and they have even begun to do so. One of the fellow presidents told me so. He said: "He turned out to be my private secretary. I did not even know about it. I found it out after you had told me about it". So, what does this mean? The bomb is ticking in the most delicate

position with sanctity like in a harem. He knows all about what is going on there and follows any development. So, as a brother of yours, we have to tell you about this coup attempt. It is because they worked for us for 40 years and infiltrated into our Military Forces over these 40 years. They infiltrated our Law Enforcement and the Judicial Organization and then they finally took steps for this coup attempt. This organization is the modern-day neo-assassin. Do you know what you will see when you lift the veil on notions such as education, dialogue, charity, service? You will see hypocrisy, slander, thievery, perversion, grudge and bloodshed.

We can clearly see now that this organization was behind many recent incidents in Turkey ranging from politically-motivated murders and actions of terrorism to economic manipulations and corruption.

Just as we fight against DAESH, PKK, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab, we must resolutely fight against the FETO, as well.

Any delay in eliminating the FETO and any moment wasted in the process will put us in much bigger troubles.

I would like to note that Turkey is ready to provide any assistance via the Maarif Foundation in particular as well as Yunus Emre Foundation, TIKA (Turkish Coordination and Cooperation Agency), public institutions and non-governmental organizations.

My brothers and sisters; Brothers must feel empathy with one another.

Unfortunately, many Western institutions and organizations failed to show even one-tenth of the solidarity that you have showed with Turkey.

Having paid a big price on the night of July 15, our nation has since been subjected to merciless criticism and unfair accusations by the West.

They tried to punish rather than reward this nation that stood up for democracy.

This double-standard and hypocritical attitude still persist.

The number of perception management actions taken against Turkey is not declining but increasing.

There is a meeting to be held tomorrow by the European Parliament that will vote for Turkey's accession negotiations for the European Union.

I would like to indicate in advance and call out to the whole world watching us on television that the result of the voting is non-essential to us no matter what it may be.

The will of a nation that sacrificed itself for democracy and independence on July 15 cannot be measured by any weighing scale.

This country's fight for independence and future will never be interrupted by them raising their hands to vote.

On July 15, this nation proved for the whole world that it is "not a sham democracy " and that it would sacrifice itself if needed in order to stand up for its will, liberty and dignity.

Even though this voting is not binding in terms of politics, it is impossible for me to bear the message that they are trying to deliver. Even the attempt of the European Parliament to resort to such a voting procedure is a testament to the fact that it has taken terrorist organizations under its wing and taken sides with them.

The terrorists are already roaming free in many European countries. Most of the European countries are aiding and abetting terrorists. They declared the PKK as a terrorist organization and they are not sincere. On one hand, they declare the PKK as a terrorist organization. On the other hand, they roam free in the streets of Brussels and Paris with the banners of the terrorist organization and posters of their leader. The terrorists, who have fled Turkey, deliver speeches at their squares. How can this be a sincere approach? Turkey has proven for numerous times that it has adopted the values of the European Union better than many EU-member countries.

However, we have not received any concrete support beyond some nice words from our Western counterparts.

On the contrary, none of their commitments has come true and they have failed to keep their promises.

I know that you have gone through similar experiences.

However, I say this: Let us take a joint stand. Let us no longer be exploited countries. As my friends from African countries know it very well, the West has exploited Africa for years. My friends tell me about it whenever I visit them. They tell about how the West has extracted gold and oil and taken them away. Would you like them to continue to do so? Let us shape our future all together in Africa. The most recent resolution taken by the U.S. Congress on 9/11 terrorist attacks is obvious to you all...You know about the resolution, do not you? What decision did it take? It says that the twin towers were attacked by Saudi Arabia. So, they would like Saudi Arabia to pay the price. You are free to open a lawsuit against Saudi Arabia. They have now begun to open cases. How can this be something logical? Is it possible for a terrorist to be rooted in any country? It is. How dare you punish a government and a country just because a terrorist is from

there? How can this be possible? However, the U.S. Congress dared to take such a resolution.

Look, they are now taking a new step. Let me tell you about this: The United States, Kuveyt Turk and Kuwait Foundation would like now to

The number of biases, racist attacks and actions of marginalization against the Muslims is increasing each day.

Almost every day, a Muslim association, masjid or workplace is attacked and burned down.

As the Islamic countries, we need to raise our voice against and react to such double standards and attacks that hurt our people.

We can no longer tolerate the Western countries concealing their own impasse and depression by reflecting them on the Islamic world and the Muslims.

This is because those with such attitudes, rest assured, will be more courageous unless we react to them within the democratic means.

Unless we confront them with their injustice, then I am afraid their recklessness will further grow.

If we remain silent, the terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda and DAESH will continue to sound "evil" but harmless and the PKK, YPG, DHKP-C and FETO "okay" to the Western countries.

Unless we say something, they will continue to host "tyrants with blood on their hands" on red carpets saluting the Western countries and label those critical of them as "dictators".

We have to show that we will not let them trample our honor, cause and liberty.

Distinguished Ministers and Esteemed Delegates,

Political and social developments adversely affect economy, too.

Since 2012, we have seen a grave stagnation in global trade, the lifeblood of growth.

I am of the opinion that the 32nd Session of the COMCEC is extremely important in terms of discussing our economic issues.

As the organs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, we must act in concert and display our capacity to produce solutions in order to establish global peace and enhance the level of prosperity.

Last April, we organized the 13th Islamic Summit in Istanbul.

During the Summit, we held thorough consultations for the steps to be taken for the solution of the problems suffered by the Islamic world.

During our Presidency, we will exert any efforts necessary to put into practice the resolutions taken during the Summit and we will continue to monitor them.

We have kicked off the necessary endeavors to finalize the Bylaw of the Police Cooperation & Coordination Center that we previously decided to put into force in Istanbul.

I wish that the outcomes of the meeting held by our Ministers of Youth and Sports in Istanbul will be fruitful.

Attended by the Ministers of Woman Affairs, the Women's Forum is a first of its kind in the Organization's history.

I welcome the decision taken during the meeting to establish a Women's Council in line with our proposal.

During the Summit, we also shared the economic cooperation efforts exerted within the body of the COMCEC and the progress made for the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

Within this framework, I would like to thank all the member states for their support given for the strategy-related efforts.

At the Summit, we adopted and put into force the OIC 2025 Programme of Action, a crucial cooperation document to shed light on our efforts for the next 10 years.

I believe that the goals enshrined in the Program will be put into force and they will provide a major input for the cooperation among our member states.

In this respect, our member states and institutions have important roles to play.

The COMCEC will assume a crucial task in the implementation of the Programme of Action related to economy and trade.

To this end, the harmony and cooperation among our institutions are of capital importance.

On this occasion, I would like to congratulate the new Secretary-General of the OIC H.E Yusuf bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen and the new President of the Islamic Development Bank H.E. Bandar Al Hajjar and wish them success in their endeavors.

My esteemed brothers and sisters,

As you all know, the COMCEC Strategy, which was adopted in 2012, gave a new impetus to our economic and trade cooperation activities that have incessantly persisted since 1984 under this umbrella.

The Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding, two implementation mechanisms of the Strategy, have been successfully operating.

The Working Groups gather member state experts in cooperation areas enshrined in the Strategy and contribute to the exchange of information and experiences among our member states.

Putting into practice the policy recommendations of the Working Groups after deliberations is crucially important for the member states to benefit from such meetings to the utmost.

I would like to invite the member states to actively benefit from the Working Groups and the COMCEC Project Funding.

In the same vein, we need to boost the economic relations and trade volume among our member states.

In 2015, the trade volume, which hit USD 347.1 billion, exceeded the target of 20 percent.

As a part of the new Programme of Action, we aim at increasing the intra-OIC trade by 6 percent for the next 10 years.

I think this is a modest target.

Given the potential of our member states in trade, we can increase the intra-OIC trade volume to 30 percent thanks to the steps we will take.

At this stage, it is a must for the Trade Preferential System, the most important project of the COMCEC in trade, to be put into action.

I would like to invite the member states to submit their concession lists to the COMCEC for the operationalization of the system.

I would like to request the member states to continue to incrementally support the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries.

As you might recall, during my address for the 13th Islamic Summit, I proposed the establishment of an Arbitration Center in Istanbul in an effort to settle the disputes.

Within this framework, the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture have initiated a mission in accordance with the resolution taken during the 32nd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC held in May.

I hope this mission comes rapidly to a successful conclusion.

I find it extremely pertinent for the Working Group of Poverty Alleviation to tackle the refugee and forced migration issues in Islamic countries as a part of a recently-held meeting.

As the Islamic countries, we are obliged to make sure that our countries are resistant to global crises.

Within this context, Islamic finance with its real asset-based approach and importance attached to ethical principles, offers solutions as a remedy for such crises.

The volume of the Islamic finance industry grew by 15 percent in average per year from 2009 and 2015.

In 2015, the size of the Global Islamic Finance reached USD 2.1 trillion.

However, it is predicted that the potential of this system is around USD 7 trillion, far beyond its current size.

Given the importance of the issue, I find it extremely pertinent to designate the theme of this year's Ministerial Exchange of Views Session as "Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the Member States".

I also welcome the efforts exerted by the Stock Exchanges Forum and the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulatory Bodies Forum that operate in financial cooperation within the body of the COMCEC.

As I indicated during my previous speeches, we have been closely following the efforts exerted to establish the COMCEC Real Estates and the Gold Exchanges in particular.

Inshallah, these efforts will come to a conclusion soon and be put into the service of our member states.

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

I hope the 32nd Session of the COMCEC leads to fruitful conclusions for the member states and wholeheartedly greet all the participants.

May Allah help us.

ANNEX

3

Original: Arabic

**SPEECH OF H.E. DR. YOUSEF AL-OTHAIMEEN,
THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION
OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)**

(İstanbul, 23 November 2016)

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 alaekum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu.

It is, for me, a great honour and privilege to address the 32nd session of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC). Allow me to, first and foremost, congratulate Your Excellency, for the spontaneous display of solidarity and sacrifice by the people of Turkey in the face of the 15 July terrorist coup, which has been strongly condemned by most OIC member states. I wish to also congratulate Mr. President, the Government and people of Turkey on the successful organization of the 13th Islamic Summit in Istanbul on 14-15 April 2016, which adopted milestone decisions to usher in an OIC community that is politically stable, economically prosperous and socially harmonious. I should also express my appreciation to Your Excellency, Mr. President for the widely acknowledged and constant support you have given to the various activities of Organization of Islamic Cooperation over the years.

As this speech represents my maiden address before this august assembly, I wish to place on record my profound gratitude to Your Excellency for Turkey's support for my election as the new OIC Secretary General during the Extra-Ordinary Session of the Council of Foreign Minister held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah only last week, 17th November 2016. I look forward to contributing to the laudable achievements of the OIC through the instrumentality of COMCEC and under your able leadership as the Chairman of this very vibrant OIC standing Committee.

Your Excellency,

Distinguished Delegates,

This meeting is taking place after the adoption of the OIC-2025 Strategic Programme of Action by 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on

14-15 April 2016. In addition to endorsing several targets and goals in other cooperation areas, the OIC-2025 Programme of Action among other far-reaching targets undertakes, to attain 25% of intra-OIC trade by 2025. Other economic goals are in the domain of agriculture, rural development and food security, transportation, energy, industry, tourism, employment and the development of Small and Medium Enterprises.

Considering the emphasis placed by this OIC blueprint on synergy among the activities of the various Standing Committees of the OIC, including COMCEC, the General Secretariat attaches greater importance to the proceedings of this meeting. In line with the relevant OIC resolutions on the implementation of the COMCEC decisions, the General Secretariat, in coordination with all OIC institutions have striven to implement the salient aspects of COMCEC resolutions, among other programmes on the OIC socio-economic agenda.

Accordingly, the General Secretariat has continued to sustain all efforts aimed at the speedy implementation of the various initiatives and multilateral instruments already agreed by the OIC meetings in the area of trade and investment promotion. In this regard, the Trade Preferential System of the OIC (TPS-OIC) which has been strongly promoted by COMCEC, would need to remain at the center of our trade facilitation agenda. Consequently, member states are being urged to commence the implementation of this tariff reduction mechanism to ensure access to OIC markets and the consequent increase in intra-OIC trade, thereby fostering economic growth and development in our member states.

To this end, I am glad to point out on this occasion that a dedicated attempt was made during the year to scale up synergy among the various trade agencies in our member states. The respective convening of the two forums of trade and investment promotions agencies on the sidelines of the 15th Islamic Trade Fair in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 22-26 May 2016 has enriched the content and focus of our biennial trade fairs. The quality of recommendations made at these meetings, ranging from the creation of an OIC permanent arbitration center, and a regular consultation mechanism among OIC Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs), to building capacities of member states towards creating one-stop shop on investment issues, are very relevant to the agenda of this COMCEC session.

Equally significant is the outcome of the OIC Stakeholders Forum on Unification of Halal Food Standards and Procedures, which was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 9-10 December 2015, whereby the OIC/SMIIC standards were reviewed with the general agreement on modalities for ensuring that these standards are widely acceptable by all OIC member states. The agreement reached related to the need to accept the existing OIC/SMIIC standards as the basis for all certification and accreditation procedures and activities, while incorporating all national variations as an Annex to the standards document. This step will

pave the way for the realization of our objective of establishing a mutual recognition of Halal Certificates or better still having a unified OIC Halal certificate.

In the area of tourism development, I am glad to inform this august assembly that the commemoration of Al-Quds Al-Shareef and Konya in Turkey as OIC Cities of Tourism for 2015 and 2016, respectively as well as the selection of Madinah Al-Monnavvarah and Tabriz in Iran as the OIC Cities of Tourism for 2017 and 2018, respectively are among the flagship programmes aimed at promoting tourism exchanges among Member States. It is my sincere belief that the series of these commemorative activities, along with the implementation of our joint action on Islamic tourism, would boost intra-OIC cooperation in this crucial sector. I am glad to note that Islamic tourism and tourism and Halal food products have continued to push Islamic economy to the center stage globally, considering the size of Islamic economy which stands at US\$ 1.9 trillion in 2015.

Furthermore, another pre-occupation of the OIC in the economic domain is the elaboration of a comprehensive OIC plan for infrastructure development and integration. This initiative is aimed at developing a blueprint for cooperation in the domain of infrastructure development, such as trade, agriculture, energy and transportation. The integration component of the initiative will seek to consolidate the existing OIC resolutions on the elaboration of a successor programme for the Special Programme for Development of Africa, as well as the existing OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia. It is envisaged that dedicated infrastructure development programmes for the other two regions of the OIC, namely Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and East and South East Asia would be developed in the fullness of time.

Only recently our Foreign Ministers endorsed the IDB component of the OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia, known as Special Programme for Central Asia. This programme is capitalized at US\$ 6 billion focusing on such critical sectors as Trade, Agriculture and Transport.

Your Excellency
Distinguished delegates

Let me conclude this speech by reiterating my fervent desire to consolidate on this gains and achievements already realized through COMCEC and its various instruments and projects. I assure you that the General Secretariat shall work assiduously to implement the decisions and recommendations of COMCEC, in closer collaboration with Your Excellency and the COMCEC Coordination Office.

I wish this General Assembly a successful deliberation.

Assalam alaekun warahmatullahi wabaratuhi.

ANNEX

4

Original: Arabic

**ADDRESS BY DR. BANDAR BIN MOHAMMED HAMZA HAJJAR,
PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB GROUP),
AT THE OPENING SESSION
(İstanbul, 23 November 2016)**

In the Name of Allah the Most Compassionate and Most Merciful

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Universe; and may blessings and peace be upon Muhammad, the final prophet, and upon his household and companions.

Your Excellency, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, Chairman of the Islamic Summit, and Chairman of OIC's Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation,

Your Excellency, Lufi ELVAN, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey,

Your Excellency, Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, OIC Secretary General,

Honourable Ministers, Brothers and Sisters

As-salamo alaykom wa rahmat Allah wa barakatuh.

It gives me great honour to address this distinguished Committee. At the outset, allow me to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the President, government, and people of the Republic of Turkey for the excellent arrangements towards the success of this session, which comes as yet further manifestation of the continuous support to Islamic collaboration from you personally, Your Excellency the President, and from the government and people of the Republic of Turkey.

Your Excellency's remarks at the opening of this session perfectly included enlightened insight and assessment of the challenges faced by the Ummah, as well as suitable solutions to overcome them. We pray that Allah the Almighty may grant the Republic of Turkey all the stability and prosperity to which its people aspire. Along with Your Excellency's perfect words, came perfect acts as well, as noted in your recent visit to Pakistan. We are now contemplating how our member states may benefit from the Turkish-Pakistani experience as a model for inter-trade promotion and integration initiatives.

Our gratitude also goes to His Excellency Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen for his rich statement, intertwined with congratulations on the election of His Excellency as Secretary General of our formidable organization.

Your Excellency the President,

The COMCEC meeting this year is of special significance in three aspects:

- ✓ It is the first meeting that witnesses Turkey's combined chairmanship of both the Islamic Summit and the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation. We are optimistic about both privileges and about their imminent yields of further effectiveness in promoting economic cooperation and integration among member states. Great hopes are placed on Turkey's chairmanship of the Summit leading to leaps in that direction;
- ✓ Secondly, it is the first meeting after the Islamic Summit held in Istanbul, which was marked with its focus on crucial matters and meeting promises to deliver; and
- ✓ Thirdly, this year's COMCEC meeting is the first for me to attend after having had the honour of gaining the member states' confidence and election as president of IDBG. At this point, I would like to stress my personal commitment, and IDBG's commitment, to contribute effectively to implementing the initiatives and resolutions of the Istanbul Summit, and to work with COMCEC towards launching more initiatives within the scope of our common interest.

Here, I seek Your Excellency's permission to make an elaboration I find necessary.

Your member states have given me the honour of serving the Ummah from my position as IDB president, succeeding my senior and elder brother, His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali, at a time fraught with challenges. This is a time during which the global economy has endured a recession that caused most of our states the damages of declining prices of primary commodities and poor global trade. Their challenges were aggravated even further due to the eruption of wars that brought forth death, displacement, and destruction; climate change; and diseases, all of which jeopardise the developmental gains that were realised with immense efforts, and hinder progress towards materialising the visions that IDB had set for itself and for its position in developing the member states.

In view of the magnitude of the challenge, I started by listening carefully to a number of sophisticatedly experienced heads of states and ministers who kindly visited IDB in Jeddah. I also held meetings with officials from member states and from the financing community on the sidelines of international meetings, including the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington D.C., the Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers in Tashkent, and COP22 in Marrakech.

I can summarise the phase of contemplation, deliberation, and consultation in three messages that imperatively call for attention:

- a) **Message 1:** The member states expect initiatives from IDBG that would help them reinforce their resilience in facing the challenges of recession and fragility, protect themselves from the dire repercussions of such recession and fragility, and share successful experiences in this field and in the field of economic transformation within a mechanism of developmental fraternity. This is totally in line with the prominent trend sensed in the resolutions of the aforementioned Islamic Summit.
- b) **Message 2:** Each initiative is only as valuable as the Islamically rooted creative solutions it offers for the developmental issues of our time. Islamic solutions are IDB's hallmark and development instrument that combines three crucial dimensions: maximising sources of growth, mainstreaming its benefit, and the institutionalisation and sustainability of its contribution to the support of public goods.
- c) **Message 3:** The president of IDBG has no choice but to focus on unique initiatives that have a strong potential to reverse the global cycle of recession and the wave of wars. He must also capitalise on Your Excellency's chairmanship of the Islamic Summit to promptly lead projects that would address fundamental problems with solutions pioneered by IDB. In this message lies a wise inclination to build a common interest with Your Excellency, namely to focus on implementation, action, and delivery.

Your Excellency the President,

I would like to congratulate the COMCEC Office on their selection of the theme "Supporting Islamic Finance in Member States" for today's view-sharing meeting.

The Islamic Development Bank has explored the track followed by the early vanguards of Islamic financing then revived, rehabilitated, and modernised it, thus paving the way for contemporary transactions. With that, IDB assumed the pole position in the Islamic banking industry, setting the scene for its aspiring beneficiaries.

The history of IDBG portfolio of projects bears witness that Islamic financing, as pioneered by IDB, has tangible effects on the economic development of the member states. IDB continued to pioneer the production of new products, the establishment of innovative partnerships, and the setting of arrangements for resource mobilisation in a Sharia-compliant manner. The total net amount of financing approved by IDBG since its inception sums up to approximately USD 120 billion in member countries, out of

which 34 billion were directed to infrastructure development and a further 32 billion to trade financing.

The strong leadership that has been brought forth by IDB in the past is indispensable for Islamic finance to face the challenges of the future, as it seeks opportunities to realise its full and true potential and to build on the space for growth that has been made for it by virtue of the appeal of that industry. That is indeed true in view of the immense efforts required for addressing the challenges of unleashing such potential so as to create an enabling and fair legislative and organisational environment for progress, and also in view of the required development of markets for Sukuk and for financing SME's. This also necessitates international uniformity in the application of organisational and supervisory standards with moderation, without sacrificing the characteristic features of Islamic products.

Such are challenges that can only be overcome through massive collaboration within a framework of broad partnership. To that end, we have built platforms for close cooperation between a multitude of parties worldwide. IDB has provided those platforms with active participation and strong enthusiasm from Islamic banks, policymakers, scholars of Fiqh, regulatory bodies and international financial institutions. IDB has played a remarkable catalytic role in accelerating the pace of setting standards for Islamic financial institutions and in establishing the Islamic Financial Services Board.

In that context, we have reached an agreement for a wide-scale partnership with IMF. That very same issue was at the heart of the dialogue on the deep dive initiative with the World Bank. All parties have joined forces to unleash the potential of this industry, which is direly needed all over the world, to promote financial inclusiveness and stability, meet the needs of people deprived of access to financial services, and boost rates of growth.

Your Excellency the President,

Your chairmanship of the Islamic Summit and this committee is a major source of inspiration for the Islamic Development Bank. IDB also supports your determined inclination towards implementation, delivery, and action. So, here I stand, giving you my pledge to endeavour over the coming months, with the help of Allah, to materialise tangible initiatives in the scope of rapid response to the climate of challenges I noted as I started this statement. These initiatives are as follows:

- 1- Empowering the youth and integrating their visions in development to promote development and the building of civilisation;

- 2- Economic empowerment under crises by deepening and mainstreaming the creative Palestinian experience; and
- 3- Reinforcing resilience to crises and reviving the Red Crescent system with mechanisms to address the roots of crises.

I am honoured and proud of your valuable confidence, request your strong support for these initiatives, and hope to present you with its early fruits before your next annual meeting, Allah willing. IDB will always endeavour live up to your expectations. I ask Allah that He may always grant you protection and success.

As-salamo alaykom wa rahmat Allah wa barakatuh.

ANNEX

5

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 29th MEETING OF
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(İstanbul, 20 November 2016)**

1. The 29th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on November 20th, 2016 in Ankara, on the sidelines of the 32nd 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
- International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)-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 for discussion:

- 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 and COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations
- Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions
 - Developing Multi-Year Technical Capacity Building Programs
 - Enhancing Cooperation with other Regional and International Organizations
- Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the SDGs in OIC Member States
- Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025
- Any Other Business

Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy and COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations

4. Emphasizing the significance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the realization of the COMCEC Strategy and the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, the Committee reviewed the completed and planned activities for the relevant OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy for the periods of 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation. The Committee was also briefed by the relevant OIC Institutions on their planned activities.

(The list of activities organized and to be organized by the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy between 2016 and 2017 is attached as Annex 1.)

5. The Committee was informed by the CCO that out of 204 activities of the OIC Institutions completed since the 31st Session of the COMCEC, 36.8 percent of the activities were implemented in trade area followed by poverty alleviation (%18.6) and financial cooperation (%8.8). The Committee was also informed that with respect to types of the activities, the Institutions specially focused on trainings and technical assistance programs (%41,2), various expert meetings and workshops (%15,2) and fairs, exhibitions and forums (%14.2).

6. With a view to better reflecting the activities of the OIC Institutions in line with COMCEC Strategy and Policy Recommendations adopted at the Ministerial level, the Committee asked the OIC Institutions to indicate specifically the alignment of their activities to the policy recommendations in their lists of activities.

7. The Committee underlined that the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations can be of benefit to the OIC Institutions in planning their future cooperation activities and programs. While discussing possible means and ways of the OIC Institutions' possible contributions to the implementation of the Policy Recommendations by the Member Countries, the Committee took note that policy recommendations could be supported by the Institutions through training projects, conducting studies and surveys and building expertise in the Member Countries, to be financed either by the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism or institutions' own financing facilities.

8. Highlighting the importance of measuring the impact of the activities implemented by the OIC Institutions, the Committee agreed to add *"The Issue of Measuring the*

Impact of the Activities of the OIC Institutions” to the agenda of the 30th Sessional Committee Meeting as a separate item.

9. Stressing the need to complementarity of existing efforts in tourism area and considering the similar efforts of the CCO on Muslim-Friendly Tourism, the Committee agreed that the COMCEC Coordination Office shall be invited to the Islamic Tourism Working Group, chaired by Indonesia,

10. The Committee also agreed that along with efforts to increase intra OIC trade quantitatively, the quality of trade including its composition and value addition aspect should also be paid due attention by the relevant OIC institutions through conducting various programmes and innovative ideas.

Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the OIC Institutions

11. With respect to the sub-item titled "Developing Multi-Year Technical Capacity Building Programs", the Committee was briefed by the ITFC (IDB Group) on a sample "Multi-year Cooperation/Capacity Building Program of Trade Facilitation for Enhanced Regional Cooperation & Seamless Connectivity." Welcoming the views expressed by ITFC (IDB Group) on following a programmatic approach in the cooperation efforts instead of activity-based one, the Committee asked the ITFC (IDB Group) to elaborate on the programming logic. The Committee also invited the participants to communicate their comments and feedbacks on the mentioned presentation to the IDB Group and come up with some concrete ideas regarding programming approach methodology.

12. Regarding the project on the establishment/updating of the OIC Countries' statistical database (OICStat), the Committee was informed by representative of the SESRIC that relevant work is being conducted in line with the decisions of the OIC Statistical Commission, and accordingly the SESRIC aims to commence its database in 2017.

Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the SDGs in OIC Member States

13. The Committee was informed by the SESRIC that "Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries" was circulated to the Member Countries in line with the relevant resolutions of the 31st Session of the COMCEC and the response rate of the member countries is relatively low since the most of the countries are at the stage of being sensitized to the SDGs. The Committee was also informed that SESRIC has recently prepared a report titled "Moving from MDGs to SDGs: Prospects and Challenges for the OIC Countries"

14. The Committee was briefed by the CCO on the report titled “Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” The Committee decided that the CCO can follow-up the SDG-related activities of the OIC Institutions and report to the forthcoming COMCEC Session accordingly.

Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025

15. Regarding the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, the Committee noted that the inputs of the relevant stakeholders, OIC Institutions and Standing Committees are of particular importance while designing the implementation plan.

Any Other Business

16. The Committee Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

**LIST OF ACTIVITIES
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	Relevance to Strategy's Output Area/ Related WG Policy Recommendations	Partner(s)	Date and Venue	Outcomes of the Activity
1.	ICCIA	9th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries	Forum	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	Council of Saudi Chambers	May 25, 2016 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	Strengthened the institutional role, in creating a sustainable channel for introducing investment opportunities in the Islamic countries. Enabled the businesswomen to meet one another, interact and discuss new avenues for cooperation and commercial exchange.
2.	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.	FAO/BIPP, PGTF / UNOSSC	29th Nov. – 1st Dec. 2016 Lahore, Pakistan	Provided an overall review of problem, issues and strategic option in developing backbone and supporting infrastructure for rural development. The thrust of the workshop was on Cold Chain System and other related infrastructure in developing a competitive rural economy. Highlighted the importance of developing the clusters of profitable small-medium and large-scale farms and associated agribusinesses in selected Corridors from OIC region.
3.	ICCIA	1st Training Programme for Women Skill Development and Networking	Training Programme	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	Local Academia	August 26, 2016 ICCIA's Headquarters, Pakistan	Promoted entrepreneurial activities for women and youth who were either doing business or planning to start businesses. The participants were educated on the latest concepts of enterprise development for setting-up of small scale business ventures. Networking session provided the participant with opportunities to share their ideas, experiences and future business planning.
4.	ICCIA	2nd Training Programme for Women Skill Development and Networking	Training Programme	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	Local Academia	4th October 2016 ICCIA's Headquarters, Pakistan	It was a series of 2 nd Training Programme as mentioned in S.No. 2, organized for women and youth. The topic was 'Elements of Writing an Effective Business Plan'. The participants were educated on how to make an effective business plan. The participants were brief about the core elements of business plan such as: market need, target customer, market size, business model, go-to-market strategy and key Risks.
5.	ICDT	Seminar on e-commerce	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	AIDMO	1-4 December 2015 Casablanca/Morocco	The objective of this workshop is to raise awareness among artisans on the importance of ICTs in the promotion and the marketing of Handicraft products and to inquire on the latest techniques of E-commerce. This workshop was also an opportunity for participants

							to learn about the successful national experiences and strengthen cooperation in the field of technical assistance in the creation of commercial websites. Sensitizing of the promotion of e-commerce in Arab Countries and establishing a portal on e-commerce on Handicraft
6.	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 This exhibition gathered actors of Halal industry in the OIC countries to promote their products and services and increase investments in this sector notably food, cosmetics, clothing and fashion as well as services related to Halal certification. The area surface of the exhibition was 2000 square meters and the Fair recorded the participation of 1000 businessmen 125 Companies from the OIC Member States.
7.	ICDT	2nd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States	Fair	Tourism	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Promoting family tourism in the OIC Member States. The Exhibition was attended by approximately 125 Companies representing 25 Member States and recorded the participation of 1000 businessmen
8.	ICDT	Administration of RTAs and the prospects of Regional Integration in the OIC African and Arab Member States	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Cooperation and Integration Dept/IDB	This workshop aimed to make on the one hand the inventory of bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements and the Free Trade Area Agreements (FTAs) of the Africans and Arab Member States of the OIC, as well as to evaluate the impact of these agreements on the sustainable development of their economies and to formulate practical recommendations enabling them to refine their national strategies in order to facilitate regional integration. Main outcomes: sensitizing the importance of RTAs and FTA in enhancing intra-OIC Trade.

9.	ICDT	Seminar on Trade in Services in RTAs: What Lessons for the Quad Countries?	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing Trade	Intra-OIC	Agadir Technical Unit	21-23 December 2015 Cairo/Egypt	<p>The objectives of this seminar were to:</p> <p>Deepen participants' knowledge on the role of services and trade in services in the context of globalization;</p> <p>Increase knowledge of participants on the provisions and rules of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) within the framework of the WTO;</p> <p>Deepen participants' knowledge on the technical and political aspects to complete with success the negotiations on the liberalization of services at international and regional levels;</p> <p>Discuss the opportunities and challenges facing the Countries of the Agadir Agreement in the field of negotiations on the liberalization of trade in services.</p> <p>Participants benefited from the last services negotiations methods and strategies in order to enhance their trade in services.</p>
10.	ICDT	14th Meeting of the Economic Counsellors of the OIC Embassies accredited in Rabat	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		OIC Member States	14 January 2016 Rabat/Morocco	<p>The meeting aimed at information the Economic counsellors about the last development on intra-OIC Trade and trade promotion events to be organized by ICDT and its technical assistance to their countries.</p>
11.	ICDT	Regional Conference on International Investment Agreements	Meeting	Trade	Developing Investment	intra-OIC	Ministry of Economy and Finance of Morocco and UNCTAD	12-15 January 2016 Casablanca/Morocco	<p>The objective of this Conference is to deepen participants' knowledge of International Investment Agreements (IIA) which could help achieve the goal of sustainable development and inclusive growth, identify and consider issues related to international investment. This Conference helped participants to understand the impact IIA to attract foreign investment in Countries.</p>

12.	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	Tourism	Developing Tourism	intra-OIC	SESRIC/UNTWO Regional Coordinator (Guinea)	15-17 February 2016 Casablanca/Morocco	<p>The Training Workshop on the Setting up of Tourism Projects was organized for the benefit of the focal points of the beneficiary Countries in order to familiarize them with the methodologies and procedures of the Arab, African and international Financial Institutions.</p> <p>On this occasion, the participants discussed the following topics:</p> <p>Recent Developments of the Project;</p> <p>Issues related to the elaboration of cross-border bankable projects forms;</p> <p>Presentation of the Results of the 1st Donors Conference and the preparations of the 2nd Conference scheduled to be held in 2017;</p> <p>Creation of Regional Coordination Unit of the Project.</p>
13.	ICDT	Seminar on the Outcome of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference and Accession to the Trade Facilitation Agreement	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		Ministry in Charge of Foreign Trade of Morocco and WTO	25 February 2016 Casablanca/Morocco	<p>The objective of the seminar was to inform the participants about the main outcomes of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference of Nairobi, and to introduce the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and its impact on the foreign trade development of the OIC Member Countries. Participants recommended to continue to organise such events for the benefit of Public and Private sectors including parliamentaries in order to more sensitise this agreement.</p>
14.	ICDT	2nd African Forum on Halal Business	Expo and Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		ICDT/Senegal	3-5 March 2016 Dakar/Senegal	<p>This 1st International Forum of Business Halal aims to enhance trade and investment in Halal Sector in OIC African Countries. 14 Member States attended this Forum which highlighted the problems facing the sector, including the lack of investors and training for the benefit of the sector operators. They expressed the wish for the establishment of a strategy and an action plan for the development of Halal industry at the OIC level and the strengthening of collaboration in training on the Halal industry and exchange of experience among the Member States (reverse linkage).</p>
15.	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	<p>The Exhibition brought together stakeholders of the health sector (pharmaceutical industry, service providers, professionals in nutrition and dietetics, surgery, care and wellness etc ...) of the OIC countries and was attended by the 20 OIC Countries in order to promote trade and investment in this sector.</p>

16.	ICDT	Training Seminar on The "Trade Preferential System Among the OIC Member States (TPS/OIC) and its Protocols" for the benefit of the African Countries,	Training Seminar	Trade	Raising awareness of OIC African Member States to sign and ratify TPS/OIC and its protocols	Dept of Cooperation and Integration /IDB	28-30 March 2016 Casablanca Morocco	<p>The objective of this seminar is to raise awareness among the Member States of the OIC African Regional Economic Groupings (REG) on the TPS/OIC Agreement and its protocols in order to accelerate its signature and ratification by these groupings to strengthen the development of intra-OIC trade.</p> <p>20 Member countries attended this Seminar. The participants proposed the following recommendations: the transmission of the results of the study on the impact on trade of (TPS/OIC) in WAEMU countries to the OIC General Secretariat, IDB and the WAEMU Commission and conducting impact studies of the TPS / OIC on the other OIC regions.</p>
17.	ICDT	Training Seminar on "TPS/ OIC Agreement and its protocols for the benefit of executives of the state of Palestine and Jordan	Training Seminar	Trade	Capacity building of negotiations dealing with TPS/OIC	Ministry of National Economy-Palestine Ministry of Trade, Industry and Supply-Jordan	4-5 April 2016 Amman/Jordan	<p>The objective of this seminar is to raise awareness among Palestinian and Jordanian executives of the public and private sector on the importance of the TPS/OIC Agreement and its Protocols in order to contribute to the development of trade between these countries and the other OIC Member States.</p> <p>The participants proposed the following recommendations:</p> <p>The importance of implementing the TPS-OIC to enable the Palestinian economy to benefit from it, and to increase synergy as well as economic and trade integration between Palestine and the other OIC Member States</p> <p>Provide technical support to the Palestinian institutions from the public and private sectors in order to benefit from the COMCEC and the IDB Group projects.</p> <p>The importance of holding the meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee of the OIC Member States in order to expand the TPS/OIC to trade in services, dismantling of the mechanism of Non-Tariff Barriers, and specific and effective rules for dispute settlement,</p> <p>To ensure that the State of Palestine submit its list of concessions in order to allow the Palestinian economy to benefit from the Trade Negotiations of the participating Countries, and to provide it with technical assistance for establishing the positive lists of products for the implementation of this Framework Agreement.</p>
18.	ICDT	Regional on line Marketing	Workshop	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	WIEF	18-21 April 2016 Amman/Jordan	<p>This event was organized by ICDT and the WIEF in collaboration with the Agadir Technical Unit (ATU).</p>

								<p>This workshop, held for the benefit of business women, was aimed, on the one hand, to assist women entrepreneurs in the design of their website and the online commercialization of their products and services, and to provide the necessary tools in order to familiarize them with online marketing strategies on the other.</p> <p>The workshop, attended by twenty businesswomen who created in 5 days their own commercial website in order to sell online their products and services.</p> <p>This Forum aimed to promote higher education services and to develop partnerships among the OIC Member States and to establish direct contacts between the various stakeholders in the field of training and Higher Education, in order to promote investment in this sector and to develop partnerships between Senegalese universities and those of OIC Member States; particularly through the exchange of students and trainers.</p> <p>The Fair covered 3000 sqm, among which 1,200 sqm net, recorded the participation of 12 OIC countries.</p> <p>This exhibition is organized in order to boost intra-OIC Trade and Investment in Agribusiness sector. The net exhibition space was spread over approximately 4000 square meters and recorded the participation of 350 companies representing 22 States.</p>
19.	ICDT	2nd Higher Education Expo and Forum	Expo and Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	ICDT/Senegal	9-12 May 2016 Dakar/Senegal	<p>The objective of this workshop is to ensure an upgrading of the Human Resources operating in the field of International Trade in order to benefit from the new methods and techniques applied to International Trade particularly in Audit-Export and Development of Competitive capabilities of SMEs. Main recommendations :</p> <p>Participants stressed the importance of the topics and quality of the experts and recommended the following:</p> <p>The duplication of the workshop at the national and</p>
20.	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	
21.	ICDT	Seminar on Export Auditing and SMEs Competitiveness	Training Seminar	Trade	Capacity building program for exporters		16-19 May 2016 Casablanca Morocco	

								regional levels with more case study; The organization of sectorial workshops for the benefit of foreign trade Executives.
22.	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	<p>The Exhibition area of the Fair reached 11,200 Square meters, 271 enterprises exhibited their products in the Fair, which was visited by 2200 businessmen from the 36 OIC Member States.</p> <p>It was also observed that most of added value exhibited products are reflecting the real economic and industrial progress recorded by some Member States. As well as the High Technological and technical development level of participating countries.</p> <p>An awards ceremony was also held and prizes were awarded to the following countries:</p> <p>First Prize: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Second Prize: Kingdom of Morocco, Third Prize: People's Republic of Bangladesh.</p>
23.	ICDT	2nd Forum TPOs of the OIC Member States	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Commerce & Industry of Saudi Arabia; ITFC, TPOs, ITC	23rd May 2016 Riyadh/Saudi Arabia	<p>The Forum was attended by representatives of trade promotion organs from 31 Member States.</p> <p>The meeting recommended the following: Supporting OIC Trade Promotion Organs (Launching the TPOs Virtual Network of the OIC Member States and invite OIC Member States to contribute to its improvement and update, holding the OIC TPOs regional forum once every year in order to review progress and make recommendations of the work of the Network of TPOs and organizing capacity building activities in various fields of international trade.</p>

24.	ICDT	Forum of IPAs of the OIC Member States	Meeting	Trade	Developing Investments	intra-OIC	Ministry of Commerce & Industry of Saudi Arabia; IITC, IPAs, UNCTAD, ICIEC	24th May 2016 Riyadh/Saudi Arabia	82 participants from 18 OIC countries and 7 OIC institutions attended the Forum. The Forum agreed to: create a regular mechanism for consultation among the Investment Promotion Agencies of the Member States of the OIC to review the common challenges and opportunities on investment issues. In this regard, participants recommended the holding of similar forums for OIC Investment Promotion Agencies every two years, on the margin of the OIC Islamic Trade Fair or at any other venue as may be deemed appropriate.
25.	ICDT	Implications of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Post-Nairobi and OIC Single Window Facility	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		Cooperation and Integration Dept /IIB, Ministry in Charge of Foreign Trade of Morocco/WTO/ITC/WCO	30 May-1st June 2016 Casablanca Morocco	The objective of this seminar is to sensitize the public and private sectors of OIC Member States of the importance of the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and its impact on the development of foreign trade among Member States on the one hand, and to share experiences and best practices regarding the implementation of national trade facilitation programs on the other, in particular the establishment and the strengthening of national Single Windows of Foreign Trade and the reflection on interoperability between those Single Windows. 18 countries took part in this seminar. Participants recommended to organise a meeting of Customs administrations of the OIC countries; duplicate the organization of regional awareness raising seminars on WTO TFA to accelerate the ratification of its protocol of amendment; and implement a program of technical assistance and sharing of experience in the creation of Single Windows between the developed countries of the OIC and other Member States.
26.	ICDT	Moroccan Malaysian Business Forum	Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade		Matrade/Embassy of Malaysia to Morocco	2 June 2016 Casablanca Morocco	The aim of this visit is to organize B2B meetings between Malaysian Businessmen and their Moroccan counterparts. The Forum allows the Malaysian delegation to explore the following sectors: food industry (cereals, canned, bottled products, snacks, sauces, and instant food), pharmaceuticals latex products, automotive equipment (speakers, accessories and car parts), construction (paint, coating) and bedding in Morocco.
27.	ICDT	World Investment Forum	Forum	Trade	Attracting more FDI		OICGS/COMCEC/IDBG/ICCLIA/SESRIIC/UNCTAD	17-21 July 2016 Nairobi/Kenya	ICDT, SESRIIC and ICIEC participated under the "OIC Pavillion" in the investment village Exhibition that was attended by 15 countries and was a platform for participating countries to promote their Business climate in their respective countries through a professional exhibition and an opportunity to be informed about the latest innovations to promote investments.

											This Panel was an opportunity to review the initiatives taken by the OIC Institutions and OIC Member States to improve the investment climate and increase the attractiveness of their economies to FDI.
28.	ICDT	Moroccan Indonesian Business Forum	Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	President Special Envoy/Embassy of Indonesia to Morocco	28-29 September 2016 Casablanca Morocco				The aim of this visit is to organize B2B meetings between Indonesian Businessmen and their Moroccan counterparts. This forum witnessed the organization of a seminar and B2B meetings between Moroccan and Indonesian economic operators in the following areas: food industry, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, building materials, crafts, Furniture & decoration, various consumer goods.
29.	ICDT	Administration of RTAs and the prospects of Regional Integration in the OIC English Speaking Countries	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Cooperation and Integration Dept/IDB, Ministry of Economy of Turkey/COMCEC	September/October 2016 Istanbul/Turkey				Postponed in 2017
30.	ICDT	7th OIC World Biz and 2nd OIC-Central Investment Forum	Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	OIC International Business Centre/Malaysia	18-22 October 2016 Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia				The objective of this Forum is to enhance intra-OIC Trade and Investment in general and increase trade and investment between Asian and other OIC Member Countries in particular. The Forum allows participants to explore business opportunities in key sectors such as Agribusiness, Halal Industry, Medical and Family Tourism, Higher education services.
31.	ICDT	Regional Training workshop on "Export strategies for primo-exporters of TRNC"	Training workshop on	Trade	Capacity building program for exporters	MFA of TRNC	25-27 October 2016 Lefkosa, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).				Postponed in 2017 due to constraints of time and low level of confirmation of participating countries
32.	ICDT	2nd OIC-Asia Investment Forum	Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	OIC GS/COMCEC/ICCI A /SESRIC/IDBG/UNCTAD/	October 2016 Tashkent/Uzbekistan				Postponed sine die by the Government of Uzbekistan
33.	IDB Group	Aid For Trade Initiative for Arab States	Regional Eco. Coop. Prog.	Trade	Trade Liberalization Trade Facilitation Trade Promotion Cap. Development	Int. Dev. Institutions, Donor, MCs	2014-2016 Arab States				Regional trade enhanced, new jobs created, human and institutional capacities developed
34.	IDB Group	Enhanced Performance of border control management at selected border posts of Arab States	Technical Assistance (TA) Program	Trade	Trade Facilitation	UNDP	March-Dec 2014 Egypt, Jordan, Suda, KSA				Trade cost for crossborder trade reduced
35.	IDB Group	Strengthening Capacity of the League of Arab	TA Prog.	Trade	Capacity Development	UNDP	March-Dec 2014 Cairo, Egypt				Human and institutional capacity at LAS strengthened

		States to promote trade integration										
36.	IDB Group	NTM Study & Action Plan to eliminate existing obstacles to promote intra-Arab regional trade	Study & Workshop	Trade	Trade Facilitation	ITC	April-Dec 2014 Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine	Regulatory and procedural barriers to trade identified and recommendations for NTMs developed				
37.	IDB Group	TA for Comoros & Sudan in acceding to WTO	TA & cap. building	Trade	Trade Liberalization	UNCTAD	March-Dec 2014 Comoros, Sudan	Understanding of staff on WTO matters improved				
38.	IDB Group	Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification (STED)	Study & cap. Building	Trade	Capacity Development	ILO	March-Dec 2014 Tunisia- Egypt	Sectorial skill development need assessment conducted & skill dev. Program prepared				
39.	IDB Group	Youth Training & Employment on International Trade	Training Program	Trade	Capacity Development	FTTC	2015-2016 Egypt	Around 1000 youth will be trained on international trade and employed				
40.	IDB Group	2nd phase of STED Program	TA & Cap. Dev.	Trade	Capacity Development	ILO	2015-2016 Egypt-Tunisia	Implementation phase				
41.	IDB Group	Regional Seminar on Reducing trade Cost	Workshop & Seminar	Trade	Trade Facilitation	Int. Org. Arab MSs	21-23 Apr 2015 Amman, Jordan	Knowledge, experience shared related to trade cost reduction measures				
42.	IDB Group	Validation Workshop of Special Program for Central Asia	Workshop	Trade		Inter. Inst. MDBs	14-15 March 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	Program document presented to MCs and development partners, feedbacks comments received				
43.	IDB Group	IDBG-WBG Deep Dive Initiative	Partnership Program	Trade								
44.	IDB Group	Workshop Cooperation on Transport Infrastructure and Trade Facilitation	Knowledge Event & Seminar	Trade	Capacity Development	WBG	23-24 Feb. 2016 Amman, Jordan	Experiences of MDBs in supporting physical infrastructure development & trade facilitation & private sector development presented to MCs.				
45.	IDB Group	Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program	Trade Promotion	Trade								
46.	IDB Group	EXPOLINK Marmouac Somoter Africa & Middle East 2015 Exhibition	Int. Exhibition	Trade	Trade Promotion	SMEs from LDMCs	15-16 Nov. 2015 Cairo, Egypt-	Participation of SMEs from African MCs int the exhibition sponsored				
47.	IDB Group	Regional Buyers-Sellers Meeting in Pharmaceutical & Related Industries	Int. Exhibition B2B Meeting	Trade	Trade Promotion	SMEs from LDMCs	11-12 Nov. 2015 Amman, Jordan	Participation of SMEs from African MCs int the exhibition sponsored				
48.	IDB Group	1st African Halal Industry Exhibition	Int. Exhibition Seminar	Trade	Trade Promotion	Organizer	3-5 Mar. 2016 Dakar, Senagal	Organization of the seminar & Exhibition sponsored				

49.	IIB Group	Saudi-Indonesia B2B Meeting	Seminar/B2B	Trade	Trade Promotion	SMEs	17 May 2016 Jakarta, Indonesia	Promoting bilateral trade between MCs, develop new business partnership
50.	IIB Group	OIC level Initiatives/Activities		Trade				
51.	IIB Group	Workshop on Competition Policy in OIC MCs	Workshop & Seminar	Trade	Trade Facilitation	MCs	25-26/ Feb. 2015 Tunis, Tunisia	Knowledge, experience and expertise on the competition policies shared by participating MCs
52.	IIB Group	Workshop on Single Window Modality and E-Trade and their role in promoting Intra-OIC Trade	Workshop Seminar	Trade	Trade Facilitation	OIC Inst. Int. Org. MCs	9-10 Nov. 2015 Casablanca, Morocco	Knowledge and experience of participants on E-single window modality presented
53.	IIB Group	The First Meeting of Trade and Investment Sub-Committee	Workshop	Trade	Trade Facilitation Trade Promotion Capacity Dev.	OIC Inst.	16-17 March 2016 Marrakesh, Morocco	Various subject related to intra-OIC trade discussed, main intervention areas identified
54.	IIB Group	The first Technical Meeting of TISC	Meeting	Trade	As above 6.4	OIC Inst.	22-26 May 2016 Jeddah, KSA	Preparation of Joint Action Matrix of Task Team
55.	IIB Group	OIC Islamic Fair & OIC TPOs Meeting	Int. Exhibition	Trade	Trade Promotion	SMEs from IJDMCs	May 2016 Rivad, KSA	Participation of SMEs from IJDMCs sponsored
56.	IIB Group	Workshop for Arab and African MCs on "the Administration of Regional Trade Agreements and the prospects of Regional Integration in OIC Member States"	Workshop	Trade	Promotion of intra-regional trade		21 – 23 December 2015 Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco.	Training of the experts/officials from Member Countries
57.	IIB Group	Workshop on "Post-Nairobi WTO Agenda and its Implications for Arab Countries,	Workshop	Trade	Promotion/facilitation of intra-regional trade		February 2016, Amman, Jordan.	Training of the experts/officials from Member Countries
58.	IIB Group	Workshop on "Post-Nairobi WTO Agenda and its Implications for African MCs of OIC",	Workshop	Trade	Promotion/facilitation of intra-regional trade		07 – 09 March 2016, Dakar, Senegal.	Training of the experts/officials from Member Countries
59.	IIB Group	Workshop on "the Use the TPS-OIC mechanism to enhance intra-OIC trade through opening OIC	Workshop	Trade	Promotion/facilitation of intra-regional trade		28-30 March 2016, Casablanca, Morocco	Training of the experts/officials from Member Countries

		markets to OIC products	Seminar	Transport	Promoting connectivity				Training of the experts/officials from Member Countries
60.	IIDB Group	Seminar on Regional Transport Connectivity, IIDB Forum with Regional Cooperation Organizations in OIC Region.	Seminar	Transport	Promoting connectivity			16 May 2016, Jakarta	Training of the experts/officials from Member Countries
61.	IIDB Group		Forum	Regional Cooperation	Enhancing inter-agency cooperation for supporting economic integration			17 May 2016, Jakarta	Joint agenda of the participating RECs for enhancing regional connectivity in the OIC region
62.	IIDB Group	Regional Seminar on "the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Prospects of Activating the OIC Single Window"	Regional Seminar	Trade	Promotion/facilitation of intra-regional trade			from 30 May to 01 June 2016 Casablanca, Morocco.	Training of the experts/officials from Member Countries
63.	IIDB Group	Technical Support to Sudan on Accession to WTO	Technical assistance	Trade	Trade Policy			28 May - 02 June 2016, Khartoum	Training of the experts/officials from Member Countries
64.	IIDB Group	Workshop on the assessing regional trade integration processes in Africa, TUBITAK	Workshop	Trade	Promotion/facilitation of intra-regional trade			26-28 September 2016 Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	Training of the experts/officials from Member Countries
65.	IIDB Group	Marmara Research Center (MRC) of Turkey and Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Earthquake and Seismological Research	Reverse Linkage Project	Technical Cooperation	Disaster Risk Reduction		SESRIC, TIKA	2016 Pakistan	Transferring technical knowledge and resources from Turkey to Pakistan on Earthquake and Seismology
66.	IIDB Group	Yildirim Beyazit University Faculty of Medicine of Turkey and The Gambia University School of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences on Health Sciences	Reverse Linkage Project	Technical Cooperation	Health		SESRIC, TIKA, YTB	2016 The Gambia	Transferring technical knowledge and resources from Yildirim Beyazit University Faculty of Medicine of Turkey to the Gambia University School of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences on Medicine and Allied Health Sciences
67.	IIDB Group	Ministry of Agriculture of Kyrgyzstan and the	TCP Project	Technical Cooperation	Agriculture		SESRIC, TIKA, YTB Turkish Airlines	January, 2016 Kyrgyzstan	Transferring technical knowledge on Fisheries Production from Turkey to the Kyrgyz Republic

	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey on Fisheries Production in Kyrgyz Republic			Technical Cooperation	Agriculture & Food Security	SESRIIC, Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock of Turkey	30 May to 3rd June, 2016 Turkey		
68.	IDB Group	Technical Study Visit to Turkey on Development of Sustainable Aquaculture for OIC Countries	TCP Project	Technical Cooperation	Agriculture & Water Resources Management	SESRIIC, General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works of Turkey	8 – 19th August, 2016 Turkey	Transferring technical knowledge on water resources management to experts from Mauritania, Senegal, Somalia and Uganda	Transferring technical knowledge on aquaculture to various OIC countries through study visit and workshops in Turkey
69.	IDB Group	Technical Study Visit to Turkey on Water Resources Management for Mauritania, Senegal, Somalia, and Uganda	TCP Project	Technical Cooperation	Agriculture & Water Resources Management	SESRIIC, General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works of Turkey	8 – 19th August, 2016 Turkey	Transferring technical knowledge on water resources management to experts from Mauritania, Senegal, Somalia and Uganda	Transferring technical knowledge on aquaculture to various OIC countries through study visit and workshops in Turkey
70.	IDB Group	Investment Development Conference in Srebrenica	Conference		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	11-12/11/2015 Srebrenica - Bosnia and Herzegovina	Attract private sector investment	Attract private sector investment
71.	IDB Group	IDB Group Orientation Workshop in Kuwait	Workshop		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	16/12/2015 Kuwait City - Kuwait	Brainstorming, visibility	Brainstorming, visibility
72.	IDB Group	Abha Investment Forum	Forum		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	23-24/12/2015 Abha - KSA	Attract private sector investment	Attract private sector investment
73.	IDB Group	Workshop on Agricultural Investment Opportunities in Africa	Workshop		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	28-29/01/2016 Khartoum - Sudan	Attract private sector investment	Attract private sector investment
74.	IDB Group	Business Forum in Morocco	Forum		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	22/02/2016 Casablanca - Morocco	Attract private sector investment	Attract private sector investment
75.	IDB Group	Saudi Arabia Institutional Investor Forum	Forum		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	08/03/2016 Riyadh - KSA	Attract private sector investment	Attract private sector investment
76.	IDB Group	China OIC Forum	Forum		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	22/03/2016 Beijing - China	Visibility, marketing, investing	Visibility, marketing, investing
77.	IDB Group	Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) 2016	Conference		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	11-13/04/2016 Dubai - UAE	Visibility, marketing, brainstorming	Visibility, marketing, brainstorming
78.	IDB Group	International Conference of Entrepreneurs	Conference		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	19-20/04/2016 Avaza Turkmenistan	Visibility, marketing, brainstorming	Visibility, marketing, brainstorming

79.	IIB Group	Business networking meeting	Meeting		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	27/04/2016 Jeddah - KSA	Business meeting between Gambian delegation and Saudi Businessmen
80.	IIB Group	Euronomy Conference	Conference		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	3-4/05/2016 Riyadh - KSA	Multiple
81.	IIB Group	Sarajevo Business Forum 2016	Forum		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	4-5/05/2016 Sarajevo - Bosnia and Herzegovina	Attract private sector investment
82.	IIB Group	Seminar on Transformation of Islamic Finance Industry in Indonesia	Seminar		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	16/05/2016 Jakarta - Indonesia	Brainstorming
83.	IIB Group	IIB Group Private Sector Forum	Forum		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	17/05/2016 Jakarta - Indonesia	Attract private sector investment
84.	IIB Group	The 15th Exhibition for the Members of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)	Exhibition		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	22/05/2016 Riyadh - KSA	Visibility, marketing
85.	IIB Group	IIB Group Participation & Exhibition during 12th WIEF 2016	Exhibition		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	02/08/2016 Jakarta - Indonesia	Visibility, marketing
86.	IIB Group	Inauguration of the IIB Group Country Gateway Office in Abuja - Nigeria	Opening		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	22/08/2016 Abuja - Nigeria	Opening ceremony
87.	IIB Group	ISDB Group Exhibition @ MUSIAD 2016	Exhibition		Private Sector Development	THIQAH	09/11/2016 Istanbul - Turkey	Visibility, marketing
88.	SESRI	Science, Technology, and Innovation Statistics	Statistical Training	Transport and Communications	Institutional and Human Capacity	State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan + Turkish Statistical Institute	26-28 September 2016 Baku, Azerbaijan	In the COMCEC Strategy, it is stated that "COMCEC will promote studies and activities that aim at improving the institutional and human capacity of relevant government and nongovernment institutions of the member countries". In this respect, the training contributed on increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
89.	SESRI	Transport Statistics	Technical Mission	Transport and Communications	Institutional and Human Capacity	Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economics of Kazakhstan + Turkish Statistical Institute	26-30 September 2016 Astana, Kazakhstan	In the COMCEC Strategy, it is stated that "COMCEC will promote studies and activities that aim at improving the institutional and human capacity of relevant government and nongovernment institutions of the member countries". In this respect, the training contributed on increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.

90.	SESRIC	Information Society Statistics	Statistical Training	Transport and Communications	Institutional and Human Capacity	National Office of Statistics of Mauritania + Directorate of Statistics of Morocco	10-13 October 2016 Nouakchott, Mauritania	In the COMCEC Strategy, it is stated that "COMCEC will promote studies and activities that aim at improving the institutional and human capacity of relevant government and nongovernment institutions of the member countries". In this respect, the training contributed on increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
91.	SESRIC	Multidimensional Poverty Measurement	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	COMCEC, OPIL, ISFD	30 November - 06 December 2015 Dakar, Senegal	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas of the poverty alleviation is monitoring poverty. The Strategy points out the significance of increasing the awareness in poverty alleviation efforts and additionally emphasizes development of "appropriate solutions based on reliable data monitoring and reporting regarding poverty". In this regard, the short term trainings and workshops that have been organized by SESRIC, contribute to obtain advanced collection of accurate and reliable data as much as obtaining enhanced capacity of the member states in monitoring poverty.
92.	SESRIC	Poverty, Living Conditions, and Cross-Cutting Social Issues Statistics	Study Visit	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	Central Statistical Organization of Iraq + Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics of Egypt	27-29 December 2015 Cairo, Egypt	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas of the poverty alleviation is monitoring poverty. The Strategy points out the significance of increasing the awareness in poverty alleviation efforts and additionally emphasizes development of "appropriate solutions based on reliable data monitoring and reporting regarding poverty". In this regard, the short term trainings and workshops that have been organized by SESRIC, contribute to obtain advanced collection of accurate and reliable data as much as obtaining enhanced capacity of the member states in monitoring poverty.
93.	SESRIC	Poverty, Living Conditions, and Cross-Cutting Social Issues Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	Central Bureau of Statistics of Sudan + Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics of Egypt	08-10 February 2016 Khartoum, Sudan	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas of the poverty alleviation is monitoring poverty. The Strategy points out the significance of increasing the awareness in poverty alleviation efforts and additionally emphasizes development of "appropriate solutions based on reliable data monitoring and reporting regarding poverty". In this regard, the short term trainings and workshops that have been organized by SESRIC, contribute to obtain advanced collection of accurate and reliable data as much as obtaining enhanced capacity of the member states in monitoring poverty.

								enhanced capacity of the member states in monitoring poverty.
94.	SESRI	Poverty, Living Conditions, and Cross-Cutting Social Issues Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan + State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan	15-17 February 2016 Dushanbe, Tajikistan	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas of the poverty alleviation is monitoring poverty. The Strategy points out the significance of increasing the awareness in poverty alleviation efforts and additionally emphasizes development of "appropriate solutions based on reliable data monitoring and reporting regarding poverty". In this regard, the short term trainings and workshops that have been organized by SESRIC, contribute to obtain advanced collection of accurate and reliable data as much as obtaining enhanced capacity of the member states in monitoring poverty.
95.	SESRI	Poverty, Living Conditions, and Cross-Cutting Social Issues Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	Central Statistical Organization of Yemen + Department of Statistics of Jordan	16-18 February 2016 Amman, Jordan	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas of the poverty alleviation is monitoring poverty. The Strategy points out the significance of increasing the awareness in poverty alleviation efforts and additionally emphasizes development of "appropriate solutions based on reliable data monitoring and reporting regarding poverty". In this regard, the short term trainings and workshops that have been organized by SESRIC, contribute to obtain advanced collection of accurate and reliable data as much as obtaining enhanced capacity of the member states in monitoring poverty.
96.	SESRI	Living Conditions and Poverty Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics of Qatar + Department of Statistics of Jordan	4-8 September 2016 Doha, Qatar	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas of the poverty alleviation is monitoring poverty. The Strategy points out the significance of increasing the awareness in poverty alleviation efforts and additionally emphasizes development of "appropriate solutions based on reliable data monitoring and reporting regarding poverty". In this regard, the short term trainings and workshops that have been organized by SESRIC, contribute to obtain advanced collection of accurate and reliable data as much as obtaining enhanced capacity of the member states in monitoring poverty.
97.	SESRI	Module 2: Quarterly National Accounts	Technical Mission	Finance	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Central Statistics Organization of Afghanistan + Statistical Centre of Iran	23 January-12 February 2016 Kabul, Afghanistan	Within the COMCEC Strategy, financial cooperation has the main purpose of contributing to financial stability and growth of the member countries. In Chapter 3.6, the Strategy demonstrates the training, R&D Activities and Statistics as one of the output areas

								of Finance. The importance the output area is to facilitate building human resource capacity and meeting the product development requirements of financial markets of the member countries.
98.	SESRIC	Social Accounting Matrices	Statistical Training	Finance	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Information and e-Government Authority of Bahrain + Directorate of Statistics of Morocco	25-27 April 2016 Manama, Bahrain	Within the COMCEC Strategy, financial cooperation has the main purpose of contributing to financial stability and growth of the member countries. In Chapter 3.6, the Strategy demonstrates the training, R&D Activities and Statistics as one of the output areas of Finance. The importance the output area is to facilitate building human resource capacity and meeting the product development requirements of financial markets of the member countries.
99.	SESRIC	Stakeholder Meeting on Developing Islamic Financial Industry Database of OIC Member Countries	Meeting	Finance	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	World Bank	9 October 2016 Washington DC, USA	Within the COMCEC Strategy, financial cooperation has the main purpose of contributing to financial stability and growth of the member countries. In Chapter 3.6, the Strategy demonstrates the training, R&D Activities and Statistics as one of the output areas of Finance. The importance the output area is to facilitate building human resource capacity and meeting the product development requirements of financial markets of the member countries.
100.	SESRIC	Balance of Payments and International Trade Statistics	Statistical Training	Trade	Trade Promotion	Information and e-Government Authority of Bahrain + Central Bank of Republic of Turkey	15-17 March 2016 Manama, Bahrain	The COMCEC Strategy refers to improvement of trade related institutional and human capacity of the member states by facilitating exchange of experiences and know-how among them. In Chapter 3.1, the Strategy gives place to Trade Promotion as one of the outputs of Trade. In this regard, the training programmes and workshops that have been organized by SESRIC contribute to increase awareness of ongoing trade projects and enhance communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the member states.
101.	SESRIC	International Trade Statistics	Statistical Training	Trade	Trade Promotion	Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE) of Brunei Darussalam + Department of Statistics (DOS) of Malaysia	20-22 September 2016 Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei	The COMCEC Strategy refers to improvement of trade related institutional and human capacity of the member states by facilitating exchange of experiences and know-how among them. In Chapter 3.1, the Strategy gives place to Trade Promotion as one of the outputs of Trade. In this regard, the training programmes and workshops that have been organized by SESRIC contribute to increase awareness of ongoing trade projects and enhance communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the member states.

102.	SESRIC	Business Registers	Statistical Training	Trade	Trade Promotion	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics of Egypt + Department of Statistics of Malaysia	26-28 April 2016 Cairo, Egypt	The COMCEC Strategy refers to improvement of trade related institutional and human capacity of the member states by facilitating exchange of experiences and know-how among them. In Chapter 3.1, the Strategy gives place to Trade Promotion as one of the outputs of Trade. In this regard, the training programmes and workshops that have been organized by SESRIC contribute to increase awareness of ongoing trade projects and enhance communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the member states.
103.	SESRIC	Tourism Satellite Accounts	Workshop	Tourism	Capacity Building and Training Programs	UNWTO	30 November - 03 December 2015 Almaty, Kazakhstan	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas of the tourism sector is capacity building and training programs. In Chapter 3.3, the Strategy clearly puts forward that "tourism data collection in many COMCEC members is inadequate to either limited capacity in data collection or lack of awareness regarding its importance" and additionally underlines that "Unavailability of reliable data hampers producing a sound analysis of the sector and hence, an effective cooperation framework". In this respect, the training programmes and workshop that have been organized by SESRIC enhance data collection and data analysing capacity, increase quality of service in tourism statistics and increase institutional capacity.
104.	SESRIC	Tourism Statistics	Statistical Training	Tourism	Capacity Building and Training Programs	BPS-Statistics Indonesia + Suriname Tourism Foundation	09-11 August 2016 Paramaribo, Suriname	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas of the tourism sector is capacity building and training programs. In Chapter 3.3, the Strategy clearly puts forward that "tourism data collection in many COMCEC members is inadequate to either limited capacity in data collection or lack of awareness regarding its importance" and additionally underlines that "Unavailability of reliable data hampers producing a sound analysis of the sector and hence, an effective cooperation framework". In this respect, the training programmes and workshop that have been organized by SESRIC enhance data collection and data analysing capacity, increase quality of service in tourism statistics and increase institutional capacity.
105.	SESRIC	Tourism Statistics	Statistical Training	Tourism	Capacity Building and Training Programs	Gambia Bureau of Statistics + Uganda Bureau of Statistics	24-26 August 2016 Serre Kunda, Gambia	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas of the tourism sector is capacity building and training programs. In Chapter 3.3, the Strategy clearly puts forward that "tourism data collection in many COMCEC members is inadequate to either limited capacity in data collection or lack of awareness

								regarding its importance" and additionally underlines that "Unavailability of reliable data hampers producing a sound analysis of the sector and hence, an effective cooperation framework". In this respect, the training programmes and workshop that have been organized by SESRIC enhance data collection and data analysing capacity, increase quality of service in tourism statistics and increase institutional capacity.
106.	SESRIC	Agriculture Statistics	Statistical Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	Department of Economic Planning and Development of Egypt + Department of Statistics Jordan	29-31 August 2016 Cairo, Egypt	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas of the agriculture sector is Reliable and Up-To-Date Data. The Strategy indicates the critical role of the agriculture sector, as welfare of many COMCEC members, especially LDCs, depend on it. In this regard, the short term trainings that have been organized by SESRIC contributed in enhancement of the sector by obtaining reliable and up-to-date data collection with a view to ensuring sound analysis of the sector.
107.	SESRIC	Agricultural Surveys	Statistical Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	Gambia Bureau of Statistics + Uganda Bureau of Statistics	20-22 September 2016 Serre Kunda, Gambia	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas of the agriculture sector is Reliable and Up-To-Date Data. The Strategy indicates the critical role of the agriculture sector, as welfare of many COMCEC members, especially LDCs, depend on it. In this regard, the short term trainings that have been organized by SESRIC contributed in enhancement of the sector by obtaining reliable and up-to-date data collection with a view to ensuring sound analysis of the sector.
108.	SESRIC	Agricultural Surveys	Statistical Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	Pakistan Bureau of Statistics + BPS-Statistics Indonesia	20-22 September 2016 Islamabad, Pakistan	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas of the agriculture sector is Reliable and Up-To-Date Data. The Strategy indicates the critical role of the agriculture sector, as welfare of many COMCEC members, especially LDCs, depend on it. In this regard, the short term trainings that have been organized by SESRIC contributed in enhancement of the sector by obtaining reliable and up-to-date data collection with a view to ensuring sound analysis of the sector.
109.	SESRIC	Labour Cost	Statistical Training	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Enhancement Programmes Skills	National Institute of Statistics of Mali + Institute of National Statistics of Cote d'Ivoire	28-30 December 2015 Bamako, Mali	In several chapters of COMCEC Strategy, capacity building and training programs have been defined as output areas. The Strategy clearly puts forward that "data collection in many COMCEC members is inadequate to either limited capacity in data collection or lack of awareness regarding its importance" and additionally underlines that "Unavailability of reliable data hampers producing a sound analysis of the sectors

									and hence, an effective cooperation framework". In this respect, the training programmes and workshop that have been organized by SESRIC enhance data collection and data analysing capacity, increase quality of service in related statistics and increase institutional capacity.
110.	SESRIC	Labour Statistics	Statistical Training	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	Skills Enhancement Programmes	National Centre for Statistics & Information of Oman + Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics	18-20 April 2016 Muscat, Oman	In several chapters of COMCEC Strategy, capacity building and training programs have been defined as output areas. The Strategy clearly puts forward that "data collection in many COMCEC members is inadequate to either limited capacity in data collection or lack of awareness regarding its importance" and additionally underlines that "Unavailability of reliable data hampers producing a sound analysis of the sectors and hence, an effective cooperation framework". In this respect, the training programmes and workshop that have been organized by SESRIC enhance data collection and data analysing capacity, increase quality of service in related statistics and increase institutional capacity.
111.	SESRIC	Labour Statistics	Statistical Training	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	Skills Enhancement Programmes	State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics + State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan	16-18 August 2016 Tashkent, Uzbekistan	In several chapters of COMCEC Strategy, capacity building and training programs have been defined as output areas. The Strategy clearly puts forward that "data collection in many COMCEC members is inadequate to either limited capacity in data collection or lack of awareness regarding its importance" and additionally underlines that "Unavailability of reliable data hampers producing a sound analysis of the sectors and hence, an effective cooperation framework". In this respect, the training programmes and workshop that have been organized by SESRIC enhance data collection and data analysing capacity, increase quality of service in related statistics and increase institutional capacity.
112.	SESRIC	Labour Statistics	Statistical Training	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	Skills Enhancement Programmes	Department of Economic Planning & Development Brunei + BPS-Statistics Indonesia	6-8 September 2016 Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei	In several chapters of COMCEC Strategy, capacity building and training programs have been defined as output areas. The Strategy clearly puts forward that "data collection in many COMCEC members is inadequate to either limited capacity in data collection or lack of awareness regarding its importance" and additionally underlines that "Unavailability of reliable data hampers producing a sound analysis of the sectors and hence, an effective cooperation framework". In this respect, the training programmes and workshop that have been organized by SESRIC could enhance data

								collection and data analysing capacity, increase quality of service in related statistics and increase institutional capacity.
113.	SESRI	Labour Statistics	Statistical Training	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	National Institute of Statistics & Economic & Demographic Studies of Togo + National Institute of Statistics & Economic Analysis of Benin	13-15 September 2016 Lomé, Togo	In several chapters of COMCEC Strategy, capacity building and training programs have been defined as output areas. The Strategy clearly puts forward that "data collection in many COMCEC members is inadequate to either limited capacity in data collection or lack of awareness regarding its importance" and additionally underlines that "Unavailability of reliable data hampers producing a sound analysis of the sectors and hence, an effective cooperation framework". In this respect, the training programmes and workshop that have been organized by SESRI enhance data collection and data analysing capacity, increase quality of service in related statistics and increase institutional capacity.
114.	SESRI	Health Statistics	Statistical Training	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, BPS-Statistics Indonesia	11-13 August 2015 Dhaka, Bangladesh	In several chapters of COMCEC Strategy, capacity building and training programs have been defined as output areas. The Strategy clearly puts forward that "data collection in many COMCEC members is inadequate to either limited capacity in data collection or lack of awareness regarding its importance" and additionally underlines that "Unavailability of reliable data hampers producing a sound analysis of the sectors and hence, an effective cooperation framework". In this respect, the training programmes and workshop that have been organized by SESRI could enhance data collection and data analysing capacity, increase quality of service in related statistics and increase institutional capacity.
115.	SESRI	Health Statistics	Study Visit	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	Libyan Bureau of Statistics & Census + National Institute of Statistics of Tunisia	26-29 September 2016 Tunis, Tunisia	In several chapters of COMCEC Strategy, capacity building and training programs have been defined as output areas. The Strategy clearly puts forward that "data collection in many COMCEC members is inadequate to either limited capacity in data collection or lack of awareness regarding its importance" and additionally underlines that "Unavailability of reliable data hampers producing a sound analysis of the sectors and hence, an effective cooperation framework". In this respect, the training programmes and workshop that have been organized by SESRI enhance data collection and data analysing capacity, increase quality

									of service in related statistics and increase institutional capacity.
116.	SESRIC	Impact of Post-2015 Development Agenda on the Education Sector	Workshop	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	UNESCO UIS + ISESCO	29-30 November 2016 Ankara, Turkey		In several chapters of COMCEC Strategy, capacity building and training programs have been defined as output areas. The Strategy clearly puts forward that “data collection in many COMCEC members is inadequate to either limited capacity in data collection or lack of awareness regarding its importance” and additionally underlines that “Unavailability of reliable data hampers producing a sound analysis of the sectors and hence, an effective cooperation framework”. In this respect, the training programmes and workshop that have been organized by SESRIC enhance data collection and data analysing capacity, increase quality of service in related statistics and increase institutional capacity.
117.	SESRIC	The Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	OIC GS	3-4 October 2016 Ankara, Turkey		The workshop is an input during the Senior Official Meeting of the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States.
118.	SESRIC	First Expert Meeting of the OIC Network on Population and Reproductive, Maternal, New-born and Child Health (OIC RMNCHNet)	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	UNFPA	2-4 December 2015 Ankara, Turkey		The OIC Network serves as a deposit of innovative ideas, problem solving and best practices as well as a platform for disseminating knowledge to OIC countries.
119.	SESRIC	Emergency and Disaster Medical Services	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Ministry of Health of Turkey + Aksi Cepat Tanggap Foundation of Indonesia	28 February-10 March 2016 Izmir, Turkey		The training aims to build capacities of 15 experts in the following topics: Emergency Medical Services, Ambulance Equipment and Implementations, Basic and Advanced Life Support, Trauma Advance Life Support, Neonatal Resuscitation Program, Pediatric Advance Life Support Health Services in Disasters, Practice and Exercise
120.	SESRIC	OIC RMNCH Network Expert Group Meeting	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	UNFPA	16-17 August 2016 Amman, Jordan		The aim of the meeting was to review the RMNCH component of the OIC SHPA (2014-2023) in the light of the 2030 SDGs agenda and present a road map for the way forward.

121.	SESRIC	Exploring Tourism Potential of Al-Quds Al-Sherif City	Workshop	Tourism	Regulatory Framework, Capacity Building and Training Programmes	Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities of State of Palestine	24-25 November 2015 Istanbul, Turkey	Exploring and introducing the potential of Tourism in Al Quds Al Sherif City and designing strategies to exploit them; Exchanging and sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices in the tourism sector that can be applied to Al Quds Al Sherif City; Exploring feasible and implementable ways and means for collaboration among government entities, OIC institutions and the private sector to support the development of tourism sector in Al Quds Al Sherif City.
122.	SESRIC	Setting-up Tourism Projects and Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa	Workshop and meeting	Tourism	Regulatory Framework, Capacity Building and Training Programmes	ICDT	15 - 17 February 2016 Casablanca, Morocco	The Training Workshop on Setting-up Tourism Projects was devoted to the sessions in which presentations and technical discussions were made by experts for the beneficiary countries, which were mainly about the management aspects of this kind of projects ranging from the steps for setting up the projects to the issues related to financing.
123.	SESRIC	Special Session on Intra-OIC Cooperation for the Implementation of SDGs in OIC Member Countries	Meeting	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	-	03 October 2016 SESRIC HQ	Specific new modalities and approaches for enhancing the role of SESRIC in the mandated areas to facilitate the implementation of SDGs in OIC Member Countries; Some proposals for partnership in specific activities and programmes with relevant national, international, regional and NGOs institutions.
124.	SESRIC	The future of tourism development in Konya	Workshop	Tourism	Regulatory Framework, Capacity Building and Training Programmes	ICDT	15-16 November 2016 Konya, Turkey	The workshop aims to provide the participants an opportunity to deliberate and to exchange views, knowledge and expertise with a view to determining ways and modalities for future development of tourism in Konya. The workshop is expected to generate concrete and implementable recommendations and project proposals for developing sustainable tourism in Konya that can be presented to the 10 th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers to be hosted by Bangladesh in 2017.
125.	SESRIC	Third International Islamic Economics and Finance Summer School	Summer School	Finance	Regulatory supervisory and cooperation,	Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University International Research and Study	27-31 August 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	Students, academics and officials from Islamic Finance Institutions from OIC Member Countries benefitted from the programme.

					Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Center of Islamic Economics and Finance (IRCIEF)			
126.	SESRIC	International Joint Conference on Islamic Economics and Finance	Conference	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University & Sakarya University Finance (IRCIEF) + Participation Banks Association of Turkey (TKBB) + Borsa Istanbul + World Bank Global Islamic Finance Development Center	1-3 September 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	Students, academics and officials from Islamic Finance Institutions from OIC Member Countries benefitted from the programme.	
127.	SESRIC	Risk Management in Islamic Financial Institutions	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Bank Indonesia + National Bank of Kazakhstan	7-8 September 2016 Almaty, Kazakhstan	Officials of National Bank of Kazakhstan benefitted from the programme.	
128.	SESRIC	Liquidity Management for Islamic Banks	Training Workshop	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Bank Negara Malaysia	19-23 September 2016 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Relevant officials from Central Banks of OIC Member Countries have been supported for and benefitted from the programme.	
129.	SESRIC	Internal Audit and Corporate Governance	Training Workshop	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	ADFI + Central Bank of Republic of Turkey (CBRT) + Authority Monetary Brunei Darussalam	11-13 October 2016 Brunei, Darussalam	Relevant officials from Central Banks and development Finance Institutions of OIC Member Countries benefitted from the programme.	
130.	SESRIC	Organizational Development (HRM, Governance, Strategic Planning)	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) + Central Bank of Guinea	19-20 October 2016 Conakry, Guinea	Officials from Central Bank of Guinea benefitted from the programme.	
131.	SESRIC	Macroeprudential Analysis & Policy Framework	Training Workshop	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Bank Negara Malaysia	31 October-4 November 2016 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Relevant officials from Central Banks of OIC Member Countries have been supported for and benefitted from the programme.	

132.	SESRI	Monetary Policy Transmission Mechanism	On-Site Training	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Central Bank of Republic of Turkey (CBRT)	31 October-19 November 2016 Ankara, Turkey	One official from Central Bank of Kyrgyzstan had on-site training for 3 weeks at the relevant department of CBRT.
133.	SESRI	6th Global Islamic Microfinance Forum	Forum	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking & Economics (CIBE)	08 -09 November 2016 Nairobi, Kenya	The participants gained global practices on Islamic Microfinance by using learned national and international experts.
134.	SESRI	Shariah Foundation, Sustainable Operational Strategies and Innovation – Conception to Practices	Training Workshop	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking & Economics (CIBE)	11-12 November 2016 Nairobi, Kenya	The participants gained global practices on Islamic Microfinance by using learned national and international experts.
135.	SESRI	Financial Tables based Real Sector Statistics	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Central Bank of Republic of Azerbaijan + Central Bank of Kyrgyz Republic	2-3 November 2016 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic	Officials from Central Bank of Kyrgyz Republic benefitted from the programme.
136.	SESRI	Monetary Policy Formulation	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Central Bank of Republic of Turkey (CBRT) + Central Bank of Jordan	2-3 November 2016 Amman, Jordan	Officials from Central Bank of Jordan benefitted from the programme.
137.	SESRI	Company Valuation of Start-up Companies	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Borsa Istanbul + Baku Stock Exchange	7-8 November 2016 Baku, Azerbaijan	Officials from Baku Stock Exchange benefitted from the programme.
138.	SESRI	Basics of Competition Law	Training Course	Trade	Trade liberalization	Awards and Investment Promotion Agency of the Ministry of General Affairs and Governance, Kingdom of Morocco + Directorate of Interior Trade and Competition of Guinea	25-26 January 2016 Conakry, Guinea	Officials from Directorate of Interior Trade and Competition of Guinea benefitted from the programme.

139.	SESRIC	Competition Law Enforcement in Regulated Markets and Bid-Rigging	Training Course	Trade	Trade liberalization	Turkish Competition Authority + Competition Commission of Pakistan	25-27 January 2016 Islamabad, Pakistan	Officials from Competition Commission of Pakistan benefitted from the programme.
140.	SESRIC	Competition Law and Policy	Training Course	Trade	Trade liberalization	Turkish Competition Authority + National Competition Authority of Cameroon	18-20 April 2016 Yaounde, Cameroon	Officials from National Competition Authority benefitted from the programme.
141.	SESRIC	Rural Development Projects Impact Assessment	Training Course	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring poverty	NGO World Foundation	21-23 December 2015 Islamabad, Pakistan	The course was designed for NGOs working in development areas in Islamabad with a view to building their capacity in the field of project impact analysis.
142.	SESRIC	Public Media Services and Broadcasting Principles	Workshop	Transport and Communications	Regulatory Framework, Information and Communications Technologies	OIC Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (IBRAF)	12-13 January 2016 Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	The workshop enabled participants to share information and experience in order to enhance the cooperation in the field of broadcasting regulation and principles among broadcasting regulatory authorities and/or institutions with similar functions and responsibilities in OIC Member States.
143.	SESRIC	Reintegration and Development in Libya: The Role of Think-Tanks	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness, Productive Capacity of the Poor, Monitoring Poverty	The Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research (SETA) + The Libyan Programme for Reintegration (LPRD) + Development and the Libyan Organization of Policies and Strategies (LOOPS)	22-23 February 2016 Ankara, Turkey	The workshop supported independent policy research institutions in their efforts to carry out rigorous and independent research for better policymaking process and enhanced the capacities of the Libyan think-tanks to synthesize and package knowledge and evidence by translating research results into relevant and digestible content for varying audiences.
144.	SESRIC	Syrian Refugees: Prospects and Challenges	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	All output areas regarding Poverty Alleviation	-	25-26 February 2016 Ankara, Turkey	The workshop enabled an interactive forum for countries which are hosting Syrian refugees in order to share their experience on the Syrian refugee crisis and to contribute and benefit from each other's experiences. The workshop led for the preparation of a common way for common problems and emergency plans.

145.	SESRI	Radicalism and Violent Extremism	Expert Group Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Centre for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies (ORSAM) + Foundation for Political and Social Research (SETA)	02 March 2016 Ankara, Turkey	The meeting helped the core "SESRI-ORSAM-SETA" research team to produce research outputs (i.e. research reports) that have practical implications in helping OIC member countries understand and combat radicalism and violent extremism.
146.	SESRI	Strengthening Intra-OIC Cooperation for Development: The Role of SESRI	Roundtable Meeting	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	-	06 May 2016 Ankara, Turkey	The Roundtable Meeting enabled exchange of views on ways and means of strengthening technical cooperation among OIC member countries in various fields and areas of interest; provide recommendations on some new modalities and approaches for enhancing the role of SESRI in the mandated area of technical cooperation; and explore some scenarios for partnership in specific activities and programmes with relevant national, international, regional institutions.
147.	SESRI	Enhancing the Capacity of Al-Nahrain Center for Strategic Studies	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty, Productive Capacity of the Poor	Centre for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies (ORSAM) + Al-Nahrain Center for Strategic Studies	16-20 May 2016 Ankara, Turkey	The training increased the research capacity of the Centre through organizing a series of training sessions and study visits to the various Turkish governmental institutions, think-tanks and research centres in Ankara.
148.	SESRI	Roadmap for the Education of Syrian Refugee Children	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	All output areas regarding Poverty Alleviation	Foundation for Political and Social Research (SETA) + OIC-ICHAD	01-02 June 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	The workshop discussed the current status of the education of Syrian children in Turkey in order to advise applicable policy recommendations on removing barriers to education and to improve coordination mechanism among partners. Within the scope of the workshop, the participants had opportunity to work on how to increase the number of enrolment of Syrian children in schools and take part in other educational programs, and remove them from the workforce, or at least minimize the negative effects of working while continuing their education.
149.	SESRI	Enhancing the Medical Teaching Environment for The Gambia	Study Visit	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	School of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences at the University of the Gambia (SMAHS) + Yildirim Beyazid University + IDB	05-09 September 2016 Ankara, Turkey	The study visit aimed to build a strong interdisciplinary research culture, generating knowledge in allied health sciences and translating knowledge to address and sustain the need of having enough and qualified national doctors and lecturers in The Gambia.
150.	SESRI	Trade Unionism in the Islamic World	Symposium	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Confederation of Public Servants	13-14 October 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	The Symposium shared knowledge and experience on trade unionism in OIC Member Countries and to discuss ways and means for overcoming common challenges

								Trade Unions (MEMUR-SEN)				and problems by developing joint projects and initiatives among different stakeholders and establishing a knowledge network among participants for sustainable cooperation and collaboration in the future.
151.	SESRIC	Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in OIC Member Countries: Needs and Capacity Assessment	Workshop	Trade and Poverty Alleviation	Diverse		IDB + GED + UNDP IICPSD	09-11 May 2016 Ankara, Turkey	The workshop discussed the current situation of the technical and vocational education and training in OIC Member Countries, as well as challenges and problems faced by TVET institutions to provide necessary skills and competencies needed for the market. The workshop developed proposals for improving the quality of TVET systems in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda.			
152.	SESRIC	SESRIC Internship Programme	On-the-job training	Trade and Poverty Alleviation	Diverse		-	December 2015 – November 2016 Ankara, Turkey	SESRIC Internship Programme contributed to the development of professional skills; created opportunities for cooperation in the academic field; promoted academic, personal, and career related development.			
153.	SESRIC	Water Management: Using Modern Irrigation Facilities	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Market Performance and Access	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock + Islamic Republic of Afghanistan		06-07 December 2015 Kabul, Afghanistan	Increased resilience of agricultural sector in the face of future crisis.			
154.	SESRIC	Seed Development: Biotechnology Studies	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Azerbaijan		09-10 December 2015 Baku, Azerbaijan	Encouraged entrepreneurs and farmers to enhance their investments.			
155.	SESRIC	Greenhouse Farming	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) + Alata Research Centre		14-18 March 2016 Adana, Turkey	Encouraged entrepreneurs and farmers to enhance their investments.			
156.	SESRIC	Development of Sustainable Aquaculture for OIC Countries	Study Visit	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	IDB + Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey (MoFAL)		30 May - 03 June 2016 Mugla and Izmir, Turkey	Participants were informed about Turkish aquaculture applications; and private sector partnership was developed to set up joint fish farms.			

157.	SESRIC	Plant Tissue Culture Technology Transfer	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Market Performance and Access	COMCEC + Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey	30 May - 02 June 2016 Bademli-Izmir, Turkey	Increased transparency of agricultural markets.
158.	SESRIC	Basics of Competition Law in Guinea	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of General Affairs and Governance, Kingdom of Morocco and National Directorate of Interior Trade and Competition, Republic of Guinea	25-26 January 2016 Conakry, Guinea	The outcome of the training course was to increase the expertise capacity of the National Directorate of Interior Trade and Competition, Republic of Guinea under: Competitive Practices; Economic Concentrations; The Role of Competition Authorities; Relationship between Competition Authorities and Sector Regulators.
159.	SESRIC	Competition Law Enforcement in Regulated Markets and Bid-Rigging	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Turkish Competition Authority and Competition Commission of Pakistan	25-27 January 2016 Islamabad, Pakistan	The outcome of the training course was to increase the expertise capacity of the Competition Commission of Pakistan under: Providing Leniency; Establishing a Price/Margin Squeeze; Applying a Regulated Conduct Defense Test; Building Relationships with Sector Regulators and Failing Firm Defence.
160.	SESRIC	Competition Law and Policy	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Turkish Competition Authority and National Competition Authority of Cameroon	18-20 April 2016 Yaounde, Cameroon	The outcome of the training course was to increase the expertise capacity of the National Competition Authority of Cameroon under: Providing Leniency; Establishing a Price/Margin Squeeze; Applying a Regulated Conduct Defense Test; Building Relationships with Sector Regulators and Failing Firm Defence; Competitive Practices; Economic Concentrations; and The Role of Competition Authorities.
161.	SESRIC	Second Meeting of the OIC Public Employment Services Network	Network Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Turkish Employment Agency, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	27-28 September 2016 Ankara, Turkey	The main outcome of the Second Meeting of OIC PESNET was to review the progress of the actions and activities accomplished since the First Meeting of the Network in April 2014 and discuss the modalities of closer collaboration among PES Authorities in OIC Member Countries and introduce current state, challenges of and improvements achieved in Public Employment Services in their respective countries.
162.	SESRIC	Technical Training Course on 'Occupational Hygiene and Safety'	Training Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey	14-18 December 2015 Ankara, Turkey	The outcome of the event was to form basis for mutual knowledge and experience sharing among member countries, and brought together technical experts of the OIC Member Countries, namely from Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine and Sudan.

163.	SESRI	Occupational Safety and Health in Construction Sector and Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey and Ministry of Health, Sultanate of Oman	04-06 April 2016 Muscat, Oman	The outcome of the training course was to increase the expertise capacity of the Ministry of Health, Sultanate of Oman under the following subjects of OSH; Chemical Exposure and Health Affects; Personnel Air Sampling; Chemical Exposure and Health Affects; Chemical Storages; Thermal Comfort and Noise Exposure.
164.	SESRI	Occupational Health: Chemical Exposure	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey and Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Kingdom of Bahrain	05-07 April 2016 Manama, Bahrain	The outcome of the training course was to increase the expertise capacity of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Kingdom of Bahrain under the following subjects of OSH; Chemical Exposure and Health Affects; Personnel Air Sampling; Chemical Exposure and Health Affects; Chemical Storages; Thermal Comfort and Noise Exposure.
165.	SESRI	Occupational Safety and Health Management System: Hazard Identification Risk, Control Risk Assessment, Incident Investigation and Reporting	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	National Occupational Safety and Health Institution, Malaysia and Saeed Ahmed Awan Centre for the Improvement of Working Conditions & Environment, Pakistan	18-20 April 2016 Lahore, Pakistan	The outcome of the training course was to increase the expertise capacity of the Saeed Ahmed Awan Centre for the Improvement of Working Conditions & Environment, Pakistan under the following subjects of OSH; Hazard Identification; Risk Assessment & Risk Control; Root Cause Analysis; Principle of Accident Investigation; Analyse Data of Accident; Accident Investigation Methodology; Accident Case Studies; and the Notification of the Procedure Accident Investigation.
166.	SESRI	3rd Meeting of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET)	Network Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey	10 May 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	The outcome of the Third Meeting of the OIC-OSHNET was to review the progress of the actions and activities accomplished since the inception of the Network in Ankara on May 2011 and discussed the modalities of closer collaboration among OSH authorities in the OIC Member Countries. One of the major parts of the Meeting was to revise and adopt "Istanbul Recommendation on Sustainable OSH Services in OIC Member Countries", towards accomplishing Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda.
167.	SESRI	Panel Session on "The Role of National and International OSH Organizations" in the Eighth International Conference on	Panel Session	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey	10 May 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	The outcome of the Panel Session was to identify the Roles of National and International OSH Organizations for generating safer workplaces.

		Occupational Safety and Health							
168.	SESRIC	Organizational Development and Poverty Analysis	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Family and Social Policies of the Republic of Turkey and Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), Republic of Indonesia	22-23 March 2016 Jakarta, Indonesia	The outcome of the training course was to increase the expertise capacity of the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), Republic of Indonesia, under the following subjects; Project Impact and Analysis; Information Technology for Poverty Alleviation; Organizational Development; Project Development; and Governance and Cooperation with Civil Society.	
169.	SESRIC	Knowledge Sharing Workshop on OIC Social Security Systems	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Family and Social Policies of the Republic of Turkey	04-06 April 2016 Ankara, Turkey	The outcome of the event was to form basis for mutual knowledge and experience sharing among member countries, and brought together technical experts of Social Security Authorities of the OIC Member Countries, namely from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Gambia, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey and Uganda. Another outcome was to form a network of Social Security Institutions in OIC Member Countries.	
170.	SESRIC	Pension System	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	National Social Security Fund of Tunisia and Pension Fund of Togo	11-12 July 2016 Lome, Togo	The outcome of the training course was to increase the expertise capacity of Pension Fund of Togo under the following subjects; Actuarial and Financial Management; Information Technology; Pension; General Health Insurance; and Insurance Premiums.	
171.	SESRIC	Policies to Fight Against Informal Employment	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	National Social Security Fund of Tunisia and Insurance Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Uganda	29-30 August 2016 Kampala, Uganda	The outcome of the training course was to increase the expertise capacity of the Insurance Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Uganda under the following subjects; Historical Overview; What's Informal Employment; Informal Employment and Economy in African Countries; and Policies Used to Fight Against Informal Employment.	
172.	SESRIC	Conference on Employment of Persons with Disabilities in OIC Member Countries; Raising Awareness & Employment Opportunities	Conference	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Family and Social Policies of the Republic of Turkey	26-28 October 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	The outcome of the conference was to raise awareness and share knowledge and best practices in the area of employment of persons with disabilities. The two day conference was in the area of the employment scope of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and the process of creation of employment indicators, the current situation and challenges of persons with disabilities in the labour market of OIC Member Countries and activities regarding vocational training and rehabilitation.	
173.	SESRIC	Technical Training Workshop on 'Confined Spaces'	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	National Occupational Safety and Health Institution, Malaysia	07-11 November 2016 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia	The outcome of the event was to form basis for mutual knowledge and experience sharing among member countries, and brought together technical experts of Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) authorities of the OIC Member Countries, namely from Albania,	

									Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Bangladesh, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine and Turkey.
174.	SESRIC	International Tourism in the OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges 2015	Research	Tourism	Regulatory framework, Community based tourism, Marketing strategies	-	28 December 2015 SESRIC		This report examines the performance and the economic role of the international tourism sector in OIC member countries and sheds light on the challenges of tourism development and proposes recommendations for tourism development.
175.	SESRIC	The State of Transportation in the Member Countries of D-8	Research	Transport and Communications	Regulatory Transport policies framework, infrastructure	D-8	January 2016 SESRIC		This report investigates the performance of different modes of transportation by highlighting the relationship between transportation and trade and tourism. The report concludes with some broad policy recommendations aiming at improving the efficiency of the transportation sector in the D-8 countries.
176.	SESRIC	Transportation Networks in the OIC Member Countries: Impact on Trade and Tourism	Research	Transport and Communications	Regulatory Transport policies framework, infrastructure	-	30 March 2016 SESRIC		This report investigates the transport performance of OIC countries by looking at their transport capacity and its effective use for the promotion of trade and tourism sectors. The report concludes with specific policy recommendations.
177.	SESRIC	Agricultural and Food Security in OIC Member Countries 2016	Research	Agriculture	Diverse	-	02 May 2016 SESRIC		This report highlights the recent state as well as the constraints and challenges of agricultural development and food security in the OIC countries, sheds light on the importance of promoting intra-OIC investment in the agriculture sector and proposes projects and policy recommendations in this regard.
178.	SESRIC	Mapping Turkey's Resource Centres 2016	Research	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	IDB	24 May 2016 SESRIC		This study provides an analysis of Turkey's institutional capacity for international development cooperation by showcasing best practices and South-South cooperation potential in some selected areas, including agriculture, livestock and food security, health and nutrition, technical and vocational education and training, transport and communications, disaster and emergency management.
179.	SESRIC	Somalia: Overview of Socio-Economic Development	Research	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	-	June 2016 SESRIC		This report highlights the socioeconomic development performance of Somalia during the last 10 years with special emphasis on the current bottlenecks and challenges which are still impeding the developmental efforts of the country. The report concludes with a set of policy recommendations to serve as a broad guidance for policy-makers.

180.	SESRI	Humanitarian Needs of Syrian Refugees; Challenges of the Neighbouring Countries 2016	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Effective Financial Diverse	Utilization of Resources	-	29 July 2016 SESRI	This report assess the humanitarian as well as employment, health and educational requirements of the Syrian refugees in neighboring countries keeping in view the forecast for future increase in their numbers.
181.	SESRI	The State of Tourism in the Member Countries of D-8	Research	Tourism	Diverse		D-8	September 2016 SESRI	This report analyses and examines the trends in the major tourism indicators and looks at the intra-D-8 tourism trends to reveal the level of integration in this domain.
182.	SESRI	OIC Economic Outlook 2016	Research	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse		-	November 2016 SESRI	This report provides a detailed analysis of trends in major economic indicators during the latest five-year period and highlights a number of constraints and challenges confronting the OIC member countries in their efforts to enhance economic development and progress.
183.	SESRI	Moving from MDGs to SDGs: Prospects and Challenges for OIC Member Countries	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse		-	November 2016 SESRI	This study makes a comprehensive analysis of the progress towards achieving the MDGs in OIC countries based on the latest statistics and information. The study will also try to identify the major challenges and prospects for achieving the SDGs in OIC countries.
184.	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	The forum emphasized the importance of unified Halal accreditation scheme based on the OIC/SMIIC Standards.
185.	SMIIC	SMIIC Halal Conference	Conference	Trade	Trade liberalization		SMIIC GS and Department of Standards Malaysia	14-15 December 2015 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	The Conference has provided a platform for SMIIC Members to discuss and exchange views and experiences in the development and implementation of halal standards.
186.	SMIIC	Metrology Committee Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade Facilitation		SMIIC GS and SMIIC Metrology Committee	18 January 2016 Kocaeli, Turkey	The meeting guided Member States in enhancing their capacity building in metrology field.
187.	SMIIC	Scientific Metrology Training	Technical Training	Trade	Trade liberalization		TÜBİTAK-UME, SESRI	22-26 February 2016 Kocaeli, Turkey	The training helped Member States to improve their human resources by training their experts in scientific metrology field.
188.	SMIIC	Committee on Standards for Conformity Assessment (SMIIC/CCA)	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization		SMIIC GS	23-24 March 2016 Istanbul / Turkey	It was decided that SMIIC Technical Committees (TCs), Metrology Committee (MC) and Accreditation Committee (AC) to become liaisons of SMIIC/CCA and SMIIC/CCA Members shall submit, if any, the existing works on conformity assessment or new work item proposals on potential standards, guides or other technical specifications relating to conformity assessment and related areas.

189.	SMIIC	SMIIC Information System Training (IS)	Technical Meeting	Trade	Institutional and Human Capacity	SMIIC GS and SMIIC Technical Committees	19-21 April 2016 Istanbul / Turkey	The SMIIC IS which is aimed at harmonizing and simplifying the registration and management of data was introduced to the users who act as SMIIC member body representatives in technical committees, subcommittees and working groups.
190.	SMIIC	9th Meeting of SMIIC General Assembly	Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	24 May 2016 Istanbul/Turkey	It was a regular meeting in which the General Secretariat briefed the General Assembly by presenting a comprehensive report on the latest developments and activities of SMIIC, Technical Committees (TCs) and SMIIC/CCA. Metrology Committee Secretary also briefed the GA on the recent activities carried out.
191.	CCO	7th Meeting of the Trade Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Trade	Trade Facilitation	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	February 25th, 2016 Ankara	During the Meeting, the participants deliberated on standards as non-tariff barriers, development of quality infrastructure, and strengthening the compliance of member countries with international standards. The research study prepared for the meeting highlighted the importance of compliance with international standards for the OIC Member Countries, especially for improving export competitiveness and trade facilitation through the elimination of barriers on trade. The policy recommendations were formulated during the WG Meeting in this regard.
192.	CCO	8th Meeting of the Trade Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Trade	Trade Facilitation	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 6th, 2016 Ankara	8th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was devoted to "Improving the Border Agency Cooperation among the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade." The research study and the participants of the working group highlighted the major challenges faced by the Member Countries. The policy recommendations were formulated during the WG Meeting in this regard.
193.	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 5th, 2016 Ankara	During the 7th Tourism WG Meeting, which was held with the theme of "Muslim-Friendly Tourism: Understanding the Demand and Supply Sides in the OIC Member Countries", the discussions specifically focused on the conceptual framework of the MFT, overview of the current state of the MFT sector in the world and OIC Member Countries, as well as the challenges faced for developing the MFT sector in the Member Countries. The policy recommendations were formulated during the WG Meeting in this regard.
194.	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	8th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism WG was held with the theme of "Muslim Friendly Tourism: Developing and Marketing MFT Products and Services in the OIC Member Countries." During the meeting, the participants from the Member Countries discussed the current trends in the development of marketing MFT products and services, government policies for

								supporting the MFT sector, challenges faced by the member countries as well as the policy recommendations for effective MFT product development and marketing strategies. The policy recommendations were formulated during the WG Meeting in this regard.
195.	CCO	7th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Transport	<p>Institutional and Human Capacity Improved national transport policy-making and planning capacity of the member states Enhanced professional skills of human resources</p> <p>Transport Infrastructure Policies Development of sound infrastructure policies Enhanced private sector involvement in infrastructure projects and promoted innovative financing modalities, including PPP</p>	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	March 24th, 2016 Ankara	During the Meeting, the Transport and Communications Working Group shared their country's experiences regarding their road maintenance practices. The participants made deliberations on how to align their policies on road maintenance issue. The Meeting came up with sound policy recommendations with a view to addressing the challenges they face with respect to road maintenance.
196.	CCO	8th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Transport	<p>Institutional and Human Capacity Improved national transport policy-making and planning capacity of the member states Enhanced professional skills of human resources</p> <p>Transport Infrastructure Policies Development of sound infrastructure policies Enhanced private sector involvement in infrastructure projects and promoted innovative financing modalities, including PPP</p>	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 27th, 2016 Ankara	During the Meeting, the Transport and Communications Working Group exchange their experiences with respect to the road safety. The delegates also discussed on how to align their policies for improving safety of their roads. The Meeting came up with practical policy recommendations to be implemented for improving road safety.
197.	CCO	6th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Financial Cooperation	Visibility of Financial Markets Enhanced awareness on Islamic Financial Markets	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	17-18 March 2016 Ankara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for sharing experiences, achievements and challenges on developing Islamic Finance Strategies

					<p>Training, R&D Activities and Statistics Developed human resources and increased financial literacy</p> <p>Regulatory and supervisory cooperation Developed legal, regulatory and institutional framework</p> <p>Policy Recommendation of the 3rd Meeting: Developing Islamic Finance Strategies at National Level</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing policy recommendations for 32nd COMCEC Ministerial Exchange of Views Session • Raising awareness on Islamic Finance • Strengthening cooperation among member countries by creating communication channels among Member States experts • Producing a comprehensive research report on the theme of Working Group Meeting • Proceeding report of the Working Group Meeting
198.	CCO	7th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Financial Cooperation	<p>Visibility of Financial Markets Enhanced awareness on Islamic Financial Markets</p> <p>Training, R&D Activities and Statistics Developed human resources and increased financial literacy Enhanced monitoring of financial institutions and markets</p> <p>Regulatory and supervisory cooperation Developed legal, regulatory and institutional framework</p>	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 20th, 2016 Ankara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for sharing experiences, achievements and challenges on improving Islamic Financial Architecture • Producing policy recommendations for improving Islamic financial architecture in the member countries • Raising awareness on Islamic Finance • Strengthening cooperation among member countries by creating communication channels among Member States experts • Producing a comprehensive research report on the theme of Working Group Meeting • Proceeding report of the Working Group Meeting • Producing a financial outlook report 	
199.	CCO	7th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Agriculture	Increasing productivity	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	March 3rd, 2016 Ankara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a platform for share of experiences among Member Countries with regards to on-farm food losses. • Conducted research report titled "Reducing On-Farm Food Losses in the OIC Member Countries." • Encouraged the Member Countries for improving their produce and disseminate data on on-farm food losses. • Produced policy recommendations for reducing on-farm food losses in the OIC Countries. Thus, 	

								supported member countries to approximate policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing a platform for share of experiences among Member Countries regarding their current programs/project in the field of on-farm food losses.
200.	CCO	8th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing productivity Reduction of post-harvest losses 	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 13th, 2016 Ankara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing a platform for share of experiences among Member Countries with regards to post-harvest losses. Conducted research report titled "Reducing post-harvest losses in the OIC Member Countries." Encouraged the Member Countries for improving their produce and disseminate data on post-harvest losses. Produced policy recommendations for reducing post-harvest losses in the OIC Countries. Thus, supported member countries to approximate policies. Providing a platform for share of experiences among Member Countries regarding their current programs/project in the field of post-harvest losses.
201.	CCO	7th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined and more efficient allocation of poverty related funds in the COMCEC region Policy recommendation of the 3rd WGM: expanding the coverage of the existing ones in the member countries 	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	February 11th, 2016 Ankara	During the Meeting, Poverty Alleviation Working Group made deliberations for policy approximation among the Member Countries regarding enhancing vulnerable groups' accessibility to social protection programmes. The Meeting came up with policy recommendations with the aim of increasing the accessibility of social protection programmes for vulnerable groups.
202.	CCO	8th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Increasing productive capacity of the poor	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	November 3rd, 2016 Ankara	During the Meeting, Poverty Alleviation Working Group made deliberations for policy approximation among the Member Countries regarding forced migration. The Meeting came up with policy recommendations with the aim of ensuring better life conditions for the forced migrant as well as increasing their productive capacities to enhance their employability.
203.	CCO	4th Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Focal Points	Meeting	All Cooperation Areas		Member Countries	1-2 June 2016 Ankara	During the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The participants were informed about the status of progress on the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. The participants were briefed on the role of focal points in the realization of the COMCEC Strategy.

									<p>particularly in the preparation, coordination and follow up of the policy recommendations formulated by the Working Groups and adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A discussion on the themes of the working group for 2017-2019 was held. • A moderated session was also conducted on COMEC Project funding and its benefits for the Member countries.
204.	CCO	Training Programme on COMCEC Project Funding	Training	All Cooperation Areas	Member Countries	29-30 March 2016 Ankara	<p>A training program on the COMCEC Project Implementation Procedures was provided to the project owners and coordinators from member countries. The lessons learned from the first and second project implantation periods of the COMCEC Project Funding were considered during the program.</p>		

LIST OF ACTIVITIES TO BE ORGANIZED BY THE OIC INSTITUTIONS ALIGNED WITH THE COMCEC STRATEGY December 2016- November 2017								
No	OIC Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Relevance to Strategy's Output Area/ Related WG Policy	Partner(s)	Date and Venue	Outcomes of the Activity (Please Briefly Explain)
1.	ICCIA	10th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries	Forum	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States	MCs	To be determined Sudan/Egypt	Outcomes to be determined after the events.
2.	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.	MCs	To be determined To be determined	-
3.	ICCIA	Training Program on Entrepreneurship Development through IT for OIC Countries	Training Program	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	PGTF / UNOSSC/ MCs	To be determined To be determined	-
4.	ICCIA	Forum/Workshop for Private Sector Investors in the area of Development of Islamic Tourism.	Forum/ Workshop	Trade / Tourism	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MCs	18-21 October 2017 Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt	
5.	ICCIA	Specialized Workshop/Training Program on (Development of SMEs / Skill Development / Food Security)	Workshop	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MC's	To be determined	-
6.	ICCIA	Trade Exchange Forum/Exhibition (Sector-wise)	Forum	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States	MC's	To be determined	

7.	ICCIA	Annual Halal Conference	Conference	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MC's	To be determined	-
8.	ICCIA	Innovation & Excellence Award (ITQAN).	Conference	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MC's	To be determined	-
9.	ICCIA	Conference on Muslim Business-owners	Conference	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MC's	To be determined	-
10.	ICCIA	Chambers of Commerce Forum	Forum	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States.	MC's	To be determined	
11.	ICDT	Training Seminar on Industrial Property and Industrial contracts agreements in Arab Countries	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry in Charge of Industry of Morocco, AIDMO, OMPIIC, WIPO	20-22 December 2016 Casablanca/ Morocco	
12.	ICDT	15th Meeting of the Economic Counselors of the OIC Embassies accredited in Rabat	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	OIC Member States	January 2017 Rabat/ Morocco	
13.	ICDT	Seminar on Trade in Services	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry in Charge of Foreign Trade of Morocco SESRIIC ITC WTO OIC Member States	February 2017 Casablanca/Morocco	
14.	ICDT	16th OIC Trade Fair	Trade Fair	Seminar	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Trade of Iraq OIC Member States	2-7 April 2017 Baghdad, Iraq	

							State Company for Iraqi Fairs & Commercial Services			
15.	ICDT	10th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries in the OIC Member States	Trade Fair	Seminar	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	10-13 April 2017 Jeddah/ KSA			
16.	ICDT	3rd African Forum on Halal Business	Business Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of National Entrepreneurship, Handicraft and Promotion of SMEs, Halal Côte d'Ivoire, ITFC, SMHC, SIBML, OIC BIZ Malaysia	April 2017 Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire			
17.	ICDT	1st OIC Sport Equipment and Leisure	Trade Fair	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Sports of Azerbaijan Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation ITECA Caspian LLC	13-15 May 2017 Baku Azerbaijan			
18.	ICDT	Business Forum of Agadir, AMU and WAEMU Countries	Business Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry in Charge of Foreign Trade of Morocco, ITFC	May 2017 Casablanca/Morocco			
19.	ICDT	1st OIC Green Economy Expo	Expo and Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development Ministry of Energy and Development of Renewable Energies National Agency for Renewable Energies (ANER)	26-29 October 2017 Dakar Senegal			
20.	ICDT	3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States	Trade Fair	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Tourism of Egypt Egyptian Authority for Tourism	18-21 October 2017 Cairo/Egypt			

							Promotion Egypt Expo and Convention Authority (EECA)			
21.	ICDT	8th OIC World BIZ and 5th OIC-Asia Economic Forum	Expo and Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Trade of Malaysia OIC Biz Center Malaysia	October 2017 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia			
22.	ICDT	Buyers/Sellers Meeting on pharmaceuticals	Business Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene of Cote d'Ivoire Building Events ITFC	2-5 November 2017 Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire			
23.	ICDT	5th OIC Halal Expo	Expo and Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Economy of Turkey SMIC ITFC ICCIA	15-17 December 2017 Istanbul/Turkey			
24.	ICDT	2nd OIC Building and Real Estate Exhibition	Expo and Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of National Entrepreneurship, Handicraft and Promotion of SMEs	2017 Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire			
25.	ICDT	Business Forum North Africa and C4 Countries	Business Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry in Charge of Foreign Trade of Morocco, ITFC	2017 Casablanca/Morocco			
26.	ICDT	1st OIC Fisheries and Marine Expo,	Expo and Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy of the Republic of Senegal ITFC	2017 Dakar Senegal			
27.	ICDT	Training Workshop on international marketing and export techniques for Coffee exporters of Asia	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Trade of Indonesia, ITFC	2017 Jakarta, Indonesia			

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		International Investment Agreements										
36.	ICDT	Training Workshop on Exports Strategies and SMEs Internationalization of Gabonese SMEs Wood Exporters	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Investment	Ministry of Trade of Gabon	2017 Libreville Gabon					
37.	ICDT	Training Workshop on the role of Islamic Finance and Insurance on Intra-OIC Trade Facilitation	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Investment	Ministry of Finance of Morocco ITFC ICIEC SMAEX	2017 Casablanca/Morocco					
38.	ICDT	Training Workshop on Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas	Training Seminar	Tourism	Promoting Intra-OIC Tourism Development	Ministry of Foreign Trade of Morocco SESERIC	2017 Casablanca/Morocco					
39.	ICDT	Donors' Conference for the project on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa"	Meeting	Tourism	Promoting Intra-OIC Tourism Development	Ministry of Tourism of Morocco SESERIC UNWTO Member Countries	2017 Casablanca/Morocco					
40.	ICDT	Mapping des bases de données du TNIC avec celles de : United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	UNOSSC	2017 Casablanca/Morocco					
41.	ICDT	Launching the Observatory on OIC NTB	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	COMCEC ITC WTO WCO	2017 Casablanca/Morocco					
42.	ICDT	Launching an OIC Portal on Tourism	Meeting	Tourism	Promoting Intra-OIC Tourism Development	ICCIA UNWTO ITC WTO	2017 Casablanca/Morocco					

43.	ICDT	Launching an OIC Portal on Investment	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	UNCTAD ITC	2017 Casablanca/Morocco	
44.	ICDT	Workshop on online marketing for OIC Women entrepreneurs	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Trade of Guinea WIEF	2017 Conakry Guinea	
45.	ICDT	Training workshop on WTO Trade Facilitation and OIC SW Initiative	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Foreign Trade of Morocco Dept of Cooperation and Integration of IDB ITC WTO WCO SESRIIC	2017 Casablanca/ Morocco	
46.	ICDT	Training Workshop on Exports Strategies for Primo-Exports of CIS Countries	Training Workshop	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Trade of Uzbekistan Dept of Cooperation and Integration of IDB	2017 Tashkent Uzbekistan	
47.	IDB Group	Capacity Development Program for Trade Support Institutions	TA & Cap. Build Prog.	Trade	Capacity Development	ITC	2015-2017 Algeria, Oman, KSA, Kuwait, Lebanon	Technical capacities of selected TPOs will be enhanced
48.	IDB Group	2nd phase of NTM Study with the inclusion of new MCs	Workshop & Seminar	Trade	Trade Development	ITC	2015-2017 Jordan, KSA, Sudan	Ref to 1.3.
49.	IDB Group	Capacity Building & Institutional Support Prog for Nouadhibou Free Zone, Mauritania	Tech. Assistance prog.	Trade	Cap. Dev./Trade Facilitation Trade Promotion	ICD/IDB, Akaba Free Zone	October-2016- Dec 2017 Mauritania	Institutional and Human Capacity Dev.
50.	IDB Group	Special Program for Central Asia	Regional Economic Coop. Prog.	Trade	Trade Facilitation Trade Promotion Cap. Development	Central Asian MCs, Int. Org.	2015-2019 C/A MCs	
51.	IDB Group	Training for Trainers on Market Analysis Tools	Training	Trade	Cap. Development	ITC, MCs, National Partners	Q2 of 2017 TBD	Trade flows analysis for selected markets and commodities will be conducted
52.	IDB Group	Trainings for National Trade Facilitation Agencies on BPA, TF measures	Training	Trade	Capacity Development	UNECE, UNESCAP, Nat. Part.	Q2 of 2017 TIDB	Understanding and knowledge of participants on various TF measures will be enhanced

53.	IDB Group	B2B Meeting for Marine Industry	Int. Exhibition B2B Meeting	Trade	Trade Promotion	OIC Inst. Int. Org. SMEs/TPO	De. 2016	Knowledge and experience of Tsis on promoting trade will be prepared, B2B meetings will be organized
54.	IDB Group	Trade Development Forum	Business Forum, Seminar, Exh.	Trade	Trade Promotion Trade Facilitation		TBD Dubai, UAE	Establishment of Coffee Farmers Training Center
55.	IDB Group	ITFC's Indonesian Coffee Export Development Program	Technical Assistance	Trade	Capacity Develop. Trade Promotion	Coffee Farmers	2017 Indonesia	
56.	IDB Group	Assistance to at least two MCs in their efforts to accede WTO	Capacity Building	Trade	Trade	Member Country Concerned	2017 TBD	Enhanced capacity in member countries concerned for better negotiating their accession process to WTO.
57.	IDB Group	At least two major OIC agreements would be covered in the sensitization activities	Workshops	Trade	Trade	The relevant Regional Cooperation Organization (RCOs).	2017 TBD	Increased awareness about the OIC's trade agreements.
58.	IDB Group	Three events on trade facilitation/liberalization in the OIC region with a focus on WTO and RTAs	Workshops	Trade	Trade	The relevant Regional Cooperation Organization	2017 TBD	Enhanced capacity in member countries and the relevant RCOs.
59.	IDB Group	Supporting at least 2 RCOs to enhance cooperation of MCs	Capacity building	Regional Cooperation and Integration	Trade and regional cooperation and integration	The relevant Regional Cooperation Organization	2017 TBD	Enhanced capacity of the RCOs concerned for serving regional cooperation among organization.
60.	IDB Group	Workshop on Trans-Saharan corridor	Workshop	Trade/Transport	Trade/Transport	TRL/C/ECOWAS	4 December 2016 Algiers	Feedback from Member countries on the proposal to develop a master plan for commercialization of the Corridor
61.	IDB Group	Workshop on Trans-Saharan corridor	Workshop	Trade/Transport	Trade/Transport	TRL/C/ECOWAS	2017 Niger	Assisting MCs to contribute to commercializing the Corridor
62.	IDB Group	Workshop on a rail corridor in Asia	Workshop	Trade/Transport	Trade/Transport	The relevant RCOs	2017 TBD	Feedback from MCs on the proposal to develop an action plan for commercialization of the Corridor
63.	SESRI	Organizing workshops and seminars related to FDI and competitiveness statistics	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	Finance	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	UNSD, UNCTAD	December 2016- November 2017 TBD	Contributing to the capacity of financial stability and growth of the member countries.

64.	SESRIC	Capacity building on trade statistics including trade satellite accounts	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	Trade	Trade Promotion	UNSD	December 2016- November 2017 TBD	Contributing to the enhancement of the trade related institutional and human capacity of the member states by facilitating exchange of experiences and know-how among them.
65.	SESRIC	Conducting survey of food insecurity in OIC member states and LDCs, through improving the capacity of OIC Member States in alternative measurement methodologies like Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	UNIDO, FAO, IFAD, ESCWA	December 2016- November 2017 TBD	Contributing in enhancement of the sector by obtaining reliable and up-to-date data collection with a view to ensuring sound analysis of the sector, which will allow collaboration and partnership with regional and international organization in data collection.
66.	SESRIC	Implementation of capacity building and reverse linkages programmes in the agricultural sector	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	FAO, UNIDO	December 2016- November 2017 TBD	Contributing in enhancement of the sector by obtaining reliable and up-to-date data collection with a view to ensuring sound analysis of the sector, which will allow collaboration and partnership with regional and international organization in data collection.
67.	SESRIC	Organizing workshops and courses in poverty statistics to ensure evidence based policy making towards poverty eradication	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	UNSD	December 2016- November 2017 TBD	Contributing into obtaining advanced collection of accurate and reliable data as much as obtaining enhanced capacity of the member states in monitoring poverty.
68.	SESRIC	Capacity building programme on Science, Technology, innovation and its measurement promotion in OIC Member States	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	Transport and Communications	Institutional and Human Capacity	WIPO, UNESCO, UIS, ICDT	December 2016- November 2017 TBD	Contribution in increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.

69.	SESRI	Improving the evidence-based decision making in tourism sector by conducting joint activities on tourism statistics including tourism satellite accounts	Statistical Enhancement Programmes	Tourism	Capacity Building and Training Programs	UNWTO	December 2016- November 2017 TBD	Contribution in enhancing data collection and data analysing capacity; increase quality of service in tourism statistics and increase institutional capacity
70.	SESRI	Technical Operations and Infrastructure	Training	Transportation	Transport Infrastructure Policies, Institutional and Human Capacity	Turkish State Railways (TCDD) and Railway Assets Corporation, Malaysia	20-21 December 2016 Malaysia	To build the capacity of the staffs of the Railway Assets Corporation, Malaysia on the topic of "Technical Operations and Infrastructure"
71.	SESRI	Railway Management	Training	Transportation	Transport Infrastructure Policies, Institutional and Human Capacity	Turkish State Railways (TCDD) and Tajik Railways	21-22 December 2016 Tajikistan	To build the capacity of the staffs of the Tajik Railways, Tajikistan on the topic of "Railway Management"
72.	SESRI	Public-private partnerships (PPPs) in Railways	Training	Transportation	Institutional and Human Capacity, Transport Infrastructure Policies	Turkish State Railways (TCDD) and Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, Niger	22-23 February 2017 Niger	To build the capacity of the staffs of the Directorate of Land Transport, Maritime and River, Niger on the topic of "Public-private partnerships (PPPs) in Railways"
73.	SESRI	Maintenance Practices	Training	Transportation	Institutional and Human Capacity	Turkish State Railways (TCDD) and Directorate of Road and Rail Transport, Togo	19-20 April 2017 Togo	To build the capacity of the staffs of the Directorate of Road and Rail Transport, Togo on the topic of "Maintenance Practices"
74.	SESRI	Psychosocial Support Program for Refugee Children	Project	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Doctors Worldwide	2017 Istanbul and Gaziantep, Turkey	The project aims to provide selected children with the capacity to recognize physical symptoms linked to anxiety and stress develop functional thinking and cope with difficulties and decrease the rate of anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. It also aims at providing continuous support after the project through the training to be received by the Syrian teachers and psychologists in the Syrian schools.

75.	SESRI	Training on Emergency Obstetrics and C-section in War	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Ministry of Health of Republic of Turkey and the Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM)	November 2016 - January 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	This programme aims to train doctors and midwives with a view to providing skilled health workforce in the area of war in Syria in obstetrics and gynecology.
76.	SESRI	Consultation Meeting for the OIC Maternal Health and Child Survival Project	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	OIC, USAID, MCSP, UNFPA and WHO	30 November - 01 December 2016 Casablanca, Morocco	The project aims at supporting the countries that conducted the Bottleneck Analysis (BNA) in order to take the next steps toward improving MNCH care and reduce maternal and child deaths. Bottleneck analysis was based on the availability of MNH interventions and their consistency with WHO guidelines, focusing on the main bottlenecks for health system building blocks at country level and identification of feasible and effective strategies and solutions to prevent maternal and neonatal deaths among the participating countries.
77.	SESRI	Tobacco Control Policies for OIC Member States	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Ministry of Health of Turkey and Green Crescent	14-16 December 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	The workshop will share knowledge on the essentials of comprehensive tobacco control policies. Furthermore, the workshop aims to encourage cooperation and sharing expertise in tobacco-related problems among OIC Member States.
78.	SESRI	Strengthening Coordination and Capacity Building on Preparedness and Response for Health Emergencies in OIC Member States Project	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Sudan, Ministry of Health of Republic of Turkey and OIC	2017 Turkey and Sudan	This programme aims to build the health workforce capacity in health emergencies in OIC Member States.
79.	SESRI	Capacity Building of Al Quds Al Sherif Tourism and Hospitality Sector	Training & Study visit	Tourism	Regulatory Framework, Capacity Building and Training Programmes	Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities of Jordan and ICDDT	2017 Amman, Jordan	This programme aims to train, educate and prepare tourism related staff in all of its subsets in Al Quds Al Sherif city. In this regard, the main objectives of this program are development of functional competencies in skills and to build up highly qualified and well trained human resources in public and private sectors so that eventually they will develop manage and serve the industry in a sustainable and competitive manner in accordance with international standards.

80.	SESRIC	Workshop on Exploring Tourism Potential of Al Medina Al Munawwarah	Workshop	Tourism	Regulatory Framework, Capacity Building and Training Programmes	ICDT	Q1 2017 Madinah Al Munawwarah, Saudi Arabia	The workshop will provide the participants an opportunity to deliberate and to exchange views, knowledge and expertise with a view to determining ways and modalities for future development of tourism in Al Medina Al Munawwarah.
81.	SESRIC	Preparation of the Draft Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries	Project	Tourism	Regulatory Framework, Capacity Building	OIC Working Group on Islamic Tourism composed of Indonesia (as coordinator), Bangladesh, SESRIC and IUT	February 2017 SESRIC	SESRIC will prepare the first Draft of the Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries to be submitted to the Islamic Tourism WG members chaired by Indonesia. This Strategic Roadmap aims to set overall goals for development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries and to develop a plan to achieve them while highlighting priorities in providing integrated solutions for implementation. In this regard, it involves firstly the Governance with guidelines for policy makers in member countries and subsequently building capacity for development and investment.
82.	SESRIC	Regional project on sustainable tourism development in a network of cross border parks and protected areas in West Africa	Project	Tourism	Regulatory Framework, Capacity Building and Training Programmes	ICDT	2017 TBD	SESRIC and ICDT have been mandated by the OIC General Secretariat in 2006 to follow up the implementation of the "Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa"
83.	SESRIC	First Meeting of the Working Group on Preparation of Strategic Plan	Meeting	Trade and Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	GED, UNDP IICPSD, IDB	20-21 December 2016 Ankara, Turkey	The main objective of the working groups established at the said workshop is to develop cooperation among the institutions in order to improve the quality of TVET systems in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda. The First Meeting of the Working Group on Preparation of Strategic Plan will develop the Roadmap and Terms of Reference (ToR) for the preparation of a comprehensive multinational strategic plan for OIC Member Countries.
84.	SESRIC	Strengthening Cooperation of OIC Diaspora Institutions	Workshop	Trade and Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	YTB of Turkey	February 2016 Ankara, Turkey	The workshop aims to facilitate the cooperation among the OIC countries on the migration related topics and issues.
85.	SESRIC	Qualification and Quality Assurance System	Meeting	Trade and Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	GED, UNDP IICPSD, IDB	21-22 February 2016 Ankara, Turkey	The main objective of the working groups is to develop cooperation among the institutions in order

								to improve the quality of TVET systems in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda.
86.	SESRIC	Working Group on Occupational Standards	Meeting	Trade and Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	GED, UNDP IICPSD, IDB	14-15 March 2017 Ankara, Turkey	The main objective of the working groups is to develop cooperation among the institutions in order to improve the quality of TVET systems in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda.
87.	SESRIC	Certification and Modular Training Programs	Meeting	Trade and Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	GED, UNDP IICPSD, IDB	9-10 May 2017 Ankara, Turkey	The main objective of the working groups is to develop cooperation among the institutions in order to improve the quality of TVET systems in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda.
88.	SESRIC	OIC-VET Regional Collaboration Centres	Project	Trade and Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	TIKA, Sudanese Turkish Centre for Training of Trainers	TBD Khartoum, Sudan	The general purpose of the project is to contribute to sustainable economic development and the growing prosperity in the OIC member countries by promoting the professional and social integration through the development of human capital. Therefore, this project will play an important role in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda, especially in the SDG 8 (Decent work and Economic Growth) and 4 (Quality Education).
89.	SESRIC	Muslim Diaspora Research	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Ankara Social Sciences University	TBD TBD	The general purpose of the project is to contribute of the well-being and human right and labour right of Muslim Migrant people. Muslim diaspora organizations will be invited into a cooperative scheme throughout the project work. The Project will provide a policy feed for both migrant-receiving and OIC countries; and cast a light on a cooperative platform among them.
90.	SESRIC	Sukuk and Liquidity Management	Workshop	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Central Bank of Republic of Turkey (CBRT), World Bank Global Islamic Finance Development Center.	11-12 December 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	Relevant officials from Central Banks and Monetary Authorities from OIC Member Countries will benefit from the programme

91.	SESRIC	Money and Banking Statistics	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Bank of Uganda, Central Bank of Somalia	19-21 December 2016 Mogadishu, Somalia	Officials of Central Bank of Somalia will benefit from the programme.
92.	SESRIC	Market Operations	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Central Bank of Republic of Turkey (CBRT), Central Bank of Iran	February 2017 Tehran, Iran	Officials of Central Bank of Iran will benefit from the programme.
93.	SESRIC	Macroeconomic Modeling	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Central Bank of Republic of Turkey (CBRT), Central Bank of Sudan	March 2017 Khartoum, Sudan	Officials of Central Bank of Sudan and other actors of the economic system will benefit from the programme.
94.	SESRIC	Reserve Management	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Central Bank of Egypt, Central Bank of Tunisia	May 2017 Tunis, Tunisia	Officials of Central Bank of Tunisia will benefit from the programme
95.	SESRIC	Treasury Management and Liquidity Issues in Islamic Finance	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Association of Islamic Banking Institutions Malaysia, Borsa Istanbul	May 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Officials of Borsa Istanbul will benefit from the programme.
96.	SESRIC	Company Awareness: Exchange Basics	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Islamabad Stock Exchange	January 2017 Maputo, Mozambique	Officials of Mozambique Stock Exchange will benefit from the programme.

97.	SESRI	Islamic Debt and Equity Markets and Products	Study Visit	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Stock Exchange of Afghanistan	April 2017 Tehran, Iran	Officials from Afghanistan will visit TSE and benefit from the experience of Iran
98.	SESRI	Investor and Financial Community Awareness	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Tunisia Stock Exchange, Douala Stock of Cameroon Exchange	June 2017 Yaoundé, Cameroon	Officials of Douala Stock of Cameroon Exchange will benefit from the programme.
99.	SESRI	Islamic Financial Instruments	Training Workshop	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Islamic Financial Services Board	September 2017 TBD	Officials of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities from OIC Member Countries will benefit from the programme
100.	SESRI	Capacity Building of Central Banks	Training Workshop	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Bank Negara Malaysia	2017 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Officials of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities from OIC Member Countries will benefit from the programme.
101.	SESRI	Capacity Building of Central Banks	Training Workshop	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Bank Negara Malaysia	2017 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Officials of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities from OIC Member Countries will benefit from the programme.
102.	SESRI	Financial Inclusion in South Asia	Seminar	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	ADFIMI	2017 Islamabad, Pakistan	Officials from Central Banks and DFIs of OIC MS will benefit from the programme.

103.	SESRIC	Cash Management Operations	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Undersecretariat of Treasury, Prime Ministry of Turkey	2017 Kuwait City, Kuwait	Officials from Ministry of Finance-International Economic Cooperation Department will benefit from the programme.
104.	SESRIC	Exchange Rate Regimes for Major Currencies	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Treasury Department of Ministry of Finance of Malaysia	2017 Baku, Azerbaijan	Officials from State Treasury Agency of Azerbaijan will benefit from the programme.
105.	SESRIC	Alternative Dispute Settlement Mechanism in the Insurance Sector; Insurance Arbitration Commission	Training Course	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Undersecretariat of Treasury, Prime Ministry of Turkey	2017 Amman, Jordan	Officials from Central Banks and DFIs of OIC MS will benefit from the programme.
106.	SESRIC	Competition Law Enforcement in Regulated Markets and Bid-Rigging	Training Course	Trade	Trade liberalization	Turkish Competition Authority and Competition Authority of Jordan	December 2016 Amman, Jordan	Officials from Competition Authority of Jordan will benefit from the programme.
107.	SESRIC	Competition Law and Policy	Training Course	Trade	Trade liberalization	Turkish Competition Authority and National Competition Authority of Qatar	March 2017 Doha, Qatar	Officials from National Competition Authority of Qatar will benefit from the programme.
108.	SESRIC	Mergers and Acquisitions	Training Course	Trade	Trade liberalization	Ministry of General Affairs / Directorate of Competition and Prices and National Competition Authority of Benin	May 2017 Cotonou, Benin	Officials from National Competition Authority of Benin benefitted from the programme.

109.	SESRI	Cartels/ Horizontal and Vertical Agreements	Training Course	Trade	Trade liberalization	Ministry of General Affairs / Directorate of Competition and Prices, Ministry of Trade of Niger	May 2017 Niamey, Niger	Officials from Ministry of Trade of Niger will benefit from the programme.
110.	SESRI	International Investment Agreements (IIA)	Training Workshop	Trade	Trade liberalization, Trade facilitation	UNCTAD, ICIEC-IDB, Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)	February 2017 Marrakesh, Morocco	Relevant investment promotion agencies of OIC member states will benefit from the programme.
111.	SESRI	Trade in Services	Training Workshop	Trade	Trade liberalization	International Trade Centre (ITC), Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)	February 2017 Casablanca, Morocco	Relevant officials from Ministry of Trade of OIC member states will benefit from the programme.
112.	SESRI	Rural Communities' Responses to Climate Change and Food Insecurity in Developing Countries	Conference	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Rural Business Development Centre (RBDC)	02 -04 November 2016 Konya, Turkey	Increasing the resilience of agricultural sector in the face of future crisis; increasing the effectiveness and capacity of government agencies; enhancing cooperation in disaster management and climate change
113.	SESRI	Diversification of agro-forestry and reforestation	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Ministry of Environment, Maldives	14-15 November 2016 Male, Maldives	Increasing the resilience of agricultural sector in the face of future crisis
114.	SESRI	Risk in Agriculture and Climate Change	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	RBDC	December 2016 Ankara, Turkey	Enhancing cooperation in disaster management and climate change
115.	SESRI	Risk in Agriculture	Workshop	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	RBDC	April 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Enhancing cooperation in disaster management and climate change

116.	SESRIC	Impact of Climate Change in Agriculture	Workshop	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Turkey	May 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Enhancing cooperation in disaster management and climate change
117.	SESRIC	Reduction of post-harvest losses	Workshop	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia and Turkey	March 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Improving the agricultural trade policy-making capacity of the member countries, especially LDCs
118.	SESRIC	Fisheries and Aquaculture	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh	March 2017 Dhaka, Bangladesh	Increasing transparency of agricultural markets
119.	SESRIC	Crop Cultivation	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Ministry of Agriculture, Brunei	January 2017 Brunei	Encouraging entrepreneurs and farmers to enhance their investments
120.	SESRIC	Seed Development: Laboratory Test and Certificates, Agriculture Combat: Plant Diseases, Pest and Weed Control	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Ministry of Agriculture, Lebanon	February 2017 Lebanon	Increasing the capacity of analysing and testing agricultural products
121.	SESRIC	Land Management	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Ministry of Agriculture, Cote D'Ivoire	June 2017 Cote D'Ivoire	Improving irrigation opportunities and adoption of efficient
122.	SESRIC	Land Management	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Ministry of Agriculture Comoros	July 2017 Comoros	Improving irrigation opportunities and adoption of efficient

123.	SESRIC	Increasing Productivity	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Ministry of Agriculture Guinea	August 2017 Guinea	Encouraging entrepreneurs and farmers to enhance their investments
124.	SESRIC	Reduction of post-harvest losses	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Ministry of Agriculture Cameron	September 2017 Cameron	Encouraging entrepreneurs and farmers to enhance their investments
125.	SESRIC	Fisheries and Aquaculture	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Ministry of Agriculture Bahrain	November 2017 Bahrain	Encouraging entrepreneurs and farmers to enhance their investments
126.	SESRIC	Occupational Hygiene	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Turkey	January 2017 Banjul, Gambia	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
127.	SESRIC	Rural Development Projects	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Turkey	February 2017 Yaounde, Cameroon	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
128.	SESRIC	Occupational Safety	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	NIOSH	March 2017 Almaty, Kazakhstan	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
129.	SESRIC	Poverty Reduction Projects: Income Generating Projects	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Turkey	July 2017 Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
130.	SESRIC	Regional poverty reduction policies	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Turkey	August 2017 Khartoum, Sudan	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
131.	SESRIC	Actuarial and Financial Management	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Turkey	August 2017 Tirana, Albania	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.

132.	SESRI	Occupational Hygiene	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Health, Malaysia	August 2017 Lahore, Pakistan	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
133.	SESRI	General Health Insurance	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Labour, Tunisia	August 2017 Amman, Jordan	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
134.	SESRI	Insurance Premiums	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	-	September 2017 Islamabad, Pakistan	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
135.	SESRI	Unemployment Insurance and Employment Protection	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	-	September 2017 Dhaka, Bangladesh	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
136.	SESRI	Management of Labour Mobility	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	-	October 2017 Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
137.	SESRI	Public Private Partnership	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	-	November 2017 Ivory Coast	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
138.	SESRI	Third Meeting of OIC Public Employment Services	Network Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Ministry of Labour, Morocco, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Turkey	December 2017 Morocco	Increasing networking between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
139.	SESRI	Public Employment Services Funding	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	-	September 2017 Mauritania	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
140.	SESRI	Strengthening local government capacities; Rights-based legislation, policy and programming; Participatory budgeting	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	UN-HABITAT	November 2017 Lome, Togo	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.

141.	SESRIC	Capacity Building Assistance in Earthquake Seismological Research by using Pakistan Seismic Data	Project	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	IDB, TIKa, Tubitak MAM	December 2016 – November 2017 Pakistan	To build the capacity of the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) for improved execution of its mandate for earthquake monitoring and issuance of earthquake related information to Government organizations as well as to non-governmental organization.
142.	SESRIC	Capacity Development of the School of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences At The University Of The Gambia	Project	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	IDB, TIKa, YTB, Yildirim Beyazıt University	December 2016 – November 2017 Gambia	Improving the quality and accessibility of health care for the people through exemplary teaching and innovative research by providing necessary and sustainable training to Gambian medical professionals and adequately equip the laboratories, upgrade the curriculum and improve the ICT infrastructure of SMAHS in line with the government of the Gambia National Health Policy 2012-2020
143.	SESRIC	ITU Vocational Training Centre Project	Project	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	IDB, TIKa, ISMEK and ITU	December 2016 – November 2017 Uganda	Aims to meet the need of vocational training in Uganda regarding some specific vocational training branches which are applicable and beneficial for improving qualified personnel in related sectors in Uganda such as in carpentry, metal work, ICT, construction etc, in order to prepare young people in Uganda for jobs and for the fast-changing world of modern economies.
144.	SESRIC	Capacity Development Project in Mauritania	Project	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	IDB, TIKa, ISMEK	December 2016 – November 2017 Mauritania	In collaboration with international and local partners, SESRIC seeks to support the National Occupational Health Office by enhancing its capacity in the field of Occupational Safety and Health, improve OSH legislation structure and create healthier efficient workplaces in Mauritania with a view to reducing the burden of occupational disease.
145.	SESRIC	The Challenges of the SDGs in OIC Member Countries: The Role of SESRIC	Roundtable Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	May 2017 Ankara, Turkey	The Special Session will aim to provide a platform for the exchange of views and discussion on SDGs and the contribution of SESRIC to the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.
146.	SESRIC	Seismology, Earthquake Engineering and Disaster Management for Afghanistan	Training Programme	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	JICA, ITU, TIKa	December 2016 – November 2017 Afghanistan	Overall goal of the training project is to equip engineers from Afghanistan with the key knowledge on how to effectively reduce the earthquake risk in their home countries and how to effectively manage the potential natural disasters.

147.	SESRIC	The Bina Initiative	Project	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	LPRD and IDB	December 2016 – November 2017 Benghazi & Tripoli, Libya	The major aim of the Bina Programme is to support LPRD to implement its reintegration and development programmes within Libya to actively contribute to medium and long term socio-economic development of the state.
148.	SESRIC	Joint Economic Empowerment Initiative	Project	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	IDB, TKA, UNDP IICPSD	December 2016 – November 2017 Palestine	The objective of the initiative is to increase job and livelihood opportunities for the disadvantaged, including migrants and refugees, through leveraging the role of markets and the private sector in skills development.
149.	SESRIC	Capacity Development of the Cotton Development Board (CDB) of Bangladesh	Project	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	IDB, TKA, YTB, THY, Government of Bangladesh	December 2016 – November 2017 Dhaka, Bangladesh	Increasing interactions between peer institutions of the Member States and enhancing professional skills of human resources.
150.	SESRIC	The State of Agriculture and Food Security in D-8 Countries	Research	Agriculture	Diverse	D-8	December 2016 SESRIC	This report will investigate the recent trends as well as the constraints and challenges of agricultural development and food security in D-8 countries. The report will also shed light on the importance of promoting investment in the agriculture sector and propose policy recommendations for enhancing D-8 cooperation.
151.	SESRIC	The State of Industry and SMEs in the Member Countries of D-8	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Productive capacity of poor	D-8	December 2016 SESRIC	This report will highlight the role of industrialization in structural change, analyse the current capacity of the industry sector and assess the strength of the industry in D-8 countries relative to global counterparts. The report will end with some policy recommendations.
152.	SESRIC	D-8 Economic Outlook Report 2016	Research	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	D-8	December 2016 SESRIC	This report will analyse and examine the trends in major economic indicators for the D-8 member countries during the latest five-year period. The report will also highlight a number of constraints and challenges confronting the D-8 economies.
153.	SESRIC	Economic Reintegration of Prisoners and Displaced Persons	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	2017 SESRIC	This report will draw a broad picture about the current state of prisoners and displaced persons in OIC countries and suggest proactive solutions and interventions to promote their economic reintegration. The report will conclude with policy recommendations aiming to enhance the exchange of

								information and practices at national and intra-OIC cooperation level.
154.	SESRI	Impact of Brexit on OIC Member Countries	Research	Trade, Financial Cooperation	Diverse	ICDT, IDB	2017 SESRI	This study aims to investigate mainly the socio-economic ramifications of Brexit for the OIC countries and what opportunities this hold for a deeper intra-OIC cooperation.
155.	SESRI	Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Disasters in Afghanistan	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	2017 SESRI	This study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the past natural disasters and offer strategic approaches in preventing and mitigating the potential disasters in Afghanistan. The analyses will focus mainly on the most vulnerable people in crisis-laden and disaster-prone areas.
156.	SESRI	Environmental Issues in OIC Member Countries	Research	Agriculture, Poverty Alleviation	Increasing productivity, Regulatory framework and institutional capacity, Productive capacity of poor	-	2017 SESRI	This report aims to discuss major environmental issues in OIC member countries against the backdrop of historic Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The report will also provide policy recommendations for enhancing bilateral and intra-OIC regional cooperation to address environmental issues.
157.	SESRI	OIC Health Report 2017	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	2017 SESRI	This report will evaluate the health performance of OIC member countries by analyzing the trends in major health indicators. The report will be mainly structured around the six thematic areas of cooperation identified under the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (OIC-SHPA) 2014-2023.
158.	SESRI	OIC Tourism Report 2017	Research	Tourism	Regulatory framework, Community based tourism, Marketing strategies	-	2017 SESRI	This report will examine the performance and the economic role of the international tourism sector in OIC member countries by analyzing the latest available data on major indicators and highlighting major issues and challenges.
159.	SESRI	OIC Labour Report 2017	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	2017 SESRI	This report aims to provide a detailed account of labour market conditions in the OIC member countries with a view to identifying and assessing the fundamental problems and challenges in the labour markets of the OIC countries.
160.	SESRI	Single Window Preparedness of OIC Member Countries	Research	Trade	Trade facilitation	-	2017 SESRI	This study will look into the current and potential implementation of SW in OIC countries by assessing the benefits realized and the challenges faced in implementing SW and will extract lessons from their

								experience that will benefit OIC countries that currently do not have SW.
161.	SESRIIC	Industrial Development: The Comparative Advantage of OIC Member Countries	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	2017 SESRIIC	This report will analyse the current level and capacity of the industrial sector to assess the comparative advantage of OIC member countries relative to their global counterparts. It will also highlight key industrial development policies and examine different trends in sub-sectors of industry.
162.	SESRIIC	OIC Economic Outlook 2017	Research	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	-	2017 SESRIIC	This study will provide a comparative analysis of trends in major economic indicators for the OIC member countries in light of the recent global and regional economic developments.
163.	SESRIIC	Urban Development in OIC Member Countries	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	2017 SESRIIC	This report will present an overview on the current state of urbanization and its impacts on some critical issues related to urban development in OIC countries. The report will also highlight the critical elements of planning for sustainable urbanization and present relevant policy recommendations.
164.	SIIIC	10th General Assembly (GA) Meeting	Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SIIIC Member States	17 December 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	Regular meeting for Member States to discuss and review activities of SIIIC.
165.	SIIIC	World Halal Summit (WHS)	Conference	Trade	Trade liberalization	SIIIC GS	15-17 December 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	International conference aiming to gather stakeholders of the Halal industry to exchange views and experiences.
166.	SIIIC	11th General Assembly (GA) Meeting	Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SIIIC Member States	April/May 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Regular meeting for Member States to discuss and review activities of SIIIC.
167.	SIIIC	12th General Assembly (GA) Meeting	Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SIIIC Member States	November/ December 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Regular meeting for Member States to discuss and review activities of SIIIC.
168.	SIIIC	5th OIC Halal Expo and Forum	Expo	Trade	Trade liberalization	SIIIC GS and ICDT	15-17 December 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	OIC Expo to provide a platform for relevant stakeholders to enhance their networks and to see the latest developments in Halal industry.
169.	SIIIC	Building and Enhancing Standardization, Metrology and Accreditation Capacity in the SIIIC LDC Member States	Workshop /Training	Trade	Simplified and streamlined trade procedures	COMCEC PCM	To be decided, 2017 To be decided	Workshop/training to improve quality infrastructure capacities in SIIIC LDCs.
170.	SIIIC	SIIIC/TCI Halal Food Issues Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SIIIC Technical Committee	To be decided, 2017 To be decided	Technical meeting to revise OIC/SIIIC 1 standard.

171.	SMIIC	SMIIC/TC2 Halal Cosmetic Issues Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Technical Committee	To be decided, 2017 To be decided	Technical meeting to finalize the draft standard on halal cosmetics.
172.	SMIIC	Building and Enhancing Standardization, Metrology and Accreditation Capacity in the OIC Member States	Workshop /Training	Trade	Simplified and streamlined trade procedures	Islamic Development Bank (IDB)	To be decided, 2017 North African Arabic Speaking Countries; African French Speaking Countries; African English Speaking Countries; Central Asian Countries	Workshop/training to improve quality infrastructure capacities in OIC Member States.
173.	SMIIC	Training on Halal Food and ISO 22000 Food Safety Management System	Workshop /Training	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	To be decided, 2017 To be decided	Workshop/training for the experts of Member States for halal food and food safety standards.
174.	SMIIC	Training on Halal Cosmetic and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)	Workshop /Training	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	To be decided, 2017 To be decided	Workshop/training for the experts of Member States for halal cosmetics and GMP.
175.	SMIIC	Training on ISO 17025 Laboratory Accreditation & Halal Requirements	Workshop /Training	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	To be decided, 2017 To be decided	Workshop/training for the experts of Member States for laboratory accreditation and halal requirements.
176.	SMIIC	ISO 17021 & ISO 17065 & Halal Requirements (for Halal Manufacturers)	Workshop /Training	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	To be decided, 2017 To be decided	Workshop/training for the experts of Member States for halal requirements.
177.	CCO	9th Meeting of the Trade Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Trade	Trade Facilitation	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	March 9th, 2017	<p>Within the framework of the COMCEC Trade Working Group, which will be held with the theme of "Single Window Systems in the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade", an analytical report will be prepared. The objectives of the study are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve awareness on the single window systems and their benefits on trade facilitation; • Share information on the best practices of implementing single windows • Analyze the current status of the implementation of the single windows in the OIC member states;

								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide policy recommendations for the OIC Member States for establishing or furthering the operation and implementation of the single window systems. <p>In this framework, working Group aims to provide policy approximation among OIC countries, which is essential for implementation of the SDGs in the OIC Countries.</p>
178.	CCO	10th Meeting of the Trade Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Trade	Trade Facilitation Trade Promotion	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	November 2nd, 2017 Ankara	<p>Within the framework of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be held with the theme of "Special Economic Zones in the OIC Member States" an analytical report will be prepared. The objectives of the study are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information on the best practices of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) • Assess the economic impact of SEZs in the OIC member states. • Identify common challenges and learn from experiences • Provide policy recommendations for the OIC Member States which enable them to get desired economic impact from SEZ <p>In this respect, the working Group aims to provide policy approximation among OIC countries, which is essential for implementation of the SDGs in the OIC Countries.</p>
179.	CCO	9th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Tourism	Regulatory Framework/ Policy Recommendation of the 7 th WG: Developing guidelines for streamlining the basic MFT related services	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	February 16th, 2017 Ankara	<p>For the 9th Meeting of the Tourism Working Groups, which will be held with the theme of "Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Regulations for Accommodation Establishments in the OIC Member Countries." A research report will be conducted for evaluating the current MFT regulations for accommodation facilities in OIC Member countries and showing the main difficulties and lessons learned from past applications in the Member Countries. In the light of this applications the study will provide a</p>

								reference draft guideline for relevant OIC Member Countries. Working Group will provide a platform for experts from OIC Countries to discuss the issue and to come up with policy recommendations. Doing so, working Group aims to provide policy approximation among OIC countries, which is essential for implementation of the SDGs in the OIC Countries
180.	CCO	10th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Tourism	Streamlined tourism policies	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	September 21st, 2017 Ankara	The meeting will be held with the theme of "Risk and Crisis Management and Recovery from Crisis in Tourism Sector in the OIC Member Countries." A research report will be prepared for this Tourism Working Group. The main objective of the study is to analyse and propose paths for tourism sector to avoid or pass crisis period with minimum damage. Doing so, Working Group aims to provide policy approximation among OIC countries, which is essential for the implementation of the SDGs in the OIC Countries.
181.	CCO	9th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Transport	1. Information and Communications Technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination and harmonization of ICT policies, procedures and standards - Increased use of ICT applications in public services - Synthesized opportunities provided by ICT in banking, finance and e-commerce. 	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	9 th March 2017 Ankara	Outcomes to be determined after the events.
182.	CCO	10th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Transport	1. Institutional and Human Capacity	MCs, OIC and other international institutions,		

[illegible]

[illegible]

185.	CCO	9th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing productivity Reducing post-harvest losses. 	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	February 23 rd , 2017 Ankara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing a platform for share of experiences among Member Countries regarding the food waste. Conducting research report titled "Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries." Encouraging the Member Countries for developing programs/projects aiming at reducing food waste Developing policy recommendations for reducing food waste in the OIC Countries. Providing a platform for share of experiences among Member Countries regarding their current activities on food waste. 	
186.	CCO	10th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market Performance and Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation and Development of Market Institutions Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity Improved legal, institutional, structural and administrative frameworks Policy recommendation of 5th Meeting of AGW; The capacity of farmer organizations to access to agricultural market information and dissemination of the market information to their members needs to be improved. 	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	September 28 th , 2017 Ankara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging the Member Countries for development of agricultural market institutions. Developing policy recommendations for creation and development of market institutions in the OIC Countries. Providing a platform for share of experiences among Member Countries regarding the agricultural market institutions. Conducting research report titled "Improving Agricultural Market Performance: Creation and Development of Market Institutions." 	

187.	CCO	9th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Increasing productive capacity of the poor	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	April 6 th , 2017 Ankara	The Meeting will discuss on the current status, causes and consequences of malnutrition as well as efforts for addressing malnutrition in the OIC countries. The Working Group is expected to come up with policy recommendations for reducing malnutrition in the member states.
188.	CCO	10th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Increasing productive capacity of the poor	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 5 th , 2017 Ankara	The Meeting aims to analyze the current status and trends regarding access to education and the efforts to increase access to education within the OIC member states with a special emphasis on disadvantaged groups. The Working Group is expected to come up with policy recommendations for increasing disadvantaged children's access to education in the member states.
189.	CCO	5th Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Focal Points	Meeting	All Cooperation Areas		Member Countries	Ankara	In the meeting, the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, particularly the implementation of the COMCEC Policy recommendations by the member countries will be considered.
190.	CCO	Training Programme on COMCEC Project Funding	Training	All Cooperation Areas		Member Countries	Ankara	A training program on the COMCEC Project Implementation Procedures will be provided to the project owners and coordinators from member countries.

ANNEX

6

Original: English

**THE CLOSING STATEMENT BY H.E. LÜTFİ ELVAN,
MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
(İstanbul, 24 November 2016)**

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

Essalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahu Wa Barakatuh

We have successfully reached the end of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC after fruitful deliberations. We have also enjoyed a number of lively side events organized on Islamic finance, on the theme of our Exchange of Views Session this year. I would like to thank all delegates, representatives of the OIC institutions as well as other international institutions and the COMCEC Coordination Office for the efforts exerted during the Meeting.

Esteemed Ministers,
Distinguished delegates,

We are living in an interdependent and intertwined world; this complex world provides us with various opportunities as well as poses to us some extreme vulnerabilities and negative spill-overs. Many countries are still struggling with the adverse effects of the financial crisis even after seven years. Prospects for global growth still remain low. In such a stagnant environment, we should have more competitive economies in order to reach higher levels of development and trade volumes.

In this respect, we should immediately take necessary procedures for realizing structural economic reforms to promote investment, value added production and productive economic activity rather than depending mainly on the export of raw materials. With this perspective, we should diversify our trade partners; we should strengthen our ties among the brotherly OIC countries.

Dear Colleagues,

As you all know, our target for the 2005-2015 period was to increase intra OIC trade to 20 per cent. Elhamdulillah, we have already achieved this target by reaching 20.3 per cent.

I would like to invite all our distinguished member countries to design specific plans and programmes to achieve our new target of 25 percent, as indicated in the 2015-2025 OIC Programme of Action and 13th OIC Summit Istanbul Declaration. Along with international and regional efforts, we should also do our homework at the national level to enhance our trade with our brotherly countries. In this context, as a case point, I am pleased to announce that between 2005 and 2015, trade volume of Turkey with Islamic countries has increased from 22.8 billion dollars to 65.1 billion dollars. This means our trade with Islamic countries is almost tripled within ten years.

In this context, we need to put into practice the TPS-OIC system immediately to enhance intra-OIC trade. Now for actual implementation of the TPS-OIC we have to compile the updated concession lists.

Hence, I would like to invite the relevant ratifying member states, to convey their updated concession lists at their earliest convenience to the TNC Secretariat to realize this unfulfilled dream.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

As we have discussed yesterday in detail, Islamic finance industry remains a true potential to be utilised. Current size of Islamic finance is around 2 trillion US Dollars which represents nearly 1 per cent of the global financial market. In one of the recent researches, it is predicted that Islamic financial assets would reach 5.3 trillion US Dollars by the end of 2020.

Islamic finance with its strong ethical principles based on real assets, can play an important role in promoting economic development, especially in the fields of manufacturing industry and infrastructure investments. In this respect, as governments, we need to pave the way for the establishment of a strong Islamic finance industry upon well designed strategies, national legislations and human and institutional capacity.

We should also encourage our private sector to be involved more actively in both producing Islamic finance instruments and benefiting adequately from Islamic finance products.

In light of our extensive deliberations yesterday, we have welcomed 31 recommendations under 6 headings. I am confident that Member Countries will positively consider these recommendations in designing their national Islamic Finance Strategies.

Honourable colleagues,

While doing this, we must always bear in mind the fundamentals of our great religion. The most delicate issue in this process would be to produce authentic financial instruments based on the essentials of Islam rather than replicating the products of conventional banking system which already account for the frequent financial crises we are going through. With this in perspective, I hope that our deliberations during the 32nd Session of the COMCEC and the discussions in various side-line events will effectively serve the purpose of designing efficient strategies for building stronger Islamic finance industries in our countries.

Honourable Ministers,

We are really happy to see that the COMCEC Strategy is being implemented successfully and the number of member countries having registered to COMCEC Working Groups has reached 50. Our national experts from relevant technical departments have increasingly been involved actively in the work of COMCEC. I would like to invite member countries which have not registered to the Working Groups to register soon to benefit from this useful cooperation tool.

The Working Groups also serve approximate our policies through developing a shared understanding of our common challenges and opportunities. In this respect, I welcome the concrete policy recommendations made by the Working Groups and call on the Member Countries and OIC institutions to deepen our cooperation in the recommended areas. In this context, the OIC institutions should also have a clear-cut role in assisting our countries while implementing these policy recommendations.

I am also pleased to see that the COMCEC Project Funding mechanism is being increasingly utilised by our member countries and OIC institutions. 31 projects have been implemented in the last three years; for the next year, 33 projects have been shortlisted. I hope all of these concrete and joint projects will further deepen our cooperation efforts and enhance our human and institutional capacities.

Excellencies,

We have also determined next year's theme of Exchange of Views Session of the COMCEC as "Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries". This is a very pertinent and timely theme as transport infrastructure and logistics are indispensable elements of economic development.

Before concluding, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to all member country delegations, OIC General Secretariat, OIC Institutions and other international organizations for their valuable contributions.

Seizing this opportunity, I would like to congratulate new members of the COMCEC Bureau namely Qatar, Malaysia and Gabon on behalf of Arab, Asian and African regions respectively and wish them every success in their important endeavours. I would also like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the outgoing members of the Bureau namely Kazakhstan and Mali for their valuable contributions to the work of COMCEC.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to COMCEC Coordination Office, our translators and interpreters and all staff taking part in the organization of our meeting for their untiring efforts to bring this Session to a successful conclusion. I sincerely hope that our discussions, deliberations in the exchange of views session and resolutions bear fruitful results for the Islamic World and deepen our cooperation as the Islamic Ummah.

Hoping that you will depart from Istanbul with happy memories and bright cooperation ideas in mind, I wish you all a safe trip back home.

Thank you very much.

Esselamu Alaikum wa Rahmetullah wa Barakatuhu.

ANNEX

7

Original: English

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SESSION OF THIRTY SECOND COMCEC SESSION

The 31st COMCEC Session decided on “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” as the theme of the Exchange of Views of 32nd Session of the COMCEC and requested the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to come up with policy recommendations on the aforementioned topic and report it to the 32nd COMCEC Session. In this framework, the participants, in light of the discussions taken place during the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group and research report prepared specifically for this Meeting, have come up with the following challenges and problems as well as the possible policy options with regard to developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the member countries.

Challenges and Problems:

The participants, in line with the discussion took place during the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group, highlighted the following possible challenges and problems:

- Weak regulatory systems
- Lack of Shariah governance infrastructure
- Lack of necessary institutional infrastructure
- Lack of Islamic financial instruments and services
- Lack of specialized Islamic finance academic and training programs
- Lack of initiatives, i.e. campaigns on increasing public awareness, to promote Islamic finance
- Lack of diversified Islamic Finance Strategies/Policies targeting the various needs of investors
- Lack of SMEs access to finance
- Low level of integration of Islamic Finance to the global financial system
- Lack of liquidity framework for Islamic Banks
- Lack of high quality research and intellectual discussions

Policy Recommendations:

Considering the above-mentioned challenges and problems, the policy recommendations highlighted during the Meeting are as follows:

1. Legal, Regulatory, Accounting and Taxation Frameworks

- Reviewing existing Islamic financial regulations and guidelines to ensure compatibility with Shariah guidelines
- Developing an independent agency to monitor the products in secondary markets and exchanges
- Developing a legal infrastructure to foster growth of the Islamic financial system
- Developing a specific disclosure guidelines for Islamic Financial Institutions (IFIs) that increases transparency
- Ensuring tax-neutrality for Islamic financial transactions in order to provide them a level playing field

2. Shariah Governance and Supervision:

- Establishing a National Shariah Board/necessary institutional set up to provide oversight and governance to internal and independent Shariah boards of financial institutions
- Developing seminars and training programs for Shariah scholars about Islamic financial operations and product development
- Increasing collaboration between Shariah scholars and Islamic finance management

3. Infrastructure:

- Developing secondary markets for Islamic financial products
- Developing exchanges for Islamic financial products
- Adoption/adaptation of international standards issued by IFIs (i.e. IFSB, IIFM, AAOIFI, etc.)
- Developing liquidity management frameworks for IFIs
- Improving the IT capacity of Islamic financial institutions

4. Products and Services:

- Increasing range of Islamic products and services to meet the needs and demands of the Islamic finance
- Encouraging standardization of products and services of IFIs
- Encouraging innovation and adoption of new technologies, and alternate delivery channels for enhancing financial inclusion

5. Initiatives:

- Developing national and international campaigns to increase brand awareness of Islamic finance
- Creating a new campaign to focus on the positives of Islamic finance for investors

- Encouraging expansion of Islamic social finance in order to promote financial inclusion for the poor and empowerment of woman.
- Promoting collaboration among various international institutions working on development of Islamic finance
- Bringing Islamic Finance to the agenda of multilateral economic and financial platforms/institutions
- Encouraging experience sharing in Islamic Finance among the member countries through bilateral cooperation and technical assistance

6. Talent Development:

- Promoting academic researches on Islamic finance and social finance
- Promoting/Developing training and academic programs specific to Islamic finance
- Developing industry certifications for Islamic finance
- Developing certification requirements for Islamic finance Industry professionals
- Creating scholarship and grant programs that sponsor individuals who are interested in working in the Islamic finance industry
- Creating Islamic finance industry trade associations and encouraging their collaboration at international level
- Developing and hosting conferences for Islamic finance industry members, researchers, and regulators to share ideas and collaborate on ways of growing and improving the industry
- Promoting regular tour of duty/rotation for the members of sharia advisory boards in Islamic financial institutions
- Encouraging internship programs on Islamic Finance

ANNEX

8

Original: English

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

1. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRADE WORKING GROUP

1.1. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE TRADE WORKING GROUP

A policy debate session was held during the 7th Meeting of the Trade Working Group regarding the possible policy actions to be taken to approximate member state policies in the field of standards. The items discussed in this session were identified by taking into consideration the analytic study titled “Strengthening the Compliance of the OIC Member States to International Standards”, as well as the responses of Member States to the policy questions sent by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for the meeting.

Policy Recommendation I: Developing/Strengthening National Quality Infrastructure

Rationale:

A well-functioning quality infrastructure is a strong component of an enabling trade environment and may greatly facilitate countries’ access to international markets. Therefore, there are strong economic and competitiveness rationales for countries to develop that infrastructure. If important export markets use international standards then domestic industries will need to comply with those standards, have their products tested, and have conformity certified before they can enter the export market. Given the widespread use of international standards such as those of ISO, IEC, and the Codex, it is a common requirement for developing country firms to meet international standards as a condition of being able to export to third markets. Development of a national quality infrastructure is not just a question of financial resources, but also involves human and technical capacity that is lacking in many developing countries, including OIC member states. The agenda for building national standards and quality capacity is a broad one, covering institutions and agencies, rules and regulations, and links with global and regional institutions and rules.

One way of dealing with this issue may be regional approach, particularly for developing countries where the volume of economic activity may not support the costs of a quality infrastructure. Having a regional approach is highly important since regional cooperation and the division of labor in the field of quality infrastructure services

(standardization, metrology, testing, conformity assessment, accreditation, quality assurance) will allow countries to pool their resources thereby benefit from economies of scale. It is also important that regional initiatives should also facilitate and support adoption of international standards. Linking and aligning national quality policy and strategies of the countries with regional initiatives is another important element in this regard.

Policy Recommendation II: Supporting the Member States' Efforts for their Active Participation in the work of International Standardization Bodies

Rationale:

International standards bodies are primarily responsible for standardization at the international level. All international standardization bodies have in common that they issue norms that can then be adopted by national standards bodies. The standards issued by these bodies need to be applicable in a wide range of contexts. Countries differ substantially in terms of their level of economic development, consumer preferences in relation to various issues, level of industrialization, as well as institutional and cultural factors. For this reason, it is important for countries to participate actively in the work of international standards bodies, so that the resulting norms can be applicable to their particular circumstances. Moreover, beside participation, close cooperation of the OIC Member Countries in relevant committees/bodies of the international standardization organizations is critical especially for; i) setting standards of specific product groups that are unique or highly important for the Member Countries ii) strengthening the voting power of the Member Countries. On the other hand, participation alone represents a particular challenge for developing countries, especially those where national quality infrastructure is at an early stage of development and standardization is not well advanced at the national level. There is therefore a real risk that international standards may not adequately reflect conditions prevailing in lower income member states. In this regard, it will be necessary to initiate cooperation activities among the countries that need technical assistance and capacity building, and those countries with more developed national quality infrastructure to share experience and support their efforts to take active part in international standardization. Compliance to the international standards would increase export competitiveness of the OIC Member Countries as well as the trade among them thereby enhance the intra-OIC trade.

Policy Recommendation III: Strengthening the SMIIIC for the Adoption of Harmonized Standards and Development of Quality Infrastructure in the OIC for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade

Rationale:

Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC) has an important potential for the member states, in particular as it is committed to working towards broader international harmonization of the elements of quality infrastructure which are standardization, metrology and accreditation. In that sense, member states' support and ownership for the work of the SMIIC will be essential for its future success for developing and disseminating harmonized standards in the fields where there are no established and well-recognized international standards as well as accreditation services specific to Muslim world such as halal food, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, tourism, etc. and other related issues. Furthermore, having harmonized standards within the OIC would facilitate the trade of goods & services among the Member Countries which will eventually enhance in the intra-OIC trade. Besides, SMIIC can provide a forum to exchange information, experience and best practices as well as technical assistance to the Member States for the development of quality infrastructure.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:

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.

SMIIC: With its 32 members, SMIIC's mandate is to help develop quality infrastructure among OIC member states, including through the promotion of harmonization of standards, as well as various other aspects of quality infrastructure as metrology and accreditation. Apart from harmonization of standards, through its technical committees, metrology and accreditation committees, SMIIC is also an important forum for Member States for discussion and exchange of views and experiences on issues of common interest.

1.2. THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE TRADE WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Trade Working Group (TWG) has successfully held its 8th Meeting on October 6th, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of *“Improving The Border Agency Cooperation Among the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade.”* During the Meeting, Trade Working Group, made deliberations for policy approximation among the Member Countries regarding improving the border agency cooperation. The Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the analytical study conducted specifically for the 8th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group titled *“Improving The Border Agency Cooperation Among the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade”* and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions sent to the COMCEC Trade Working Group focal points by the COMCEC Coordination Office. During the Meeting, the participants agreed on the policy recommendations included in the Room Document. The existing document includes these policy recommendations highlighted during the Meeting.

Policy Recommendation 1: Promoting the adoption of international standards in customs and other relevant cross border trade and logistics matters as well as accession to the relevant international conventions for harmonizing and simplifying rules and procedures related to the cross border trade and logistics operations

Rationale:

The cooperation of the border agencies among the member countries is very crucial for trade facilitation. The strong cooperation among the border agencies facilitates the trade and logistics flows and cut down the administrative and other costs. This collaboration can be ensured through the coherency among the rules and procedures applied by the border agencies of the member countries. In this respect, the analytical study also highlighted the importance of harmonizing and simplifying rules and procedures relating to weighing, technical conformity of vehicles, goods, registrations, driver's licenses, insurances, and other issues of cross-border logistics operations. Moreover, Member States can pursue to adopt international standards in customs matters and accede to the relevant international conventions.

Policy Recommendation 2: Promoting mutual recognition arrangements/agreements for border controls and trusted traders

Rationale:

Mutual recognition is a practice in which an action, decision or authorization taken by a custom agency is accepted and recognized by another custom agency. Mutual

recognition agreements/arrangements ensure countries to avoid from the duplicated efforts and to increase economic efficiency through reduced time and costs in border agencies. Through these agreements, the member countries can benefit from the developed and effective risk management and facilitate foreign trade flows.

Mutual recognition of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO), a tool utilized for border agency cooperation, ensures the recognition of the validation findings and AEO authorisations of one customs administration by another. This element expedites the custom procedures of the authorized companies and reduces costs and time delays of the companies. Although this mechanism has many benefits for the countries as well as the private sector, according to the analytical study, only a few member countries utilize the mutual recognition of AEOs.

Policy Recommendation 3: Enhancing information exchange among the border agencies of the Member Countries through enhancing connectivity of information and communication technology systems, providing regular knowledge exchange platforms and participating in relevant international networks

Rationale:

Developing information exchange among the border agencies is essential for a more effective and efficient cross-border movement of goods. It enables to assess the risk represented by transit goods prior to their arrival. Moreover, it may reduce the administrative burden imposed by risk management and allow customs to devote its resources to more high-risk goods. In this respect, the connectivity of information and communication technology systems is of particular importance for an effective information exchange among the border agencies. Moreover, providing regular platforms for the border agencies and active participation to the relevant international networks can be instrumental for formal and informal information exchange among the border agencies. Establishing a committee is also crucial to make collaboration on high-risk related products and to monitor the implementation of the process.

Policy Recommendation 4: Improving the infrastructure of land border crossing points and transport connectivity through the joint efforts of the neighboring countries e.g. through establishing joint technical/working committees, which include relevant stakeholders to identify the factors which cause bottlenecks.

Rationale:

For the smooth movement of goods among the neighboring countries, there is a need to develop infrastructure on both sides of the border. In this respect, neighboring countries need to work in close cooperation to ensure simultaneous upgrading of infrastructure of the both sides of the land border crossing points. At this stage, neighboring countries may establish joint technical/ working committees, which include the relevant stakeholders including the private sector with a view to identifying infrastructural and

operational problems / obstacles faced and the steps needed to address them, and managing the process from the planning to implementation.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendationss:

- ***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 project proposals 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. The projects may include seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing 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 7TH MEETING OF THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) successfully held its 7th Meeting on March 24th, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Enhancing Road Maintenance in the OIC Member Countries.” During the Meeting, TCWG made deliberations concerning policy approximation among the Member Countries in the field of road maintenance. The Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the research report conducted for the 7th Meeting of TCWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions, was the main input for the discussions. During the Meeting, the participants discussed the policy recommendations given below.

Policy Recommendation I: Developing a National Road Maintenance Strategy Based on Evidence and Data

Rationale:

Preventive maintenance requires, almost by definition, looking into the future – the future condition of the road network needs to be anticipated and preventive actions taken to prevent serious deterioration of the road network. Doing so requires, clear goals and objectives, excellent knowledge about the current state of the road network, a realistic picture of available funds for funding maintenance works, and very importantly, accurate, timely, and relevant data for setting priorities and making trade-offs when deciding on which maintenance works to fund and which ones to defer. All of these issues should be brought together in a National Maintenance Strategy.

A national road maintenance strategy should define clear goals and objectives for the performance and “levels of service” for the different categories of roads in the road network. The performance goals and levels of service must be realistic insofar that they must be explicitly and directly linked to available resources and funding for maintenance activities. Furthermore, the national strategy should explicitly assign the responsibilities for realizing the stated performance goals and objectives, for the different categories of roads, to specific institutions and organizations. The sources and volume of revenues/funds available to each of these institutions should also be specified in this strategy. The strategy itself must be based on solid evidence and data that is regularly collected to support the continued evolution of this strategy. The Asset Management Framework is a widely used framework and can form a good basis for developing such a national road maintenance strategy.

Policy Recommendation II: Ensuring the Allocation of Adequate and Sustainable Funding for Road Maintenance and Increasing Effective Utilization of Available Road Funds through a Sound Legal Framework and Institutional Structure

Rationale:

Research and experience have shown that inadequate and unreliable funding is a major set-back for improving road maintenance in many countries. Adequate, secure, and stable funding for carrying out periodic maintenance services is of crucial importance for a well-functioning road network. The number of countries that do not have a road fund is clearly an issue for the OIC Member States. However, road funds are simply a mechanism for facilitating adequate and stable flow of funds to finance required maintenance activities. Besides, even the road funds that have been established are not all performing equally effectively. The effective performance of road funds requires a sound legal framework and institutional structure. Generally, the road funds that have been established in the OIC Member States are characterized by the following:

- The legal basis of many road funds remains weak and the independence and autonomy of the road funds is not ensured,
- The participation of stakeholders in the road funds is very limited and the accountability and transparency of road funds is mostly limited to conducting an annual financial audit,
- Road funds rarely, use data-based performance indicators for monitoring and evaluating the impact of their funding activities. Thus, there is no link of the funding to improvements in the performance of the road network.

As a result, adequate and stable funding for maintenance is often limited, and there is generally a lack of specifically dedicated funding source to financing maintenance activities. This situation generally causes what is known as the “maintenance gap”, making a detrimental impact on the performance of the road network.

Policy Recommendation III: Making Use of Performance-Based Contracts in Road Maintenance

Rationale:

Performance-based contracts have several advantages for outsourcing maintenance to private sector. For such contracts to be implemented, responsible road agencies need a competent maintenance program management, a good monitoring system, and clear and transparent procurement procedures. In this type of contract, contractor is paid monthly based on performance outputs measured against standards stated in the contract rather than inputs. Penalties are imposed if the outcomes for a specific activity fail to comply with the contract standards, and payment may be reduced or suspended until the necessary repairs are done. The fundamental point is that the emphasis is on realizing the performance objectives in terms of the end-result, the outputs. Thus, for example,

the focus is not on how many kilometers of the road network have been maintained, but rather on, for example, the cumulative delays resulting from maintenance works on the road network. This focus makes it important to no longer just do the maintenance, but do it in ways that minimize the interruptions and disturbances resulting from the maintenance works.

Policy Recommendation IV: Establishing a Road Database Management System

Rationale:

The basis of effective preventive maintenance is good information; information about the condition of the road network and the volume of traffic on this road network. Making preventive maintenance not just effective, but also cost-effective, further requires information on the costs of various maintenance works, and their beneficial effects. This information is needed not only for the current time, but also needed in models (transport demand models, pavement deterioration models, cost models) to forecast the future condition of the road network, for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of various maintenance options and strategies, for setting priorities, and for allocating resources according to these priorities. Compared to the cost of the maintenance works themselves, this data collection exercise is quite inexpensive, but the returns it provides are huge.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:

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.

2.2. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) successfully held its 8th Meeting on October 27th, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Improving Road Safety in the OIC Member States.” During the Meeting, TCWG made deliberations concerning policy approximation among the Member Countries in the field of road safety. The Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the research report conducted for the 8th Meeting of TCWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions, were the main input for the discussions. During the Meeting, the participants discussed the policy recommendations given below.

Policy Recommendation I: Raising Awareness of Road Safety in the Member States

Rationale:

Road traffic injuries are a major but neglected global public health problem, requiring concerted efforts for effective and sustainable prevention. Of all the systems that people have to deal with on a daily basis, road transport is the most complex and the most dangerous. Worldwide, the number of people killed in road traffic crashes each year is estimated at almost 1.2 million, while the number injured could be as high as 50 million - the combined population of five of the world's large cities. In addition to fatalities, many less severe injuries are caused by road traffic crashes: between 20 and 50 million non-fatal injuries are estimated to occur annually around the world. These non-fatal injuries are also an important cause of disability.

Human factors such as carelessness, fatigue, lack of skill, drunkenness, speeding, proximity to other drivers and jaywalking are major factors in road crashes. In this respect, intense road safety campaigns, strengthened enforcement strategies, driving school standardization programs and introduced medical exams for commercial drivers are needed for raising awareness.

Policy Recommendation II: Adhering to the Major UN Road Safety Agreements and Adapting the Safe Systems Approach¹ for National Road Safety Management System

Rationale:

In March 2010 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution proclaiming 2011 to 2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety. The goal of the Decade is to stabilize and then reduce the forecast level of road deaths worldwide by 2020 by increasing road safety activities at national, regional and global levels.

The plan relies on the underlying the Safe Systems principles as adopted in the Decade of Action. The Safe Systems approach aims at developing a road transport system that accounts for human error and the vulnerability of the human body. The premise is that humans continue to make mistakes and crashes cannot be totally avoided although their impact (in terms on injury outcomes) can be mitigated by providing safe and forgiving roads and vehicles. Road users have the responsibility of abiding for rules and regulations. This is all supported by a legal and judicial system, including effective enforcement capacity, emergency care and incident management systems, training facilities, funding systems, research and monitoring functions as required by a Safe Systems Approach.

The Safe Systems Approach is internationally accepted as the most appropriate approach in guiding the management of road safety. It has been increasingly recognized as the most effective way to make road transport systems safer for all users. This approach envisages that road safety is a shared responsibility of designers and users of the road transport system. The main aim of this approach is to prevent fatal and severe injuries by identifying and addressing the major sources of error and the design flaws that cause to them. Unlike the traditional approaches, road users, vehicles and road network/environment are considered in an integrated manner in the Safe Systems Approach.

Therefore, adhering and implementing UN agreements and conventions including the Convention on road Traffic (1998); the Convention and Signs and Signals (1968) and the AETR (1970), harmonizing road safety legislation across country borders, and utilizing the Safe Systems Approach to the National Road Safety Management System are vitally important to achieving success.

¹ The Safe System approach was conceptualised with the introduction of the Dutch Sustainable Safety approach and the Swedish Vision Zero. This thinking laid the foundation for the recommendations developed by WHO and UN and was incorporated into the OECD report "Towards Zero" and the World Bank Country Guidelines for the Conduct of Road Safety Management Capacity Reviews. The World Bank guidelines were developed specifically to promote the Safe Systems Approach and to introduce road safety capacity reviews as a first step to redress the growing road safety problems.

Policy Recommendation III: Establishing a Reliable and Sustainable Road Safety and Crash Data System

Rationale:

Basic information on road traffic crashes and injuries is collected every day in many countries. Unless such information is properly coded, entered in a computerized database system, processed, analyzed, and disseminated, it cannot be used for identifying risks, selecting interventions, or measuring outcomes. The term crash data system refers to the people, processes, hardware and software involved in collecting and managing information related to road traffic crashes. Data systems should process information that allows analysis at an aggregate level and facilitates data-driven actions.

Furthermore, reliable and accurate data is needed to raise awareness about the magnitude of road traffic injuries, and to convince policymakers to take necessary measures. Reliable and accurate data is also needed to correctly identify problems, risk factors and priority areas, and to develop strategies, set targets and monitor performance. Furthermore, it would also contribute to a better resource allocation. The use of reliable data is also a key element of the Safe Systems Approach presented in the previous policy recommendation.

Policy Recommendation IV: Developing a National Road Safety Strategy and Assigning a National Lead Agency/Institution Responsible for Road Safety Management

Rationale:

Developing a national road safety strategy in light of international good practices is important for having a better road safety management and addressing nationwide challenges. Developing and implementing road safety strategies and programs that would be incorporated into country specific policies and strategies is one of the eight specific objectives of the Global Plan (UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020).

In this respect, a national multidisciplinary body, or a lead agency, is vital for developing a national road safety strategy as well as coordinating its implementation. Assigning a lead agency responsible for road safety is one of the six primary activities identified under the first pillar, i.e. Road Safety Management, of the said Global Plan. The main aim of the lead agency would be reducing deaths and serious injuries substantially. The agency would identify the scope of its management systems, particularly related to its role as well as its relevant partners and stakeholders' roles in road traffic safety. Accordingly, it would have a system level coordination role in ensuring that the

interventions, which are typically systemic and directed towards a large-scale implementation, are taking place.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:

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 organizing seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents.

3. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TOURISM WORKING GROUP

3.1. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE TOURISM WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) has successfully held its 7th Meeting on February 4th, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Understanding the Demand and Supply Sides in the OIC Member Countries.” During the Meeting, Tourism Working Group made deliberations for policy approximation among the Member Countries regarding MFT. The Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the analytical study conducted for the 7th Meeting of TWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions, was the main input for the discussions. During the Meeting, the participants discussed the policy recommendations given below.

Policy Recommendation 1: Developing basic guidelines for improving the basic MFT related services

Rationale:

The Muslim population is growing rapidly and is expected to be around 26 % of the world’s population by 2030. Growing Muslim population and its increasing disposable income would lead to millions to increasingly take up travel for leisure, adventure and exploration. With the increasing number of Muslim tourists, simultaneously there will be a huge demand for halal/muslim friendly products and services. Many Muslim travelers recently are more halal conscious, who prefer halal foods or muslim-friendly services while staying in hotels or having vacation in certain places.

Nonetheless, according to *the Analytical Study*, one of the main challenges faced by Muslim tourists is the lack of common understanding on the basic principles for the muslim-friendly services. This challenge also increases the costs of companies, since they have to follow different practices in this field. In addition, Muslim tourists also face with different practices of companies regarding MFT services. Therefore, developing basic MFT guidelines will greatly help companies to provide MFT services with better quality and to meet the needs of the Muslim travelers.

Policy Recommendation 2: Increasing awareness of MFT market among the travel industry stakeholders through standardizing terminology used in MFT, introducing market awareness and customer service training programmes and utilizing social media for promotion and marketing.

Rationale:

Despite being a relatively new concept within tourism sector, understanding the MFT market and its key components is critical for the OIC member states. In recent years, there are some improvements to increase the awareness about MFT such as, halal travel indicator was developed, more **airports** have been adding halal certified restaurants and prayer spaces and some airlines started offering Halal Food on board at their flights.

Moreover, travel agencies and digital marketing platforms have also been evolving according to growing needs of Muslims such as the Singapore-based company, HalalTrip.com, rates hotels and resorts in terms of their Halal-friendliness since December 2013 and HalalBooking.com provides Muslim-Friendly holidays to travelers etc. Furthermore, some travel agencies have recently launched Luxury Halal Travel focusing on ‘curating’ premium travel experiences like Halal Tour of China and Hong Kong. In addition to these, several conferences have been held on Halal or Muslim Friendly Tourism to enhance awareness in this field.

Despite the existing efforts, except few countries, the awareness of MFT market is still very weak in the OIC Region. Moreover, there is an inconsistency in the use of terminology and definitions related to different aspects of MFT. Therefore, there is a need to

- Standardize the terminology used in the MFT,
- Introduce roll out market awareness and customer service training programs for the travel and hospitality professionals for the all aspects of MFT.
- Utilize social media and other media tools to provide a significant communication platform for marketing MFT products and services to a wider audience.

Policy Recommendation 3: Developing healthcare services and facilities for the MFT market through identifying the different strengths of the OIC Region, building specialization hubs, developing alternative/traditional treatments and wellness programs

Rationale:

Medical tourism is one of the growing markets in tourism sector. It refers to traveling to another country for the aim of obtaining medical treatment or aged care. In order to attract Muslim patients, many countries have begun to provide muslim-friendly services, such as halal food, halal pharmaceuticals, prayer facilities etc. According to the analytical study, OIC has a vast unexploited potential for muslim-friendly medical tourism with relatively more affordable costs. However, there is a lack of awareness about the muslim-friendly healthcare sector in the member countries. In this respect, muslim-friendly healthcare market in the member countries may be promoted for attracting muslim healthcare visitors through identifying the different strengths of the OIC Region, building specialization hubs, developing alternative/traditional treatments and wellness programs based on the strengths of the OIC Region.

Policy Recommendation 4: Launching an alliance among the muslim-friendly travel agents/tour operators targeting MFT market

Rationale:

Travel agents and tour operators are the key players for growing muslim friendly tourism market in the member countries. For catering to muslim clients properly, travel agents and tour operators should be aware of the preferences and needs of muslim travelers. However, according to the analytical study, only few SMEs focus on muslim-friendly tourism and they cannot compete with the global players when they enter the MFT market. In order to strengthen these key players, the member countries may launch an alliance of travel agents and tour operators targeting specifically MFT market.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:

- ***COMCEC Tourism Working Group:*** In its subsequent two meetings, the COMCEC Working Group will elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas and the sub-areas in a more detailed manner. 8th and 9th Meetings of the Tourism Working Group will be held with the themes of “Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Developing and Marketing MFT Products and Services in the OIC Member States” and “Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Regulation, Standardization and Certification”, respectively.
- ***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.
- ***OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum:*** In its 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. In this respect, 4th Meeting of the Forum has been held on 14-15 January 2016, with the theme of “Promoting Muslim Friendly Tourism Products and Services in the OIC Member Countries.”
- ***SMIIC:*** SMIIC’s Technical Committee on Tourism and Related Services can be benefited for developing/harmonizing muslim-friendly tourism standards in the member countries.

3.2. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE TOURISM WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) has successfully held its 8th Meeting on September 1st, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “*Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) Developing and Marketing MFT Products and Services in the OIC Member States.*” During the Meeting, Tourism Working Group, made deliberations for policy approximation among the Member Countries regarding developing and marketing MFT products and services. The Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the analytical study conducted specifically for the 8th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group titled “*Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) Developing and Marketing MFT Products and Services in the OIC Member States*” 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. During the Meeting, the participants agreed on the policy recommendations included in the Room Document. The existing document includes these policy recommendations highlighted during the Meeting.

Policy Recommendation 1. Developing a national Muslim Friendly Tourism strategy that links to the country’s overall tourism goals through focusing on building stakeholder awareness, establishing a dedicated MFT body/committee and developing a national MFT products/services and marketing development strategy

Rationale:

The role of government is very crucial for developing Muslim friendly tourism (MFT) sector. In the OIC Member Countries, the governments provide support and guidance to the private sector in varying degrees. These efforts vary from raising awareness on MFT market potential and Muslim consumer needs among tourism product and service providers, to supporting providers in developing and certification of MFT products and services or engaging in destination marketing. However, for developing effective MFT products and services development and marketing policies, a national MFT strategy should be developed as part of the country’s overall tourism goals and strategy. In this regard, the Analytical Study proposes the following steps to successfully apply a sustained and high impact MFT products and marketing strategy:

1. *Build internal stakeholder awareness within government tourism stakeholders*
2. *Establish a dedicated MFT body or committee that reports to the Ministry of Tourism*
3. *The dedicated body should develop and drive national MFT products/services and marketing development strategy and initiatives.*

Policy Recommendation 2. Conducting government-led MFT-focused destination marketing through developing an MFT branding and positioning for the benefit of local service providers and measuring the potential of a destination for MFT by funding/organizing short-term campaigns.

Rationale:

In tourism sector, cooperation and network among the different stakeholders is crucial for the destination marketing. Governments play a key role in destination marketing as an aggregator as well as a platform provider for communication for the various stakeholders. In MFT sector, one of the most rapidly growing sub-sector in tourism area, the *Analytical Study* identified government-led destination marketing policies as a key area of public policy gaps and opportunity areas. Accordingly, national MFT destination marketing efforts bear particular importance kick-start and build momentum for successful MFT product/service development and marketing.

For an effective destination marketing, common branding led by governments enables tourism industry to improve their marketing positioning and create joint marketing and promotional initiatives. In this respect, the national tourism bodies in the member countries should develop a MFT branding and positioning for the local service providers and suppliers. Moreover, in order to promote a destination of an MFT brand, there is a need to test its MFT potential. In this respect, launching/ organizing government-led short-term campaigns can facilitate testing that potential.

Policy Recommendation 3. Supporting SMEs through developing training and mentorship programs

Rationale:

Governments provide a wide range of support for tourism SMEs in mainstream tourism sector. However, in MFT sector, as a relatively new area in the tourism field, there is still need for providing support to SMEs particularly through developing training and mentorship programs. Training programs help enhance the human capacity of the MFT industry on tailoring their products and services to the MFT market as well as on effectively marketing their products and services. Furthermore, mentorship programs is an important instrument for developing the skill and expertise of the tourism industry by pairing each SME with a mentor.

Policy Recommendation 4. Developing bilateral tourism cooperation within the OIC through technical knowledge exchange and joint promotion efforts for MFT destinations

Rationale:

According to the analytical study, some OIC countries have well-developed halal ecosystems and adequate awareness. Nonetheless, while many member countries have low awareness level despite having halal ecosystem (such as halal food, Islamic heritage), others do not have well-developed MFT ecosystem and have low awareness about MFT. In this regard, the *Analytical Study* has identified bilateral cooperation as a crucial mechanism for technical knowledge exchange in the area of MFT. Technical knowledge transfer among the well-developed and other OIC Member countries would increase the MFT awareness and capacity for catering to the MFT market.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendationss:

- ***COMCEC Tourism Working Group:*** In its subsequent two meetings, the COMCEC Working Group will elaborate on the above mentioned policy issues in a more detailed manner. The 9th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group will be held with the theme of “*Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Regulations for Accommodation Establishments in the OIC Member Countries.*”
- ***COMCEC Project Funding:*** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for project proposals 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. The projects 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 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.

4. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

4.1. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Agriculture Working Group (AWG) has successfully held its 7th Meeting on March 3rd, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Reducing On-Farm Food Losses in the OIC Member Countries”. During the Meeting, Agriculture Working Group made deliberations for policy approximation among the Member Countries regarding the on-farm food losses in the OIC Member Countries. The Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the analytical study conducted for the 7th Meeting of AWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions, was the main input for the discussions. During the Meeting, the participants discussed the policy recommendations given below.

Policy Recommendation I: Identifying the knowledge and information gaps regarding the levels and specific causes of on-farm food losses for key crops and food products with a view to providing solutions for each OIC Member Countries

Rationale:

Globally, great efforts have been exerted on improving agricultural productivity, increasing agricultural production, promoting farm activities, and encouraging entrepreneurs in agri-business investments to meet the growing demand for food. Recently, many developed countries, international organizations, multilateral platforms such as G20 have put the issue of food losses and waste on their agenda. Despite the global progress in terms of food loss assessments and food loss reduction, the endeavours for reducing food losses are not at desired levels in the OIC Region, which have vast resources such as labor, land, water, fertilizer, capital and energy.

In this regard, identifying the possible causes of on-farm losses and providing solutions for the losses of crops, animal foods and fishery products of highest interest to the OIC Member Countries would help preventing food losses and ensuring food security in the OIC Region. Nonetheless, most of the OIC Member Countries do not have necessary data/information on the levels and specific causes of on-farm food losses. Therefore, in order to reveal the exact level of on-farm losses and develop sound policies for addressing them, full scale food loss assessment studies may be conducted for the Member Countries by utilizing national and international resources. Furthermore, participation of the Member Countries to the international organizations-sponsored food loss assessment case studies may be encouraged.

Policy Recommendation II: Improving/developing agricultural extension, training and outreach activities for reducing on-farm food losses

Rationale:

Agricultural extension services, training and outreach activities and providing necessary information to farmers are very instrumental in preventing on-farm food losses. In this regard, providing necessary information to farmers about the basic practices such as integrated pest management, sanitation and hygiene, soil and water management, use of maturity indices, gentle harvesting and handling, proper curing of roots and tubers or drying of cereals, pulses, and oilseeds is of particular importance in this respect. To illustrate, in order to properly use agrochemicals in pest management, farmers should know the proper application rates, the time and conditions for application, safety procedures, and so forth.

Agricultural extension services and training and outreach activities may also be very crucial in identifying and analysing farmers' production problems. Moreover, new farming methods and techniques can be introduced by agricultural extension, training and outreach activities so that efficiency and productivity of agricultural sector increase. Furthermore, dissemination and extension of the various technologies through demonstrations to farmers would also contribute to enhance agricultural production processes.

Policy Recommendation III: Developing specific programs/projects to address on-farm losses in agricultural value chains in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions.

Rationale:

Practices or methods undertaken during the harvesting stage of the production directly affect the level of on-farm food losses and thereby agricultural productivity. For instance, if crops do not receive adequate nutrition, or suffer from pests, sun-burn or wind damages, it would lead to decrease in yield.

In this framework, OIC institutions in collaboration with the relevant international organizations and NGOs may design and provide type projects, e-learning programs and a series of workshops for farmers on food loss assessment, reduction of food losses, and the costs and benefits of making changes in harvesting and handling practices for the various food groups. These 'type projects' may describe key actions, technology packages and include budgets that could be used to develop similar projects in the OIC Member Countries on reducing losses in the value chains. Hence, developing projects which are open to collaborative efforts and feasible with the current resources can enhance collective actions to reduce food losses in the OIC Member Countries.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:

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.

4.2. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

A policy debate session was held during the 8th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group to come up with some policy recommendations for reducing postharvest losses in the OIC Member Countries and approximating policies among the Member Countries in this important field. The policy advices given below have been identified in light of the main findings of the analytical study titled “*Reducing Postharvest Losses in the OIC Member Countries*” and the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questions which have already been sent by the COMCEC Coordination Office.

Policy Recommendation I: Setting up national postharvest losses reduction coordination committees with a view to identifying, prioritizing and sharing postharvest losses data and practices across a range of strategic commodities and raising awareness on postharvest losses

Rationale:

Handling and processing of commodities require the necessary technical knowledge and expertise. However, researches on postharvest issues are very scarce among the OIC Member Countries and the benefits that can be gained from them are poorly acknowledged. In this respect, identifying the specific causes of postharvest losses through producing and prioritizing the data related to the postharvest losses in strategic commodities are crucial for ensuring food security. On the other hand, most of the Member Countries do not have the necessary institutional mechanisms to directly deal with the levels and specific causes of postharvest losses. In this regard, establishing coordination committees would be very instrumental for identifying causes of postharvest losses, sharing the good practices and raising awareness. These committees may include all the stakeholders from public sector, private sector and NGOs.

Policy Recommendation II: Mobilizing agricultural finance providers to allocate more financial resources with a view to addressing agricultural infrastructure investment needs in postharvest losses

Rationale:

Underutilization of proper technologies and lack of required infrastructure investments are among the major causes of postharvest losses in the Member Countries. Ensuring adequate financing is needed for smallholder farmers and agribusiness to adjust latest technologies and methods as well as make necessary infrastructure investments. In this regard, mobilizing finance providers such as development banks, agricultural credit cooperatives or donors, is of particular importance to enable farmers and agribusiness

to adjust modern technologies and have necessary equipment for reducing postharvest losses.

Policy Recommendation III: Improving and developing agricultural extension, training and outreach research activities for reducing postharvest losses

Rationale:

Agricultural extension services, training and outreach activities and providing necessary information to farmers are very instrumental in preventing postharvest losses. Handling, transportation and storage processes should be properly dealt with, particularly for the perishable products. Hence, designing and making use of appropriate methods and technologies bear great importance throughout these processes. In this regard, dissemination and extension of the various technologies through agro-industrial education, training and demonstrations to farmers would contribute to reduce postharvest losses. Therefore, these activities should be extended in the Member Countries.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:

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 POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP

5.1. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 7TH POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group (PAWG) has successfully held its 7th Meeting on February 11th, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Accessibility of Vulnerable Groups to Social Protection Programs in the OIC Member Countries”. During the Meeting, Poverty Alleviation Working Group made deliberations for policy approximation among the Member Countries regarding enhancing vulnerable groups’ accessibility to social protection programmes. The Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the analytical study conducted for the 7th Meeting of PAWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions, was the main input for the discussions. During the Meeting, the participants discussed the policy recommendations given below.

Policy Recommendation 1: Promoting formalization in the labor market through creating a regulatory environment for facilitating the transition of informal businesses to formal sector, and increasing the productivity of informally employed and long-term unemployed people via training and skill-development programs, credit and business development services

Rationale:

Informal employment is predominant in many OIC Member Countries which offer little social protection in terms of income, health and safety and unemployment insurance and therefore, higher risk of vulnerability. Mostly because of high informal sector, large segments of population in the OIC countries are outside the frame of social insurance policies. These segments become target of social safety net system due to their poverty situation. To decrease the risk of poverty and therefore the need for social safety net programs, formal employment opportunities need to be improved.

Increasing the share of formal employment would both contribute to the economic growth and social welfare. For this purpose, there is need for efforts in both firm-side and worker-side. Related to firm-side, governments need to create a regulatory environment which prevents informal employment and support small businesses to involve in formal employment. On the other side, informally employed people should be enabled to be more productive in order to work in formal sector which mostly requires higher skills and abilities. For this purpose, active labor market interventions and policies (such as training and skill-development programs) as well as credit and business development opportunities may be introduced/improved.

Policy Recommendation 2: Promoting free and universal health care coverage for vulnerable groups

Rationale:

Health indicators in OIC member countries, in general, are not promising. Children and women are the most vulnerable groups in terms of inadequate access to health care services. Especially low and lower-middle income countries possess low life expectancy rates (between 45 and 60 with some exceptions), and high level of child and maternal mortality (30-150/1000 and 100-1200/100,000 respectively). The most vulnerable groups among children and women are overrepresented in the low and low-income member countries.

Some OIC Member Countries have universal health care. Besides, some OIC Member Countries (particularly upper-middle and high income countries) have ability and capacity to introduce such a system in their countries. On the other hand, in low income countries a well-functioning health system which covers the most vulnerable groups with free of charge may be introduced. That would contribute to the human capital accumulation of the country as well as the health and demographic indicators.

Policy Recommendation 3: Developing specific social safety net programs to improve the access of vulnerable children to health and education services for preventing intergenerational transmission of poverty

Rationale:

All OIC Member Countries have some type of social safety net programs. However, in many member countries these programs do not contribute to economic development at desired levels. Lack of adequate human capital is a common challenge that the member countries face. Low human capital in most of the OIC member countries creates a vicious circle. Low human capital leads to low income, low income leads to poverty and poverty leads to low human capital for the next generation.

In the OIC Member Countries, youth face risks such as lack of access to education and health services, difficulties in entering into formal labor market and thereby unemployment. In this regard, social safety net programs should be designed to support human capital and in turn economic growth. Therefore, while providing social assistance towards poor people, their children should be supported for improving their access to health and education.

Policy Recommendation 4: Designing specific social safety net programs to offer a minimum regular income to people who cannot work (disabled, poor female-headed households, elderly without a pension) as well as developing social safety net programs (including activation programs) for people who can work

Rationale:

Social safety net programs should be differentiated between people who can work and people who cannot work. For people who can work, these programs should be combined with labor market programs to decrease the dependency on social safety net programs and to decrease the poverty in a more sustained way. While those people receive social assistance they should also be prepared to enter the labor market and/or to transit to high-wage jobs. In OIC Member Countries, as far as adults are concerned, they face risks such as low human capital, usually translated into low pay due to precarious and informal labor, under employment and unemployment. For this purpose, social assistance should be provided with active labor market programs for the adults.

On the other hand, there are some people who cannot enter the labor market due to their disability, age or care responsibilities and live with inadequate income. These people need to be supported with a regular minimum income which guarantees a decent standard of living.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:

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.

5.2. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP

A policy debate session was held during the 8th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group to come up with some policy recommendations for developing sound policies towards forced migrants and approximating policies among the Member Countries in this important field. The policy advices given below have been identified in light of the main findings of the analytical study titled “*Forced Migration in the OIC Member Countries: Policy Framework Adopted by Host Countries*” and the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questions which were sent by the COMCEC Coordination Office. Recognizing the unique and peculiar circumstances with regards to various forms of forced migration, the Working Group has come up with the following non-binding policy recommendations.

Policy Recommendation I: Developing a sound policy framework at the national level coherent with legislations and mechanisms in the host countries and strengthening their institutional and human capacity in order to manage diverse set of forced migration flows and address the needs of migrants

Rationale:

Forced migration has serious social and economic impacts on migrants, the country of origin and the host countries. Immigrants create heavy demands on local infrastructure and public services in host countries, especially in housing, health and education sectors. An efficient response to displacement and complex migration flows require a sound policy framework at the national level for host countries. In this respect, developing a policy framework to determine the needs of the migrants and to assign legal/temporary status may be considered, where required, as per the national legislations and mechanisms.

In addition, existence of a policy framework may not be sufficient to cope with the forced migration due to inadequate institutional capacity. In some cases implementation can lag behind the policy design. In this case, extensive investments in staff and infrastructure may be needed to carry out the policies and regulations efficiently, particularly in the host countries receiving mass influx.

Policy Recommendation II: Facilitating access to safe and affordable housing with a view to decreasing housing shortages and the economic burden on both migrants and host communities and allowing them to actively participate in daily life in the host country

Rationale:

Accommodation in a host country is the most basic need of forced migrants. However, access to safe and affordable housing in some member countries is a major challenge

due to the huge number of migrants as well as resource constraints. Most refugees in the host countries reside in urban areas instead of camps. For instance, over 90 percent of Syrians currently being sheltered in Turkey and 80 percent of Syrians in Jordan live outside the camps provided. Similarly, almost 90 percent of Iraqi refugees hosted by Jordan live in urban areas.

Influx of high number of migrants results in a housing shortage and high pressure on the housing market in the host countries. Hence, housing for forced migrants needs to be taken into consideration while designing national poverty alleviation strategies in the host countries and required financial resources, where possible, need to be allocated in order to provide liveable sheltering. In particular it is imperative for the international community, including the relevant international institutions, to share economic burden of the host countries with regards to refugees.

Policy Recommendation III: Increasing the forced migrants' access to labour market through providing work permits and developing programs for upgrading their skills with a view to enhancing self-sustainability

Rationale:

Lack of the necessary means to earn a living is one of the key challenges faced by refugees and has implications on their vulnerability in other areas, including access to housing and education. Labour market participation is therefore critical for displaced populations to sustain their livelihoods and for their integration with the host societies. Providing work permits may facilitate their access to labour market but it does not always enable them to easily find a job. Language differences, mismatches between their skills and the needs of the labour market as well as cost of obtaining documentation can be obstacles in their access to labour market. In this respect, providing programs for the forced migrants to learn the local language and to update their skills, such as vocational training, would facilitate their labour market access.

Policy Recommendation IV: Ensuring forced migrants' access to health and education services through eliminating the practical barriers including linguistic disparities and service fees

Rationale:

Access to basic services such as education and health is a significant challenge for the forced migrants. Although provisions exist in most countries to provide refugees and asylum seekers with access to basic services, practical barriers may prevent their use. Enrolment or service fees may be unaffordable for refugees without a reliable source of income, and service providers may lack of the knowledge or capacity to serve a

population with unique needs, such as diverse linguistic background. In this respect, lack of access to education and medical care can be particularly problematic for refugees who are children and at a critical stage in their physical and mental development.

Regarding education, all children at school age need to have an access to education and some necessary measures such as preparatory language classes and counselling and guiding services should be taken. Concerning health sector, all migrants should be allowed to access primary and secondary medical services with free of charge. In this framework, host communities may benefit from the high skilled migrants such as doctors and teachers.

Policy Recommendation V: Collecting reliable data on forced migrant population with a view to increasing the efficiency of policy making and monitoring as well as evaluation processes

Rationale:

Having reliable data is the first and most critical step to design and implement effective policies to serve both host communities and forced migrants. It is also necessary in the monitoring process to understand if the implemented policies are leading to desired outcomes and to decide whether there is a need to further intervention. However, data collection on forced migration remains a challenge for host countries. Determination of the exact numbers of forced migrants in a particular country as well as their demographic and other socio-economic characteristics can be difficult, especially where the refugees do not register to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Moreover, detailed information on the living conditions or socioeconomic challenges of forced migrant communities can be even more difficult to obtain. Therefore, detailed data on forced migrants should be collected by new surveys or by extending the coverage of the existing ones.

Policy Recommendation VI: Mobilising the international and OIC support and resources for alleviating poverty among the forced migrants

Rationale:

The scale of forced migration and frequent flows make it impossible for any country to meet the needs of forced migrants by themselves. Therefore, host countries require sustainable and holistic international support, which goes beyond the traditional humanitarian approach, which only focus on humanitarian aid. In this respect, receiving more funding from international donors should be achieved through advocating campaigns for high level of commitment from global community. The OIC community should not only advocate for facilitating this global commitment but also effectively mobilize its own institutions and resources.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendation:

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.

6. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP

6.1. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group (FCWG) successfully held its 7th Meeting on October 20th, 2016 in Ankara / Turkey with the theme of “National and Global Islamic Financial Architecture: Problems and Possible Solutions for 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 Recommendation 1: Developing/ Supporting Legal Framework for Islamic Finance by Reviewing Islamic Financial Laws, Tax Regimes, Dispute Settlement Framework and Bankruptcy Law

Rationale:

As financial sectors are bound by laws and regulations, it is vital to support legal infrastructure for different Islamic financial sectors. Various segments of the Islamic financial sector (banking, takaful and capital markets) would need enabling legal environment for their operations and reducing legal risks. Furthermore, there are tax implications for Islamic financial products as they are subject to real transactions such as sale, leasing and partnerships in projects. The tax laws related to income (profit, withholding), transactions (capital gains and stamp duties) and goods and services (value-added tax) need to be adjusted for tax neutrality. Furthermore, as civil courts in most OIC member countries use either the common law or civil laws to settle disputes, there is a need to address the dispute resolution framework for cases involving Islamic finance. Alternatively, arbitration centers can be used for disputes arising in the Islamic financial sector. Finally a bankruptcy legal framework that can deal with insolvencies and resolutions involving the Islamic financial sector is needed to mitigate legal risks.

Policy Recommendation 2: Developing Necessary Regulatory and Supervisory Institutional Framework for the Islamic Financial Services Industries (IFSI) through Adopting Standards Developed by Islamic Financial Architecture Institutions and Improving the National Framework

Rationale:

As the introduction of Shariah principles changes the nature risks and return of Islamic financial transactions compared to their conventional counterparts, the regulatory treatment of the former would be different compared to the latter. As such, there is a need to come up with a sound regulatory framework for Islamic banking, takaful and capital markets. In this regard, the regulatory standards developed by Islamic finance standards setting bodies including IFSB and AAOIFI. In countries in which the Islamic financial sector becomes larger and systematically important, there should be separate regulatory departments/units to deal with the issues arising in the various Islamic financial sectors. To mitigate regulatory arbitrage, the licensing and regulatory requirements of conventional and Islamic financial institutions should be clearly defined and applied.

Policy Recommendation 3: Establishing a Sound Governance Framework by Introducing the Requirement of Shariah Governance at the Financial Institution Level in Islamic Financial Laws and in Regulations

Rationale:

As Shariah compliance is the key distinguishing feature of Islamic finance, there is a need to have a Shariah governance framework to ensure that the products and operations of Islamic financial institutions do not contradict the principles of the Shariah. One of the key elements of ensuring a sound Shariah governance framework would be to make it a legal/regulatory requirement. This can be done by introducing the requirement of Shariah governance at the financial institution level in Islamic financial laws or in regulations. The regulators can come up with specific Shariah governance guidelines that banks are required to follow. Among others, this should include the requirement of Shariah audit to ensure that all the operations of financial institutions are in compliance with Shariah. Furthermore, existence of an independent national advisory body can help harmonize the Shariah rulings and minimize diversity of fatwas that introduces legal and reputational risks. The national advisory board can be established by the regulators. One of the roles of the national level advisory board is to come up with Shariah parameters or standards for different Islamic financial products. This will add to the harmonization of Islamic financial practices within the jurisdiction and also reduce the costs of Shariah governance at the organizational levels.

Policy Recommendations 4: Enhancing Consumer Protection and Financial Education through Ensuring Full Disclosure in Islamic Finance Contracts and Having Financial Education Programs to Increase Awareness and the Level of Understanding of Islamic Financial Transactions

Rationale:

A robust consumer protection regime is necessary for the development of a sound financial system. There is a need to come up with specific guidelines that deal with protecting consumers of Islamic Financial Institutions. As Islamic financial products confer various rights and obligations to different parties of the contract, the laws and regulations must require that these specific rights are protected. Among others, information disclosure on the contracts used and their structures should be disclosed to consumers. As many consumers choose Islamic finance due to religious convictions, one of the key issues in protecting consumers of the Islamic financial sector would be to not only ensure Shariah compliance but its full disclosure. A related issue on the demand side is to have financial literacy programs to increase awareness and the level of understanding of Islamic financial transactions. Islamic financial products are new for consumer in most jurisdictions and there is a need to educate the consumers about the features of these products. Other than introducing the Islamic finance concepts in school and college curricula, different stakeholders such as regulators, financial institutions, and Islamic finance trade associations can use various methods to disseminate knowledge on Islamic financial products and services.

Policy Recommendation 5: Developing Liquidity Infrastructure for Islamic Financial Sector by Issuing Shariah Compliant Liquidity Instruments, Developing an Active Islamic Money Market and Ensuring Lender of the Last Resort to Offer Shariah Compliant Facilities

Rationale:

Most financial institutions require liquidity facilities that they can tap into in cases of need. The liquidity infrastructure can be strengthened by providing Shariah compliant instruments, markets and the facilities for Islamic financial institutions. This would require developing and issuing Shariah compliant liquidity instruments that Islamic financial institutions can use either to place surplus funds or acquire funds when necessary. There may be a need to come up with Shariah compliant liquid instruments that satisfy conditions of High Quality Liquid Assets of the new Basel III liquidity requirements. These liquidity instruments can be issued either by the government or financial institutions. There is also a need to develop an active money market that would use some of these instruments to meet the short-term liquidity needs in an organized way. This platform can be established by the government in the countries where Islamic

finance is in the initial stages of development. Finally, Shariah compliant lender of the last resort would be required so that Islamic financial institutions can benefit from the liquidity facility in case of emergencies.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:

COMCEC Financial Cooperation 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.

ANNEX

9

Original: English

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

(İstanbul, 21-24 November 2016)

1.	COMCEC Annual Progress Report 2016.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(1)-CCO</i>
2.	Making Cooperation Work: COMCEC Strategy for Building an Interdependent Islamic World.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(2) -CCO</i>
3.	Report of the OIC General Secretariat on the Implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action (TYPOA).....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(3) -OIC</i>
4.	OIC Economic Outlook 2016-Annual Economic Report.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(4) -SESRI</i>
5.	Brief on Trade Cooperation/TPS-OIC.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(5) -CCO</i>
6.	Proceedings of the 7 th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(7) -CCO</i>
7.	Proceedings of the 8 th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(8) -CCO</i>
8.	Policy Recommendations of the 7 th Meeting of the Trade Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(9) -CCO</i>
9.	Policy Recommendations of the 8 th Meeting of the Trade Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(10) -CCO</i>
10.	Report on Trade Fairs and Exhibitions of OIC Member Countries	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(11) -ICDT</i>
11.	Explanatory Note on the Proposal for the Revision of the Regulations of the Trade Fairs.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(12) -ICDT</i>
12.	Executive Summary Annual Report on Intra-OIC Trade.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(13)-ICDT</i>
13.	Report on the Issues Relating to the Activities of the World Trade Organization(WTO).....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(14)-ICDT</i>
14.	Report on the IDB's WTO-Related Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(15)-IDB</i>
15.	ITFC Progress Report on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(16)– ITFC/IDB Group</i>
16.	Report of the SMIIC.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(17)- SMIIC</i>
17.	Report on the Activities of the ICCIA.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(18)- ICCIA</i>

18.	Strategy for Increasing Trade in Services in the OIC Member Countries	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(19) -ICCIA</i>
19.	Brief on Transport and Communications	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(21) -CCO</i>
20.	Proceedings of the 7 th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(22)-CCO</i>
21.	Proceedings of the 8 th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(23) -CCO</i>
22.	Policy Recommendations of the 7 th COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group Meeting	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(24) -CCO</i>
23.	Policy Recommendations of the 8 th COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group Meeting	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(25) -CCO</i>
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25.	Proceedings of the 7 th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(27) -CCO</i>
26.	Proceedings of the 8 th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(28)- CCO</i>
27.	The Policy Recommendations of the 7 th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(29)- CCO</i>
28.	The Policy Recommendations of the 8 th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(30)- CCO</i>
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31.	Proceedings of the 7 th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(34)- CCO</i>
32.	Proceedings of the 8 th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(35)- CCO</i>
33.	Policy Recommendations of the 7 th COMCEC Agriculture Working Group Meeting.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(36)- CCO</i>
34.	Policy Recommendations of the 8 th COMCEC Agriculture Working Group Meeting	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(37)-CCO</i>

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37.	Proceedings of the 8 th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(41)- CCO</i>
38.	Policy Recommendations of the 7 th COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group Meeting	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(42)- CCO</i>
39.	Policy Recommendations of the 8 th COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group Meeting	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(43)- CCO</i>
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43.	Brief on Financial Cooperation.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(47)-CCO</i>
44.	Proceedings of the 6 th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(48)-CCO</i>
45.	Proceedings of the 7 th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(49)-CCO</i>
46.	Policy Recommendations of the 6 th COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group Meeting	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(50)- CCO</i>
47.	Policy Recommendations of the 7 th COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group Meeting	<i>OIC/COMCEC/32-16/D(51)- CCO</i>
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