

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 32nd MEETING OF
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(Ankara, May 8th, 2018)**

1. The 32nd Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on May 8th, 2018 in İstanbul, on the sidelines of the 34th Meeting of Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mehmet Metin EKER, Director General of 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
- The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)- 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
 - Utilizing COMCEC Project Funding for the implementation of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations
- 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 Programme of Action
- The Proposal on the “Business Intelligence Center”
- Trade Related Statistics
- Any Other Business

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

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 period December 2017-November 2018 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation.

(The list of activities organized and to be organized by the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy between December 2017 and November 2018 is attached as Annex 1.)

5. The Committee was informed by the CCO that out of 180 activities of the OIC Institutions implemented/to be implemented in the reviewed period, 42.2 percent of the activities are in trade area followed by poverty alleviation (33.3%) and financial cooperation (7.2%) respectively. The Committee was also informed that with respect to types of the activities, the activities concentrated on trainings and technical assistance programs (22.8%), various programmes and projects (21.7%) and expert and working group meetings (17.8%) between December 2017 and November 2018.

6. The Committee underscored that the OIC Institutions shall give due regard to the Ministerial Policy Recommendations in planning their future cooperation activities and programs. Moreover, the Committee requested the OIC Institutions to indicate specifically the relevance between the activities and the policy recommendations in their lists of activities with a view to better reflecting the activities of the OIC Institutions aligned with COMCEC Strategy and Policy Recommendations adopted at the Ministerial level.

7. The CCO informed the Committee about the sectoral themes to be supported by the COMCEC Coordination Office in the 6th Project Call to be made in September 2018, under the COMCEC Project Funding. In this regard, the Committee underlined the importance of the submission of the project proposals by the OIC Institutions through COMCEC Project Funding for the realization of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

8. The Committee welcomed the execution of the Headquarters Agreement of the Islamic Organization for Food Security and operationalization of its Secretariat in March 2018.

9. The Committee agreed upon the need for the utilization of the training centers of the Central Banks in the Member Countries (i.e. Training Center of Central Bank of Turkey) and OIC Institutions' potentials for increasing the capacity with regards to Islamic Finance in the Member Countries through various training programmes and modules. In this regard, the Committee requested the SESRIC in cooperation with the IDB Group, CCO and OIC Central Banks with training centers, to study the issue and come up with a proposal to be submitted to the next Sessional Committee Meeting.

10. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, the Committee highlighted the importance of the IDB's allocation of the necessary funding to the capacity building project of SESRIC for the successful finalization of the OIC Cotton Programme with the SESRIC's capacity building Project.

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

11. The Committee was informed by the SESRIC on the results of the "Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries" circulated to the Member Countries in line with the relevant resolution of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC. It was noted that 33 member countries have communicated their completed or partial responses to the SESRIC. The SESRIC informed the participants that SDG-3 titled "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages", SDG-2 titled "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture" and SDG-1 titled "End poverty in all its forms everywhere" are the top three targets prioritized by the Member Countries.

12. The Committee was informed by the CCO that in line with the relevant resolution of the 33rd COMCEC Session, "the List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Related to the SDGs for the period of 2018 and 2019" will be compiled by the CCO and will be submitted to the 34th COMCEC Session. The Committee requested the OIC Institutions to give due regard to the needs and priorities of the Member Countries, which was presented by the SESRIC via the SESRIC's above-mentioned tendency survey, while planning their activities related to the SDGs.

Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action

13. The OIC General Secretariat informed the Committee about the recent developments towards the implementation of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action. The Committee highlighted the importance of effective cooperation and coordination among the OIC Institutions concerning realization of the goals defined by the OIC-2025:

Programme of Action. The Committee was also informed about the efforts of the relevant OIC institutions under the ACMOI. It was noted that the 4th Meeting of ACMOI will be held in December 2018 with the participation of the OIC Organs/Institutions.

The Proposal on the “Business Intelligence Center”

14. ICIEC (IDB Group) made a presentation on “Interim Report & Business Case for Business Intelligence Center (CBIC)”. The Committee took note of the report prepared by ICIEC (IDB Group) and requested the OIC Institutions to convey their comments on the said report to the ICIEC until the July 30th, 2018 at the latest.

Trade Related Statistics

15. The Committee highlighted the importance of harmonizing the trade related statistics in the publications of the OIC Institutions. In this regard, the Committee requested the CCO, ICDT and SESRIC to utilize the possible venues, especially OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCOM) Meetings, to study and elaborate on the methodologies used for calculating OIC trade data with a view to harmonizing them and inform the Committee in its forthcoming meetings.

Any Other Business

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

