



COMCEC

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

COMCEC

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2017



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COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) has been continuing its efforts towards enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the 57 OIC Member Countries since 1984. The main objective of the COMCEC is to address the economic challenges of the Islamic Ummah, to contribute to their development efforts and to enhance trade among the Member Countries. In this regard, COMCEC serves as a policy dialogue forum for producing and disseminating knowledge, sharing experience and best-practices, developing a common understanding, and approximating policies among the Member Countries.

In order to make the COMCEC a more fruitful platform to meet the growing needs of the OIC Member States, the 4th Extra-ordinary Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 August 2012 in Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has adopted the COMCEC Strategy. The 13th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference hosted by the Republic of Turkey on 10-15 April 2016 in İstanbul, Turkey, *“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.”* Moreover, the 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held on 10-11 July 2017 in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire, commended the efforts of the COMCEC towards enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States especially through the COMCEC Working Groups and Project Funding Mechanism.

In order to realize its objectives, COMCEC has initiated many programs and projects. Since the operationalization of the COMCEC Strategy, the efforts under the COMCEC have gained a new dynamism and visibility. The Annual Progress Reports are submitted to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions to present the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. This progress report provides an overview of the major achievements in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, since the 32nd Session of the COMCEC, particularly the progress in the implementation of two mechanisms of the COMCEC Strategy, namely COMCEC Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding. Accordingly, for each cooperation area, the Report gives information about the outcomes of the most recent meetings of the relevant Working Group. Moreover, the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, which were formulated by the COMCEC Working Groups, is included in this report by utilizing the responses of the Member Countries to the evaluation form prepared and circulated to the Member Countries in each cooperation area by the COMCEC Coordination Office. Furthermore, the activities of the OIC Institutions serving to the mission of the Strategy are also highlighted.

Since the 32nd Session of the COMCEC, held in İstanbul, on 21-24 November 2016, 12 Working Group (WG) Meetings have been successfully held. For these meetings, 12 research studies and 6 sectoral outlook documents have been published by the COMCEC Coordination Office. After each WG Meeting, a proceedings document was published in order to reflect the outcomes of the meetings including the summaries of the presentations and discussions made during the meeting. All the publications regarding the working group meetings namely the research studies, sectoral outlooks and the meeting proceedings are available in e-book format on the COMCEC website: (<http://ebook.comcec.org>)

The working groups have continued to conduct a policy debate session in their deliberations. The participants discuss policy recommendations on the theme of the meeting derived from the research studies as well as the responses by Member Countries to the policy questions, which are

communicated to the focal points before each WG meeting. These policy recommendations are then referred to the Ministerial Session for consideration and adoption. Accordingly, the recommendations of the 9th and 10th rounds of WG meetings will be submitted to the 33rd Session of the COMCEC for further action.

Through the COMCEC Project Funding, the second implementation instrument of the Strategy, the Member Countries and OIC Institutions are mobilized to realize the principles and objectives of the COMCEC Strategy. The projects conducted under this mechanism are developed in the areas where the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations have been formulated by the WGs. Thus, this mechanism provides an important policy support instrument for the project owners and beneficiaries.

During its third implementation year, 9 projects were successfully implemented in 2016 and more than 30 countries have reaped the benefits of COMCEC Project Funding. Moreover, this year, the fourth year of the implementation of COMCEC Project Funding, 14 projects are being implemented. With the partner countries, more than 40 member countries are benefiting from the COMCEC Project Funding. The Fifth Project call has been made in September 2017 and final list of successful projects is going to be announced at the end of January 2018 through the COMCEC web site.

Furthermore, the 5th Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Focal Points was held in 23-25 May 2017 to discuss the substantive issues pertaining the COMCEC Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism with the Member Countries. During this meeting, the participants had the chance to discuss the ways and means for active involvement of the member countries to the knowledge production efforts under the COMCEC. Moreover, the participants elaborated on the issues and challenges in the implementation of the policy recommendations and their effective follow-up. On the sidelines of the Meeting, a training session on the COMCEC Project Funding was also conducted, whereby the participants were informed on the details of the project submission under the fifth project call, which was to be made in September 2017.

The activities of the OIC institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy play a crucial role for the effective and successful implementation of the Strategy. This report also gives information regarding various activities held over the course of last year that are in line with the COMCEC Strategy and organized by the relevant OIC Institutions, namely, COMCEC Coordination Office, ICCIA, ICDT, IDB Group, SESRIC, SMIIC and OISA. The list of activities of the OIC institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy for the period December 2016- November 2017 is annexed to this report.

CHAPTER I: COOPERATION AREAS

1. Trade

1.1. Trade Working Group in 2017

Trade facilitation has become one of the important topics in the global economic agenda. The COMCEC Trade Working Group (TWG) has been focusing on trade facilitation issues in its recent meetings, which is also one of the important output areas of the COMCEC Strategy.

Trade facilitation can reduce trade costs prominently. According to OECD estimations, harmonizing trade documents, streamlining trade procedures, making trade-related information available and using automated processes can reduce total trade costs by 14.5 percent for low-income countries, 15.5 percent for lower-middle-income countries and 13.2 percent for upper-middle-income countries.

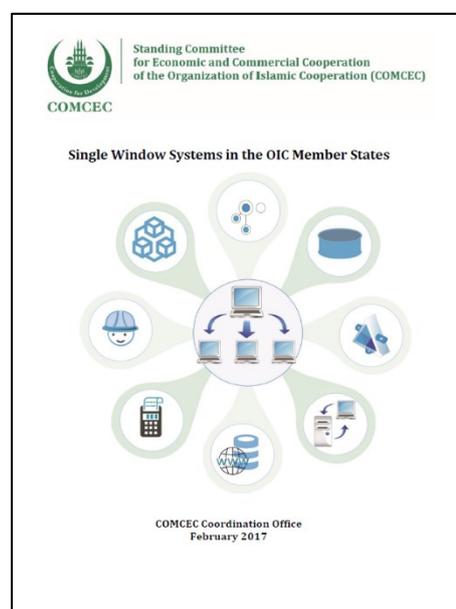
In this respect, the 9th Meeting of the Trade Working Group has elaborated on an important instrument of trade facilitation, which is Single Window Systems. The TWG has convened on March 9th, 2017 in Ankara, Turkey, with the theme of “Single Window Systems in the OIC Member Countries.” During the Meeting, the participants deliberated on the conceptual framework, global practices and trends in single windows and the current status of the OIC Member Countries regarding the implementation of the Single Window Systems.

Single window systems serve as the platforms for the exchange and processing of electronic information between traders, government agencies, and private operators. The research report prepared for the meeting highlighted the importance of single window systems for facilitating trade by offering a single point of contact and single submission for import, export and transit relevant formalities. The report indicated that, at present, 23 Member Countries have been benefiting from the single window systems, while 4 member countries are in the process of establishment of a system. Furthermore, 11 member countries have a vision to establish their single window systems¹.

There are major challenges faced by the Member Countries during the initiation and implementation processes of the single window systems. Weak quality of preparatory work, non-implementation of necessary legal and regulatory changes, inflexibility and lack of interoperability of the systems, and insufficient IT architecture and infrastructure are some of the main challenges faced in this field. In order to address these challenges, the Working Group has come up with the following policy recommendations:

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE TRADE WG

1. **Strengthening Single Window efforts in OIC Member States by developing integrated Single Window strategies that reflect national and regional requirements and actively engage the stakeholders in this process,**
2. **Improving the effectiveness of Single Window projects by identifying and implementing necessary changes in the laws and regulatory framework and operational practices,**



¹ COMCEC Coordination Office, Single Window Systems in the OIC Member Countries, 2017.

3. **Prioritizing flexibility, scalability, safety and interoperability of IT architecture of Single Windows Systems,**
4. **Promoting cross-border interconnectivity and interoperability of the national Single Window Systems in the OIC Region towards establishing Regional Single Window Systems.**

Moreover, special economic zones (SEZ) are important instruments for improving national and regional economic growth and increasing national income. They enable countries to attract foreign direct investments, facilitate economic diversification, create employment and deepen as well as extend industry value chains. Taking its importance into consideration, the COMCEC TWG has focused on the theme of Special Economic Zones in the OIC Member States in its 10th Meeting held on November 2nd, 2017. During the meeting, the participants deliberated on the global practices and trends in special economic zones and the current status of the OIC Member Countries regarding the special economic zones.

According to the research report prepared for this meeting, through SEZs, governments can facilitate human capital development, generate government revenue streams, reduce government expenditure on unemployment benefits and provide markets for domestically produced goods and services. SEZs can also contribute to the host country's export rates due to their ability to produce goods and services, which are sold in foreign markets.

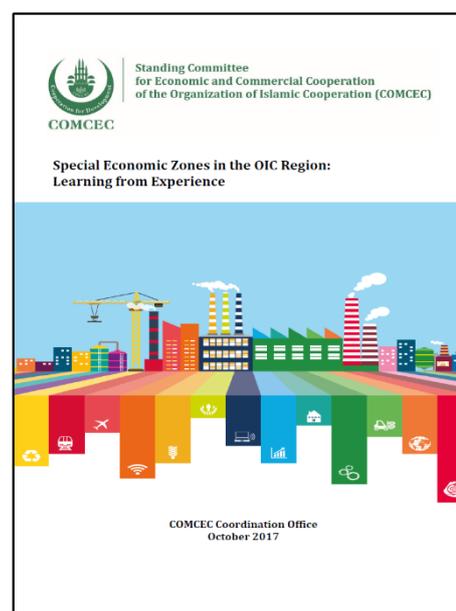
The report reveals that there has been a rapid expansion of SEZs worldwide since 1980s. There are approximately 242 SEZs operating within 33 OIC Member Countries. Approximately 36% of SEZs in the OIC Region are Free Trade Zones, while approximately 25% are classified as Export Processing Zones (EPZ). They are followed by Hybrid EPZs and other types of SEZs with 15% and 14% respectively.

According to the report, the following challenges are faced by the Member Countries with respect to the development of SEZs:

- Poor governance and regulatory environment - including ease of doing business,
- Poor business environment,
- Inefficient zone management,
- Unreliable utilities infrastructure,
- Poor quality transport infrastructure².

In order to address these challenges, the Working Group has come up with the following policy recommendations:

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE TRADE WG	
1.	Designing and programming Special Economic Zones in line with the national economic strategies for ensuring their complementarity with the national economic growth targets and industry sector priorities
2.	Improving economic performance of SEZ programmes through developing unique incentives frameworks – fiscal and non-fiscal - which attract investments and foster effective



² COMCEC Coordination Office, Special Economic Zones in the OIC Member States: Learning From Experience, 2017.

and efficient business environments
3. Improving the competitive advantage of SEZ programmes through effective site and sector targeting based on a robust understanding of national economic priorities and competitive advantages
4. Designing an efficient legal and regulatory framework to create a ‘special’ economic operating environment which considers and complements the existing legal and regulatory environment
5. Assigning/Establishing a single SEZ authority to regulate all SEZs within the country and supporting SEZ programmes through active involvement of key stakeholders and development of SEZ working groups

1.2. Member Countries’ Efforts for the Realization of the COMCEC Trade Policy Recommendations

In order to improve the follow-up of the policy recommendations, the CCO has prepared and circulated an evaluation form to the COMCEC Trade Focal Points after the 5th Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points. The evaluation form will facilitate the reporting of the developments in the Member States regarding the implementation of the policy recommendations adopted by the 31st and 32nd COMCEC Ministerial Meetings.

According to the feedbacks received from the Member Countries, the following national efforts in line with the COMCEC Policy Recommendations have been reported.

- Regarding the trade preferential agreements (PTA), especially the TPS-OIC, in line with the Ministerial Policy Recommendations of the 4th Meeting of the TWG,
 - Indonesia has intensified its efforts for realizing preferential trade agreements through putting them in the Action Plan of the Ministry of Trade for 2017-2025 as well as other annual target programs and activities. For the acceleration of ratification process of two TPS-OIC Agreements namely PRETAS and Rules of Origin, the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia hosted a Training Workshop on TPS-OIC on 13-14 September 2017 to raise the awareness of national institutions and to overcome the technical challenges in this regard.
- Concerning the Ministerial Policy Recommendations of the 5th Trade Working Group on Eximbanks/Export Credit Agencies (ECA),
 - The Government of Indonesia has assigned Indonesian Eximbank to carry out a special task called “National Interest Account” to increase competitiveness and value added of Indonesian products as well as to support the growth of the domestic industry in realizing the export potential of the Country. Moreover, Indonesian Eximbank conducts various capacity building programs, such as “Coaching Program for New Exporters” for improving the capacity of exporters.
 - Nigeria conducts studies to examine and assess the financing needs of the exporters in line with the COMCEC Policy recommendations as well as various national policy documents. Moreover, in order to review the overall performance of the ECAs, Nigeria assesses the soundness of ECAs by utilizing Key Performance Indicators (KPI) annually.
- In accordance with the policy recommendations of the 6th Meeting of the Trade Working Group on National Trade Facilitation Bodies (NTFB),

- Indonesia is planning to establish a National Committee on Trade Facilitation. the relevant ministries, such as Ministry of Trade and Ministry of Finance, annually organizes national workshops/seminars to discuss the establishment of National Trade Facilitation Committee in Indonesia. Recently, in June 2016, Ministry of Finance have been organizing some Seminars for establishing National Committee on Trade Facilitation. Moreover, the Republic of Indonesia also involved private sector in the process of establishing the National Trade Facilitation Committee.
- In Egypt, a national body for trade facilitation was established with the participation of the representatives of private sector in 2011. In line with the COMCEC policy recommendations, Egypt is now constructing a trade facilitation information portal to facilitate effective communication regarding the work of NTFB.
- Having a NTFB, Nigeria has an existing functional communication system under the Framework of Trade Facilitation Committee of Nigeria, which also includes the private sector representatives. For enhancing communication among the stakeholders of NTFB, monitoring and evaluation tools have been developed. Moreover, series of capacity building workshops and trainings have been carried out with the support of development partners for strengthening the NTFB in Nigeria.
- In line with the Ministerial Policy Recommendations of the 7th Meeting of the Trade Working Group on “Strengthening the Compliance of the OIC Member States to International Standards”,
 - Indonesia adapted its own standardization system (Indonesia’s Export Quality Infrastructure/EQI) with the relevant international standards. In this regard, the Ministry of Trade focuses on increasing the global quality standard to enhance the access of Indonesia’s export products to the global market. Indonesia’s main export products have to meet the standards and technical requirements that are accepted and recognized by all the export destination countries. Regarding the policy recommendation on SMIIC, National Standardization Agency of Indonesia (BSN) has recognized the objectives of SMIIC. BSN has declared to become member of SMIIC and has been informed of the necessary procedures.
 - In Morocco, the policy recommendations on the standards are also implemented in harmony with the National Strategy of Quality. Moreover, many national, regional and international activities are periodically organized in this area in coordination with the relevant stakeholders. Among others, the 20th session of the National Quality and Standardization Week was organized in October 2016 to encourage enterprises to address their competitiveness through an integrated, high-quality approach that takes into consideration the environmental, economic and social aspects.
 - In Nigeria, National Quality Policy has been drafted and communicated to the Federal Executive Council for its approval. Moreover, National Metrology Institute has been established for strengthening a national quality infrastructure. Furthermore, several workshops and training activities for developing national quality infrastructure has been held for capacity building in this regard.
 - Palestine has prepared an action plan for the effective implementation of its National Quality Policy Strategy.

- Regarding the policy recommendations of the 8th Meeting of the TWG on improving the border agency cooperation,
 - Indonesia launched Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) certification program to enhance mutual recognition of AEO programmes and coordination with other government agencies. For capacity building, Indonesia annually organizes special activities such as focus group discussion, workshops and other activities regarding the cross-border issues.
 - Morocco has developed a national plan to simplify foreign trade procedures. The main objective of this plan is the simplification of those procedures and the establishment of a national single window according to international standards in foreign trade procedures. Furthermore, Morocco organized several training courses and workshops in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank Group and the Islamic Center for Development of Trade.

1.3. Other Trade-Related Developments and Activities Organized by OIC Institutions

TPS-OIC:

TPS-OIC is the most important project of the COMCEC in the field of trade, based on three agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and the Rules of Origin. With the ratification of all three agreements by at least 10 Member States, the legal basis of the System was completed as of August 2011.

In order to make the TPS-OIC system operational, 10 Member States have to fulfill two conditions at the same time: The ratification of the three TPS-OIC Agreements and the submission of the list of concessions to the TNC Secretariat. In this regard, the required number of member countries for the operationalization of the System has been reached by the end of 2014.

However, for the entry into force of the System, there are some practical steps that should be taken by the participating member states. The most important step in this context is updating the concession lists. As of September 2017, 6 Member Countries, namely Turkey, Malaysia, Pakistan, Jordan, Bangladesh and Iran have conveyed their updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat. Moreover, following the submission of the updated concession lists by the required number of the Member Countries, the preferential trade will start under the TPS-OIC with some arrangements to be made in the customs authorities of each participating state in accordance with the relevant provisions of TPS-OIC Rules of Origin. The List of the Member Countries signed/ratified TPS-OIC Agreements can be reached at: <http://www2.comcec.org/UserFiles/File/TPS-OIC/TPS-OIC-Sign.pdf>

The 32nd Session of the COMCEC called 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. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 31st Session of the COMCEC, the Session invited the participating Member Countries, which have not done so, to convey their updated concession lists at their earliest convenience to the TNC Secretariat.

Furthermore, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) continues to organize awareness-raising events and seminars on TPS-OIC and its protocols for the government officials and private sector in the member countries. Within this framework, ICDT organized “the Training Workshop on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States” in collaboration with the COMCEC Coordination Office on 13-14 September 2017 in Jakarta/Indonesia.

2. Transport and Communications

2.1. Transport and Communications WGs in 2017

Broadband is a critical infrastructure for fostering economic growth and citizen welfare. With its spillover effect it also contributes to household income through raising the efficiency in labour markets and enhancing the population digital skills.

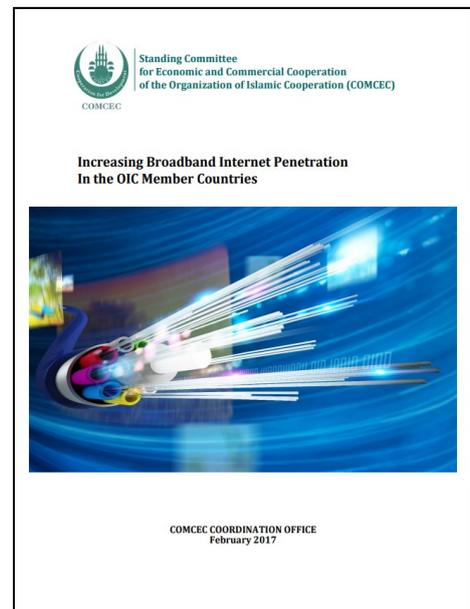
Considering its importance, the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) has devoted its ninth meeting to the broadband internet penetration. During the 9th TCWG Meeting, which was held on March 16th, 2017 with the theme of “Increasing Broadband Internet Penetration in the OIC Member Countries”, the discussions specifically focused on the conceptual framework of broadband penetration, overview of the current state of broadband penetration in the world and in the OIC, the challenges faced by Member Countries and the policy recommendations to address them.

As stated in the research report prepared specifically for this meeting, broadband technology has recorded a dramatic diffusion within the world as well as OIC Member Countries since its introduction in the early 1990s. According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), 3.5 billion people were internet users by 2016, of which 2.4 billion were from developing countries. Comparing to 7 percent internet penetration in 2000, today 44 percent of the world population has a regular internet access. As of 2015, 15 percent of households in the OIC Member Countries were connected to broadband technology, while 30 percent of individuals had mobile broadband connectivity. In some OIC Member Countries (such as Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Qatar), fixed broadband household penetration had exceeded 50 percent, while in others (Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and UAE) mobile broadband penetration was higher than 70 percent. Yet, the general situation in the OIC Member Countries is not homogeneous about the challenges faced and policies to be implemented regarding broadband development³.

The research report specifically prepared for this meeting highlighted the following major setbacks related to road maintenance practices in the OIC Member States:

- Lack of investment of next generation broadband networks
- Limited affordability
- Limited awareness of the potential of the broadband services
- Lack of digital literacy
- Lack of cultural relevance or interest.

In light of the main findings of the aforementioned research report and the deliberations during the 9th TCWG, the Working Group has come up with the following policy recommendations:



³ COMCEC Coordination Office, Increasing Broadband Internet Penetration in the OIC Member Countries, 2017.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WG

a) Policy Recommendations for all OIC Member Countries:

- Preparing national broadband strategies with the involvement of the all relevant stakeholders
- Enhancing digital literacy by embedding programs in the formal education system and encouraging non-formal initiatives targeting specific segments of the population

b) Policy Recommendations for the OIC Member Countries with Different Stage of Broadband Development:

1. OIC Member Countries at advanced stage⁴ of broadband development

- Achieving high-speed Internet coverage in rural and isolated areas through regulatory holidays⁵ and direct subsidies, with the purpose of improving the broadband investment business case
- Enactment of financial incentives to operators for deploying 4G

2. OIC Member Countries at an intermediate stage⁶ of broadband development

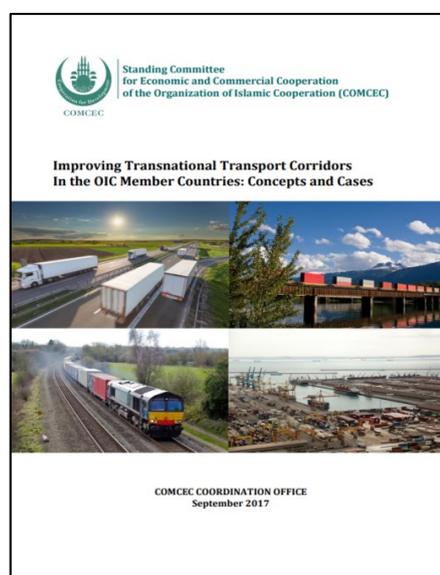
- Reducing cost of broadband services through targeted public policy initiatives
- Lowering the cultural and linguistic barriers through development of local platforms, content, and applications.

3. OIC Member Countries at initial stage⁷ of broadband development

- Offering a low-priced broadband service for consumers by state-owned and government subsidized telecommunications operators
- Offering a low-priced or free broadband service targeted for disadvantaged segments of the population

Furthermore, 32nd COMCEC Ministerial Session agreed on “Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries” as the theme for the Exchange of Views Session of the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Meeting. The Session also requested Transport and Communications Working Group to make the necessary preparations and come up with a set of policy recommendations for the Ministerial Exchange of views Session. Accordingly, the 10th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group was held on 18-19 October 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries”.

The research report prepared specifically for this meeting reveals that effective transnational transport corridors reduce the costs of transportation, both within and across regions, improve international market access, increase income. Moreover, as waiting and processing times at borders represent up to 50 percent of total transit times along international trade routes, the efficiency of the operations at border gates are of particular importance for developing an efficient and productive transport corridor.



⁴ OIC Member Countries at advanced stage refers to the countries, which have high coverage and adoption of broadband internet.

⁵ Regulatory holiday refers to the absence of some regulatory obligation to provide access, at least for a predefined period of time.

⁶ OIC Member Countries at intermediate stage generally have advanced coverage but limited broadband penetration.

⁷ OIC Member Countries at initial stage refers to the countries which need to increase both supply and demand for broadband services. For those countries, a combination of infrastructure deployment incentives and demand stimulation policies are required to increase broadband penetration.

Although there are more than 100 transport routes in the OIC Region, most of them are not defined as transport corridors. Furthermore, majority of the existing corridors do not function smoothly. According to the report, while the share of trade through the corridors is about 50-60 percent in the European Union, it is less than 10 percent in the OIC. In this regard, in light of the main findings of the aforementioned research report and the deliberations during the TCWG, the following challenges, among others, were identified by the Working Group:

- Lack of cooperation and coordination among the enroute countries.
- Lack of accurate information about the operations take place on the transnational transport corridors and effective data collection system.
- Lack of application of cost reflective tariffs for the usage of infrastructure in terms of sustainability and rehabilitation of infrastructure.
- Low interoperability and lack of interconnections⁸.

The WG has also come up with a set of policy recommendations under the following 7 headings:

1. Political and institutional factors
2. Economic, financial and social factors
3. Trade Facilitation:
4. Safety, security and legal liability
5. Technical and operational factors
6. Environmental and energy factors
7. Corridor Performance Monitoring

The details about the policy recommendations including their rationale are available on the COMCEC Website (www.comcec.org).

2.2. Member Countries' Efforts for the Realization of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Policy Recommendations

According to the feedbacks of the Member Countries to the evaluation form, which was circulated for reporting the efforts of the Member Countries on the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations on Transport and Communications, the following efforts have been undertaken by the Member Countries:

- Regarding the policy recommendations of the 6th Meeting of the TCWG on enhancing the quality of urban transport,
 - Afghanistan has developed Traffic Management System, Driver License and Vehicle Registration Systems to improve the urban transport across the country.
 - Jordan has implemented a training program namely, “Development and Operation for Smart Transport Monitoring” for enhancing the use of ICT applications for traffic management in urban transport. On the other hand, it was reported that the lack of administrative and technical expertise is a challenge for Jordan in terms of improving institutional structure to ensure the delivery of a sustainable transport strategy.
- Concerning the policy recommendations of the 7th Meeting of the TCWG on enhancing road maintenance,

⁸ COMCEC Coordination Office, Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries: Concepts and Cases, 2017.

- Saudi Arabia has implemented “Performance-Based Contract” to increase the performance of the private sector in terms of road maintenance. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia has conducted some surveys for evaluation of the road services provided by the public authority.

2.3. Other Efforts under the Transport and Communications Area

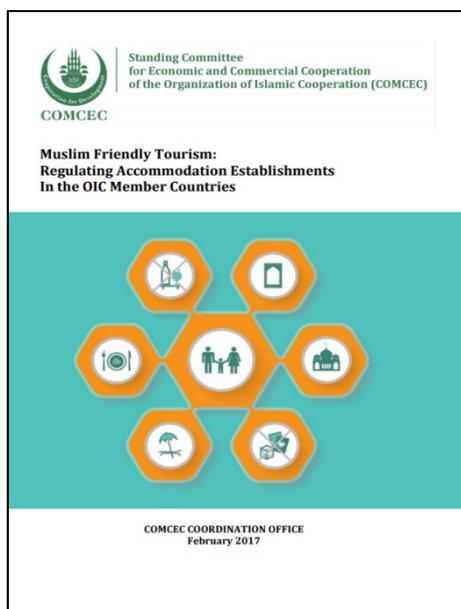
The Second Islamic Conference of Transport Ministers will be held on 17-19 December 2017 in Khartoum, Sudan. The Conference is expected to review the implementation of the OIC resolutions related to transportation sector and discuss the issues related to the important transportation projects such as OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway.

The 33rd COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meeting called upon the Member Countries and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions including the COMCEC Secretariat to actively participate in this important event.

3. Tourism

3.1. Tourism WGs in 2017

In recent years, Muslim-Friendly Tourism (MFT) has become a new emerging segment in the tourism sector, which has a considerable share in the global tourism market. Muslim-Friendly Tourism (MFT), as a sub-sector of tourism, has a great potential and considerable share in the global tourism market. The Muslim population is expected to increase to 2.2 billion by 2030, which would be a key catalyst for the growth of the MFT sector.



Given the importance of MFT sector in the area of tourism, COMCEC has devoted its three Tourism Working Group Meetings to Muslim-Friendly Tourism. During the 9th Tourism WG Meeting, held on February 16th, 2017 with the theme of “Muslim-Friendly Tourism: Regulating Accommodation Establishments in the OIC Member Countries”, the discussions focused on regulating MFT accommodation establishments, particularly overview of the current state of MFT accommodation sector in the world and the OIC, as well as the challenges faced by the Member Countries.

The research report prepared for this Meeting highlighted that Muslim inbound tourism arrivals in the OIC member countries are estimated to be 53.8 million in 2016 and 74.8 million in 2020. On the other hand, Muslim outbound tourism expenditure from OIC member countries was \$108.8 billion in 2015 and it is expected to reach \$179.5 billion in 2021.

In the research report, the total number of hotels globally was estimated to be 156 thousand in 2015. However, the share of the OIC Member is only 10.3 percent. The top five countries with the highest number of hotels in the OIC Region are: Turkey (3295), Malaysia (2178), UAE (1985), Indonesia (1332) and Saudi Arabia (1254). However, only 680 accommodation establishments are identified as Muslim-friendly in the world⁹.

⁹ COMCEC Coordination Office, Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Regulating Accommodation Establishments in the OIC Member Countries, 2017.

In light of the main findings of the aforementioned research report and the deliberations made, the following challenges were identified:

- Low level of usage of press releases and social media by public sector
- Lack of involvement of local communities into risk management
- The complexity of recovery strategies
- Lack of diversification of tourism activities
- The shortage of experienced and qualified labour in tourism sector
- Low level of communications and relations between private-public sector

To overcome these challenges, the Tourism Working Group during its 10th Meeting has come up with the following policy recommendations:

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE TOURISM WG	
1.	Establishing a national committee/task force with the responsibility for tourism risk and crisis management, which will be formed by the national tourism authority of each country and include representation from the stakeholders,
2.	Increasing awareness of resilience and crisis, including the identified stages of a crisis and how to prepare for and respond to each stage,
3.	Analyze and understand the risks and plan for crisis, both in terms of external crises and risks affecting the tourism industry generally and individual businesses,
4.	Ensuring market awareness and positive destination perceptions, and developing new markets and products.

3.2. Member Countries’ Efforts for the Realization of the COMCEC Tourism Policy Recommendations

In order to understand the national efforts of the Member Countries on the implementation of the tourism policy recommendations, the evaluation form was circulated to the tourism focal points. According to the feedbacks of the Member Countries to the said evaluation forms:

- Regarding the implementation of the Ministerial Policy Recommendations, formulated by the 5th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on travel facilitation,
 - Azerbaijan has intensified its efforts for travel facilitation including the reflection of this issue to the Action Plan of the Strategic Road Map for 2017-2027 and issuance of presidential decree on “Simplification of electronic visa issuance procedures and creating ASAN visa system” on 1 June 2016, “Additional measures for the acceleration of tourist flows to Azerbaijan” on 20 February 2017 as well as “Additional measures for the development and improvement of the ASAN Visa system” were signed on 21 June 2017.
 - Furthermore, Cameroon implemented a program on modernization and development of Douala and Yaoundé airports.
- Concerning the policy recommendations of the 6th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on effective tourism marketing strategies and ICT-based tourism marketing,
 - Sudan has developed a strategic plan on training human resources by utilizing the modern technologies in line with the developments in the tourism marketing.

- Azerbaijan established National Tourism Promotion Bureau in 2017 in accordance with the Strategic Road Map on Specialized Tourism. One of the main objectives of the Bureau is to cooperate with private sector through ICT usage and other means for promotion of the country.
- In line with the policy recommendations of 7th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on Muslim Friendly Tourism,
 - Azerbaijan prepared a draft standard on “Halal management system-Hotels.” Moreover, a seminar was organized to discuss the above-mentioned draft standard with participation of hotel representatives on 25 April 2017.
 - Mozambique organized a training program on the applications, potentials, opportunities and benefits of MFT within the framework of the project called “Enhancing Capacity of Muslim Friendly Tourism Workforce”, which was funded by the COMCEC Project Funding.
 - Turkish Standardization Institute (TSE) has issued criteria regarding Halal Tourism. In this regard, all affiliated tourism establishments and food producers can apply to the Institute in order to have Halal Certification. Turkey also hosted International Halal Tourism Conference in Konya, May 2016.
- Regarding the implementation of the policy recommendations of 8th TWG on developing and marketing MFT products and services,
 - Azerbaijan organized a workshop on funding of tourism enterprises in 2016.

3.3. OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum

The OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum, which provides a regular communication channel for the private sector representatives of the Member Countries, has focused on the risk and crisis management in tourism sector in its 5th Meeting held on 4 May 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. In this forum, the participants discussed the current state of crisis management in tourism sector in the OIC Member Countries as well as prospects and challenges in this regard.

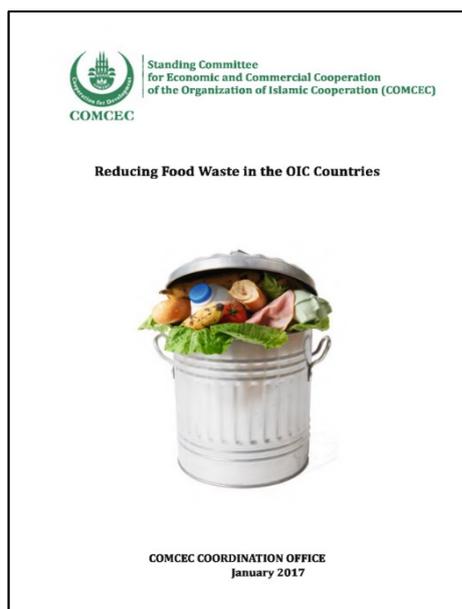
3.4. The Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Tourism

The 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) was held on 21-23 December 2015 in Niamey/Republic of Niger with the participation of 17 Member States. In the Conference, Madinah al-Munawwara and Tabriz were selected as the OIC Cities of Tourism for 2017 and 2018, respectively. The Session discussed the importance of promoting Islamic Tourism through the development of relevant hotels and resorts, Halal food, entertainment and sport facilities, in addition to branding Islamic Tourism in the international fora. Moreover, the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) will be held on 12-14 November 2017 in Bangladesh.

4. Agriculture

4.1. Agriculture WGs in 2017

World population is expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, which implies that global food supply needs to be increased by 60 percent in order to meet the growing food demand. This requires a remarkable increase in agricultural productivity and reduction in food losses and waste.



According to the FAO, every year 32 percent (approximately 1.3 billion tons) of the food produced in the world for human consumption gets lost or wasted. The economic value of food losses and waste amounts to roughly 680 billion USD in developed countries and 310 billion USD in developing countries.¹⁰ Reduction in food losses and waste could have an immediate and significant impact on an important part of the population in the OIC Region. Furthermore, the pattern and size of food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain remains poorly understood in the vast majority of the OIC Member Countries.¹¹

Given the importance of food losses and waste, the COMCEC Agriculture WG has devoted its three meetings to different dimensions of this subject. In this regard, the 9th Meeting of the Agriculture WG was held on 23 February 2017 with the theme of

“Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries”.

According to the research report conducted for the Meeting, there are significant differences between developed and developing countries with regards to food waste. In this respect, in Europe and North America 280-300 kg of food waste is generated per year per person, while in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia 120-170 kg per person is generated per year. Furthermore, in Sub-Saharan Africa, consumers are only responsible for 3.5 percent of food waste generated in the region, with the rest generated before consumption. Regarding the types of food waste, fruits and vegetables have the highest level of waste, followed by roots and tubers and cereals. Poor planning of purchases, confusion about date labelling, poor storage or stock management and poor food preparation are the major reasons of food waste.¹²

In line with the main findings of the aforementioned report and the discussions during the 9th Meeting, the Agriculture Working Group put forward the following policy recommendations:

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE WG	
1.	Developing a specific legislative framework and road map for reducing food waste in a holistic context including supply chain
2.	Promotion of food banks and food distribution networks
3.	Conducting cohesive initiatives and campaigns to increase awareness on food waste in supply chain and consumption

Furthermore, agriculture sector has some challenges related to losses during harvesting, sensitivity to natural hazards, climate changes (i.e. rainfall, drought), biological and microbiological hazards (i.e. disease, attacks by pests) and endogenous instabilities due to market failures. In order to tackle these challenges, interventions are made to the agricultural and food markets through a variety of

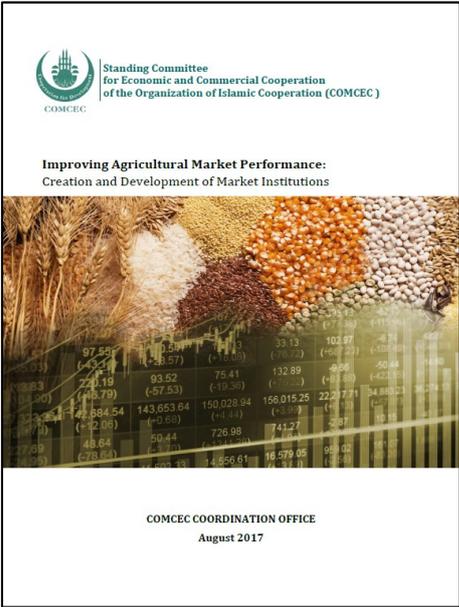
¹⁰ COMCEC Coordination Office, Reducing Postharvest Losses in the OIC Member Countries, 2017.

¹¹ COMCEC Coordination Office, Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries, 2017.

¹² Ibid.

institutions established by governments or with government partnership. Given the importance of the subject, Agriculture WG, in its 10th Meeting, held on September 28th, 2017, has focused on creation and development of market institutions in the OIC Region.

According to the research report prepared for the Meeting, effective and sustainable agricultural and food market institutions can alleviate negative impacts of instabilities and improve market access, especially for smallholder farmers, who are the main players in agriculture sector in the OIC Region.



In terms of number of market institutions, top three OIC countries are Tunisia (14), Cote d’Ivoire (11), and Indonesia (10) respectively. Regarding the types of agricultural institutions, the most widespread institution type in the OIC Region is state-owned economic enterprises. Marketing boards and cooperatives are also prevalent in the member countries.

According to the research report as well as the deliberations made, the Member Countries have the following challenges for the well-functioning of market institutions:

- Lack of coordination among the relevant stakeholders (sector associations, cooperatives and exporters’ federations etc.)
- Poor infrastructure and legal framework to ensure the active involvement of farmers and private sector in the supply chain
- Limited capacity of the market institutions to fulfil their functions (exchange function, facilitating demand/supply creation etc.)¹³

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 10 TH MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE WG
1. Establishing/improving a Farmer Registry System for famers/farmer organizations to provide customized supports and assistance as well as extension and market information for farmers
2. Developing policies/programs/mechanisms to improve farmers’ timely access to quality inputs (e.g. seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, and other key ingredients) with a view to increasing quality, quantity and marketability of end products
3. Providing need based capacity development support and training to farmers and farmer associations for increasing their access to warehousing and storage capacity
4. Establishing/improving the ingredient and input traceability as well as marketing oriented product standardization and certification to enhance safety and marketability of agricultural products in both domestic and international markets

4.2. Member Countries’ Efforts for the Realization of the COMCEC Agriculture Policy Recommendations

With regards to the implementation of policy recommendations on agriculture, the national efforts below have been reported:

¹³ COMCEC Coordination Office, Improving Agricultural Market Performance: Creation and Development of Market Institutions, 2017

- In accordance with the policy recommendations of the 7th Meeting of AWG on reducing on-farm food losses,
 - In Afghanistan, a new strategy was developed as a roadmap for agriculture and livestock in 2016. In this context, a comprehensive plan for data collection on farm losses and post-harvest losses was designed and its survey is ongoing.
 - Azerbaijan has approved the "Strategic Road Map for the production and processing of agricultural products in the Republic of Azerbaijan" with a view to further strengthening food security, creating favorable conditions for having competitive agricultural production and processing sector.
 - Côte d'Ivoire has initiated a strategy to reduce postharvest losses that focuses on warehouse building, transformation plant and commercial contracts between producers and retailers.
 - Gambia is implementing a project under the COMCEC Project Funding, namely "Reduction of Post-Harvest Losses in Cereals for Improve Rural Livelihood". The purpose of the project is to improve food security and rural livelihood by introducing better post-harvest management techniques for cereals.

4.3. OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development

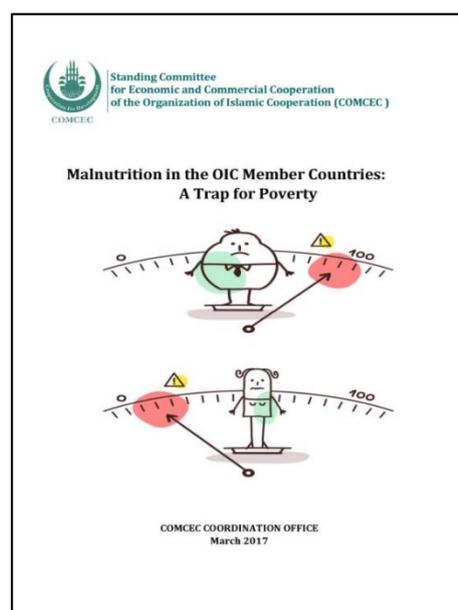
Another important platform where common problems of the OIC Member Countries are discussed in field of agriculture is the OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development. The 7th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security Agricultural Development held on 26-28 April 2016 in Astana, Kazakhstan has deliberated on the common constraints and challenges of agricultural development and food security in the OIC Member States, especially the agricultural production and productivity, trade in agriculture commodities, water resources and their use in agriculture. Moreover, 8th Ministerial Conference will be organized in İstanbul, Turkey on 17-18 April 2018.

5. Poverty Alleviation

5.1. Poverty Alleviation WGs in 2017

Malnutrition is one of the major reasons of poverty cycle throughout generations, especially when it is experienced in early life. It also adversely affects health, education, and immediate as well as future income. Furthermore, malnutrition has negative effects on productivity and thus the economic growth, especially in the countries where a high incidence of chronic undernourishment exists.¹⁴

Given the importance of the issue, the Ninth Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on 6 April 2017 in Ankara, Turkey, with the theme of "Malnutrition in the OIC Member Countries: A Trap for Poverty".



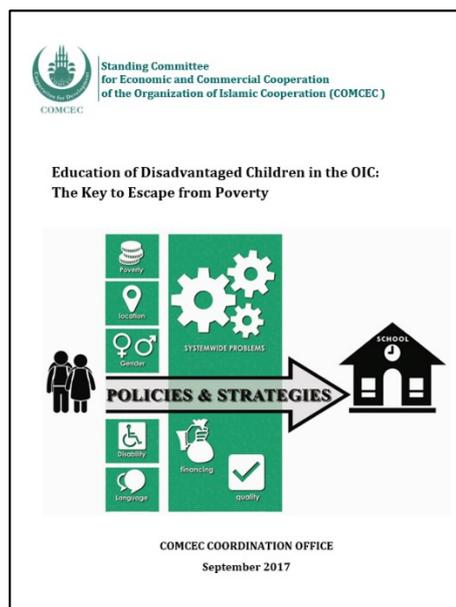
¹⁴ COMCEC Coordination Office, Malnutrition in the OIC Member Countries: A Trap for Poverty, 2017.

The research report, which was specifically prepared for this meeting, revealed that the OIC Member Countries experience high rates of malnutrition across all indicators; and tend to under-perform when compared to the rest of the (developing) world. Stunting rate in the OIC is 33 percent, which is above the high prevalence threshold defined by the WHO (30 percent). This rate is 13 percent higher than in the rest of the world. According to report, one-third of the children under-5 years of age is stunted (too short for their age) and 11 percent of the same group is wasted (too thin for their height) in the OIC Member Countries.

As highlighted in the report and during the discussions in the Meeting, the following challenges were identified:

- Inadequate Infant and Young Children Feeding (IYCF) practices - including breastfeeding,
- Lack of access to nutritious food
- Seasonal hunger due to lean/drought seasons,
- Poor access to improved water and sanitation infrastructures,
- Insufficient access to maternal and reproductive healthcare,
- Low levels of health spending,
- Low and inefficient coordination mechanisms to address malnutrition.

To overcome these challenges, the Working Group came up with the following policy recommendations:



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9 TH MEETING OF THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION WG	
1.	Developing and implementing nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, especially towards women of reproductive age from vulnerable groups,
2.	Improving infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices,
3.	Ensuring universal access to healthcare, safe water and sanitation, and launching educational campaigns on infectious diseases to eliminate all forms of undernutrition,
4.	Providing access to safe and nutritious food for all with community-based initiatives and by forming resilient capacities for food-security.

Moreover, the 10th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on 5 October 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “Education of Disadvantaged Children in OIC: The Key to Escape from Poverty.”

Poor educational attainment and poverty reinforce one another. Poor children have difficulty in reaching education compared to their wealthier counterparts. Even when school attendance is free, spending on books, uniforms, transportation make education unaffordable for poor families. Low level of education increases the likelihood of being poor.

Given the importance of the issue, the 10th Meeting was devoted to education of disadvantaged children. A research report was specifically prepared for this Meeting. The report revealed that the

OIC member countries improved access to education in the last two decades. Nonetheless, primary education level has remained lower than 90% in 24 OIC member countries. Moreover, the number of out of school children is very high in Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan and Indonesia with 8.7, 5.6, 2.7 and 2 million respectively. In addition, among the 42 OIC countries, in 23 Member Countries, the gap between the primary net attendance rate of poor and rich children is more than 10 percent and in 17 member countries it is more than 20 percent.

The report has also indicated that poverty, location and distance to school, gender disparities, disabilities and lack of sufficient financial resources are the main reasons hindering access to education.

In light of the findings of the above-mentioned report and the discussions, the 10th Meeting of the PAWG has come up with the following policy recommendations:

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 10 TH MEETING OF THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION WG	
1.	Improving access of poor and disadvantaged children to education through eliminating/reducing school fees and by developing conditional cash transfer and school feeding programmes
2.	Enabling access of children in rural and remote areas by establishing new schools or providing free transportation for the children living in these regions
3.	Increasing access to inclusive education for children including those having disabilities by formulation of necessary political and legal framework as well as by providing them better assistance in the school environment
4.	Prioritizing gender equality and equity in access to education
5.	Mobilizing and optimizing more financial resources and human capital towards improving the quality of education

5.2. Member Countries’ Efforts for the Realization of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Policy Recommendations

Regarding the efforts of the Member Countries towards the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations on Poverty Alleviation, the Member Countries reported the following:

- In accordance with the policy recommendations of the 5th Meeting of PAWG on activation policies for the poor,
 - Mozambique created the National Institute of Employment, which is responsible for promoting employment. Moreover, employment centers have been modernized in Maputo. Mozambique also launched the employment portal in August 2017, which is an electronic platform that aims to improve support for inter-institutional collaboration and interaction with public in areas of employment and vocational training.
- In line with the policy recommendations of the 7th Meeting of PAWG on accessibility of vulnerable groups to social protection,
 - Ministry of Health of Albania have been undertaking the necessary preparations for the promotion of universal Health for all citizens, giving priority to vulnerable and marginalized groups.

- Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth of Albania has introduced different reforms, strategies and action plans for developing programs and projects for vulnerable groups in cooperation with the Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Education.
- In accordance with the policy recommendations of the 8th Meeting of PAWG on forced migration,
 - Burkina Faso has adopted a National Migration Strategy (SNMig) and the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development initiated the action plan of the Strategy on 8 February 2017. The strategy aims at promoting coherent, effective, integrated and concerted management of migration in the context of achieving sustainable human development.

5.3. Other Efforts under the COMCEC by the OIC Institutions

Other ongoing programs for alleviating poverty under the COMCEC are: Special Program for the Development of Africa - SPDA (within the Islamic Development Bank), Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development - ISFD (within the Islamic Development Bank) and OIC Vocational Education and Training Program - OIC-VET (within SESRIC).

The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) is a special fund established with the purpose of poverty alleviation through enhancing the productive capacity of the poor, reducing illiteracy and eradicating diseases and epidemics, particularly Malaria, Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS, in the Member Countries while the targeted budget of the Fund is 10 billion USD, total amount of the received contributions as of September 2017 is 2.58 billion USD and 86 projects are currently being implemented under the ISFD portfolio.

The Special Program for the Development of Africa (SPDA), is another program developed to alleviate poverty in the Member States in Africa. The target capital of the SPDA is \$12 billion. As of 2017, the amount of total disbursements is 5.9 billion USD since 2012.

The Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) is implemented by SESRIC in order to improve the quality of vocational education and training in the member countries. Within this framework, SESRIC has been organizing various capacity building programmes under the OIC-VET.

5.4. Implementation of the SDGs

Given its crucial place in the global development agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been taken into the agenda of the COMCEC. Based on the relevant recommendation of the 32nd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee, the IDB and CCO conducted the study on “Contributions of the OIC Institutions in Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”, which includes the possible contributions of the relevant OIC institutions (CCO, IDB Group, SESRIC, ICCIA, ICDT and SMIIIC) for the implementation of the SDGs and their sub-targets in the Member Countries.

Moreover, the 32nd COMCEC Session requested the CCO to compile the activities of the OIC Institutions, which are conducted on the implementation of the SDGs in the member countries and submit a report to the 33rd COMCEC Session. In this regard, this issue was deliberated by the relevant OIC Institutions during the 30th Sessional Committee Meeting and the CCO has compiled the relevant activities of the OIC Institutions to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs in the member countries. The CCO will submit the compiled activities list to the 33rd COMCEC Session.

Moreover, SESRIC conducts a tendency survey on the priorities of the Member Countries regarding the SDGs. SESRIC will submit a report on the results of the tendency survey to the 33rd COMCEC Session.

6. Financial Cooperation

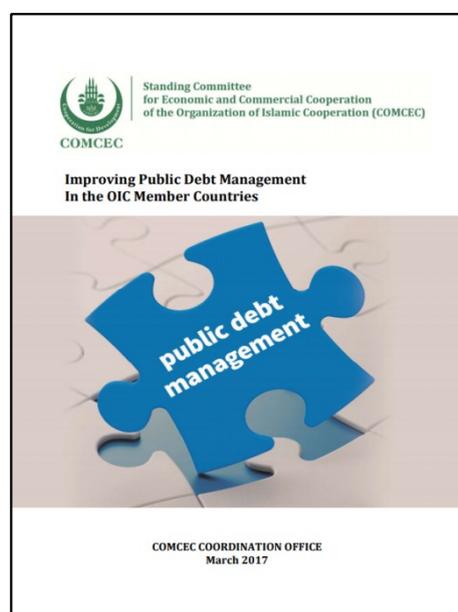
6.1. Financial Cooperation WGs in 2017

Public debt became an integrated part of public finance after 1980s all over the world. It is used as a tool to develop financial markets, to regulate capital movements, and to determine risk-free rate as well as to finance budget deficits.

Since public debt constitutes the biggest financial portfolio in many countries, effective public debt management has become essential for economic stability. In the last two decades, a number of financial crises occurred mainly due to public debt problems. Unhealthy public finances might cause economic disturbances for all countries regardless of their economic development level.

Taking its importance into consideration, the 8th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group (FCWG) was held on 30 March 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving Public Debt Management in the OIC Member Countries.” The working group deliberated on the debt management practices in the world and the OIC Region including public debt dynamics, debt management structures and institutional frameworks.

According to research report prepared for the Meeting, the average public debt level during the 1980-2015 period was between 40 and 80 percent of GDP in the world. While the ratio of public debt to GDP of the Member Countries varies between 3 and 138 percent, the average public debt to GDP ratio was 36.7 and 46.1 percent in 2012 and 2015 respectively in the OIC Region. The public debt to GDP ratio in the OIC Region is expected to reach 51.1 percent by the end of 2017. The decline in oil prices in recent years has also led to an increase in budget deficits¹⁵.



The following challenges were highlighted by the FCWG in this field:

- Effects of Macroeconomic shocks on the structure of the public debt: exchange rate risk, higher re-financing risk, interest rate risk
- Unclear institutional responsibilities for public debt management
- Lack of formal debt management strategy
- Dependency on external borrowing caused by underdeveloped domestic public debt markets
- Short average maturity of public debt, especially concerning debt held by the private sector
- Crowding-out of bank loans to the private sector

To overcome these challenges, the Working Group has come up with the following policy recommendations:

¹⁵ COMCEC Coordination Office, Improving Public Debt Management in the OIC Member Countries, 2017.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION WG

1. **Strengthening/Setting up an independent Public Debt Management Unit with well-defined functions and a dedicated debt management strategy**
2. **Developing/improving domestic debt market**
3. **Broadening and diversifying the creditor base**
4. **Lengthening the average maturity of the public debt**
5. **Applying macroeconomic risk management methods.**

Islamic finance has been one of the fastest-growing components of international financial system over the last decades. It has been globalized by spreading to almost 90 countries in the world.

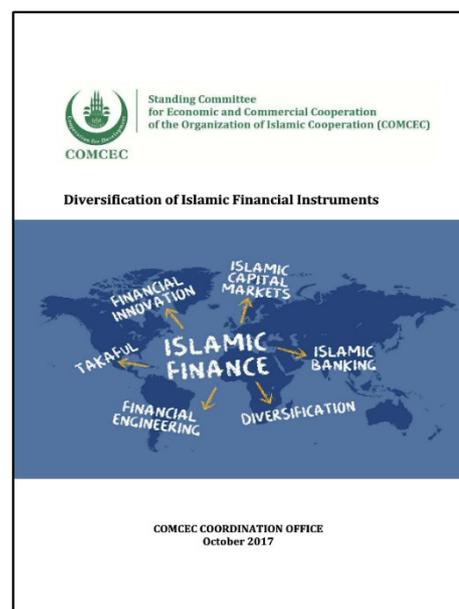
On the other hand, diversification of Islamic financial instruments in line with the core values of the Islamic finance is of particular importance for the development of the industry. In this regard, the Financial Cooperation Working Group has devoted its 9th Meeting to the theme of “Diversification of the Islamic Financial Instruments.”

According to research report conducted for the Meeting, Islamic Banking and Sukuk dominate the Islamic Finance sector with a share of 75 percent and 15 percent respectively. In twelve member countries, the Islamic banking sector has reached systemic importance in their financial sector. The report also underlines that along with Mudarabah and Musharakah, which are the most commonly used instruments in Islamic finance industry, Wakala (agency), Ijarah (rental lease), Murabahah (cost plus sale), Salam (deferred sale with full payment on spot), Istisna (order for manufacture), Tawarruq, and supporting contracts (Qard-ul-Hasan, Wadiah, Hiba, Waqf etc.) are also utilized in the sector.

The report highlights the following challenges of the Islamic finance industry:

- Lack of developed human resource
- Differences in Shariah approaches between different jurisdictions
- Lack of necessary legal and regulatory framework to support financial innovation
- Inadequate awareness of Islamic financial products
- Promotion of risk-sharing based products
- Compliance with financial technologies¹⁶.

To overcome these challenges, the Working Group has come up with the following policy recommendations:



¹⁶ COMCEC Coordination Office, Diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments, 2017.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9TH MEETING OF
THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION WG**

- | |
|---|
| 1. Improving the Islamic Finance Infrastructure through Developing Necessary Legal/Regulatory Frameworks for its each Component namely, Islamic Banking, Islamic Capital Markets and Takaful towards Creating an Enabling Environment for Islamic Finance. |
| 2. Developing a Sound and Effective Governance Framework for National and Strengthening Coordination of Shariah Governance Standards and Policies across Different Jurisdiction. |
| 3. Establishing/Developing Islamic Finance Rating Standards |
| 4. Strengthening Human Capital in Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries through Enhanced Financial Literacy and Awareness Programs/Projects by Governments, Universities and Private Sector |
| 5. Facilitating Experience Sharing among the OIC Member Countries in sub-sectors of the Islamic Finance Industry for a Sustainable and Harmonized Growth of the Industry |

6.2. Member Countries' Efforts for the Realization of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Policy Recommendations

Concerning the implementation of the policy recommendations in the Member Countries in this sector, the following national efforts have been recorded:

- Regarding the policy recommendations of the 7th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group on developing Islamic Financial Architecture,
 - In Afghanistan, the Ministry of Finance has working on developing new Islamic law/regulations for Islamic financial instruments. In this regard, a project has been announced recently for local and international firms, which will focus on developing laws and regulations for Takaful sector.
 - In Tunisia, a strategy was promoted to develop Islamic finance legal framework. Moreover, tax regimes have been reviewed in order ensure their compliance with the Islamic finance specificities.

6.3. Other Efforts under the COMCEC Financial Cooperation

OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum

The OIC Member States Stock Exchanges Forum, established in 2005, aims to enhance cooperation among the stock exchanges of the OIC Member Countries and relevant institutions and focuses on the harmonization of the rules and regulations governing market operations. Since its establishment, the Forum has also developed some important projects including S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index. The 11th Meeting of the Forum was organized on October 31st, 2017 in Turkey.

Moreover, the Forum has been working on the establishment of a gold exchange/platform for the OIC Member Countries in line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC. The Forum Secretariat will submit a comprehensive report on the above-mentioned gold exchange/platform to the 33rd Session of the COMCEC. Details regarding the Forum activities are available on the Forum website. (www.oicexchanges.org)

COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum

The COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum was founded in 2011 to develop a cooperation mechanism for capital markets regulatory bodies of the Member States. The Forum undertakes its

work under four task forces namely, “Capacity Building”, “Market Development”, “Islamic Finance” and “Financial Literacy”. The Task Forces produced eight reports on various issues including, Islamic finance, financial literacy improvement in securities markets, and public disclosure systems etc. The 6th Meeting of the Forum was organized on October 31st, 2017 in Turkey.

In addition to the existing efforts to boost cooperation among the capital markets regulatory bodies of the Member State, the Forum has also been working on “Real Estate Securities Exchange Initiative” in light of the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC. The Forum Secretariat will present a report on the mentioned subject to the 33rd Session of the COMCEC.

Detailed information regarding the Forum activities are available on the Forum website. (www.comceccmr.org)

Meetings of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities

The Central Banks and the Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries have been convening since 2009 with a view to sharing experiences and enhancing institutional and human capacity in this field. In this respect, 14 Meetings have been held till 2017. The 15th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities was held on 21-22 September 2017 in Bodrum, Turkey, with the theme of “Fostering Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth in a Challenging Global Environment”. During the Meeting, the participants elaborated on how to design appropriate policies to strengthen resilience and make growth more inclusive over time.

7. Private Sector Cooperation

The private sector is an important driver of economic growth and sustainable development. It is the major source of income generation, job opportunities and poverty eradication. As the OIC Member Countries have a wide range of development levels, some member countries have a dynamic and resilient private sector, whereas others do not fully benefit from the opportunities generated by the private sector. Therefore, there is a primary need for developing private sector in the member countries to enable them to be incorporated into the development endeavours.

Considering the importance of the private sector for the economies of the Member Countries, some important events, fairs and exhibitions are organized by the ICDT and ICCIA in order to strengthen the private sector cooperation under the OIC. These activities are reviewed during the COMCEC annual Meetings.

Islamic Trade Fairs:

Islamic Trade Fairs are organized for promoting intra-OIC trade and introduce the products, industries and services of the OIC member countries. The 15th Islamic Trade Fair was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 22-26 May 2016 under the auspices of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. During the Fair, the participants from more than 30 Member Countries had a chance to discuss trade and investment opportunities among the businessmen and traders from the Member Countries. The 16th Islamic Trade Fair will be held in 2019.

In addition to the Islamic Trade Fairs, sector specific fairs and exhibitions are also organized by the Member Countries in cooperation with ICDT. In this regard, in line with the relevant resolution of the 32nd Session of COMCEC, the 10th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” was held on 23-26 April 2017 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

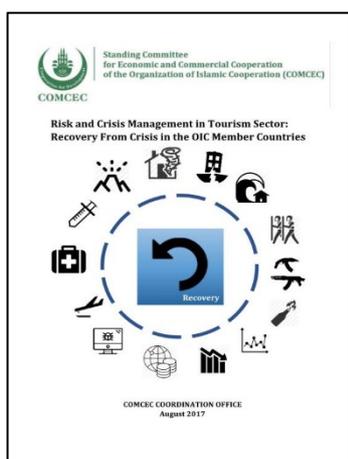
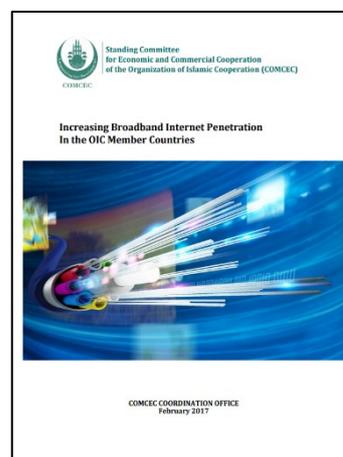
Private Sector Meetings/ Businesswomen Forum

The strong involvement of the private sector to the COMCEC and other relevant fora under the OIC is very crucial for enhancing intra-OIC trade and investments. In this respect, Private Sector Meetings, organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), serves as a platform for the private sector of the 57 OIC Member Countries to communicate with each other, explore new markets and learn about best practices. Up to now, 16 private sector meetings have been held. Apart from private sector meetings, the ICCIA also organizes Businesswomen Forums.

CHAPTER II: KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION EFFORTS: COMCEC PUBLICATIONS

The COMCEC aims to produce and disseminate knowledge, share experiences and best-practices, develop a common understanding and approximate policies in cooperation areas to find solutions to the challenges faced by the Member Countries. To this end, the COMCEC Working Group was designed as an instrument for realizing this mission of the COMCEC. In this regard, research studies are prepared specifically for each WG meeting, to form a basis for the discussions made during the Meetings.

Each research report focuses on the specific theme of the Working Groups and is prepared by world-class consulting firms, international organizations having experience on the specific theme or academicians from high-ranking universities around the world. The COMCEC Coordination Office conducts the reports in close cooperation with the consultants to ensure high-quality research studies. The studies begin with a conceptual framework and an overview of the specific theme in the world and the member countries, followed by an in-depth analysis of a few member countries based on field visits, surveys and interviews. At the end of each report, some policy recommendations are given for the Member Countries as well as international cooperation efforts under the umbrella of the COMCEC.



Moreover, sectoral outlooks are prepared annually for each cooperation area. These documents are prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office with a view to exploring the global trends and current situation in the OIC Member Countries in the respective area and enriching the discussions during the Working Groups Meetings by providing up-to-date data.

Furthermore, Proceedings documents are produced after each Working Group Meeting to reflect the discussions including the summaries of the presentations made during the Meetings. These documents are circulated to all the focal points and participants of all the COMCEC Working Groups.

Since the 32nd Session of the COMCEC twelve research reports on the themes of the working groups and six sectoral Outlook reports as well as twelve proceeding documents have been prepared. All these publications are available on the COMCEC web-site accessible in e-book format at COMCEC E-book Website: <http://ebook.comcec.org/>

CHAPTER III: INVOLVEMENT OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES IN COOPERATION EFFORTS: COMCEC PROJECT FUNDING

The COMCEC Project Funding, one of the two instruments of the COMCEC Strategy, aims to mobilize the capacity and expertise of the Member States and OIC institutions to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Strategy.

This instrument enables the Member Countries and OIC Institutions to engage in cooperation efforts to overcome the common challenges. It provides an opportunity for the Member Countries to propose multilateral projects in priority areas identified by the COMCEC Strategy, COMCEC Working Groups and the Ministerial Policy Recommendations. The mechanism also enables the realization of respective recommendations by enriching the policy environment in the Member Countries.

COMCEC Project Funding improves the institutional and human capacity of the Member Countries. Each funded project is implemented in cooperation with at least three COMCEC Member Countries. In doing so, it not only enables sharing knowledge and experience in a specific theme, but also improves the ability of the Member Countries to work together in addressing the common problems through the implementation of multilateral projects.

Project proposals can be submitted by the relevant ministries of the Member Countries, which are registered to the relevant Working Groups. OIC Institutions working in the economic domain are also eligible to submit proposals.

Project proposals are required to serve the principles, objectives and output areas of the COMCEC Strategy as well as policy recommendations, which are formulated by the COMCEC Working Groups and adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions.

In 2016, the third implementation year of the COMCEC Project Funding, nine projects were financed by the COMCEC (Table 1).

Table 1: Projects Funded in 2016

No	PROJECT OWNER Project Partners	Cooperation Area	Project Title
1	IRAN Azerbaijan and Turkey	Agriculture	Rural household empowerment on management of production, supply and market access
2	PALESTINE Jordan and Tunisia	Agriculture	Improving small ruminates productivity by using different technologies as silage, feed block and hydroponic in Palestine, Jordan and Tunisia
3	TURKEY 24 Member Countries	Agriculture	Establishment of database, network connection and webpages of smallholders/ family farmers' agricultural cooperatives between COMCEC Member States
4	GAMBIA Nigeria and Sierra Leone	Financial Cooperation	Towards an improved institutional framework for Islamic finance
5	INDONESIA Malaysia and Turkey	Poverty Alleviation	Developing local initiatives for poverty alleviation through community based sustainable livelihood in OIC Member Countries
6	MALAYSIA 10 Member Countries	Tourism	Short course on strategies in enhancing tourism workforce in community-based tourism within OIC Member Countries
7	The GAMBIA Senegal and Mali	Tourism	Enhancing the capacity of craft producers in OIC Member Countries
8	UGANDA Turkey and Egypt	Trade	Improving delivery of trade facilitation services
9	TURKEY Mozambique, Indonesia, Malesia, Tunisia	Transport and Communications	Assessment and enhancement of air cargo interconnectivity among the OIC Member Stats: the Air Cargo Co-modality Approach (ACCMA) to Facilitate Intra-OIC Trade

Source: COMCEC Coordination Office

Taking into account both the project owners and their partners, more than 30 member countries have benefited from the COMCEC Project Funding in 2016. In this respect, two analytical reports were drafted along with seven training programs and six workshops. These activities were made possible by the feedback, data and information gathered during thirteen study visits conducted by project owners and partners alike (Table 2).

Table 2: Activity Breakdown of 2016 Projects

	PROJECT OWNER Project Partners	Cooperation Area	Training	Workshop	Analytical Report	Study Visit
1	IRAN Azerbaijan and Turkey	Agriculture	1			2
2	PALESTINE Palestine, Jordan and Tunisia	Agriculture	1			
3	TURKEY 24 Member Countries	Agriculture		1		
4	GAMBIA Nigeria and Sierra Leone	Financial Cooperation		1		1
5	INDONESIA Malaysia and Turkey	Poverty Alleviation		1		4
6	MALAYSIA 10 Member Countries	Tourism	1			1
7	The GAMBIA Senegal, Mali	Tourism	4	1		
8	UGANDA Turkey and Egypt	Trade		1	1	1
9	TURKEY Mozambique, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tunisia	Transport and Communications		1	1	4
Total			7	6	2	13

Source: COMCEC Coordination Office

For the year of 2017, 14 projects are supported under the COMCEC Project Funding. These new projects are expected to address the common challenges of more than 40 member countries in 2017.

Table 3: Projects Funded in 2017

	Project Owner	Project Partners	Cooperation Area	Project Title
1	Gambia	Indonesia and Nigeria	Agriculture	Reduction of Post-Harvest losses in Cereals for Improving Rural Livelihood
2	Indonesia	Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, Malaysia and Sudan	Agriculture	Improving Income of Small and Medium Scale Farmers through Reducing Losses of Livestock Production
3	Albania	Azerbaijan and Turkey	Poverty Alleviation	Creation of a Road Map for an Integrated Social Service for Housing
4	Gambia	Senegal and Sierra Leone	Poverty Alleviation	Training on Entrepreneurship and Management of Small Business for Women
5	Indonesia	Malaysia and Turkey	Poverty Alleviation	Strengthening Community-Based Sustainable Livelihood for Activating Poor by Opening Marketing Channel through E-Commerce
6	Suriname	Guyana and Nigeria	Poverty Alleviation	Professionalization of Childcare in Selected OIC Countries

	Project Owner	Project Partners	Cooperation Area	Project Title
7	Gambia	Nigeria and Senegal	Tourism	Developing a Training and Certification Program for the Muslim Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Industry
8	Mozambique	Mali and Senegal	Tourism	Enhancing Capacity of Muslim Friendly Tourism Workforce
9	Sudan	Chad and Djibouti	Tourism	Enhancing The Capacity of Craft Producers & Customers service
10	SESRIC	18 Member Countries	Tourism	Training Program on the Development and Promotion of Muslim Friendly Tourism in COMCEC Member Countries
11	Palestine	Algeria and Saudi Arabia	Trade	Facilitating Trade Relations between Palestine and Islamic Countries
12	Suriname	Guyana and Turkey	Trade	Strengthening of SME Support Services in Suriname and Guyana to Enhance Participation in Global Value Chains
13	ICDT	Morocco, Senegal and Egypt	Trade	Facilitating Trade: Identifying Non-Tariff Barriers among the OIC Member States
14	Ivory Coast	Burkina Faso and Mali	Transport and Communications	Improving the Capacity on Road Safety in Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Mali

Source: COMCEC Coordination Office

For the year of 2018, the CCO called for project proposals for the fifth time in September 2017 and received 63 project proposals. After the preliminary evaluations, the CCO has announced the short-list for the 5th Project Call of the COMCEC Project Funding on November 7th, 2017. Accordingly, 33 project proposals have been shortlisted. The final list of successful projects is going to be announced at the end of January 2018 through the COMCEC web site.

CHAPTER IV: PREPARATIONS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SESSION

Exchange of views sessions are held regularly at the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. The 32nd Session of the COMCEC determined the theme of the Ministerial Exchange of Views of the 33rd COMCEC Session as **“Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries”** and requested 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. In this regard, the 10th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) to be held on 18-19 October 2017 in Ankara was devoted to this topic.

The TCWG, in its 10th Meeting, deliberated on the preparations regarding the Exchange of Views Session and has come up with a set of policy recommendations, which will be submitted to the 33rd COMCEC Session. The details of the policy recommendations to be submitted to 33rd COMCEC Session are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org)

CHAPTER V: SIDE EVENTS OF THE 33rd COMCEC SESSION

On the sidelines of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC, a number of high-level panels will be organized on different aspects of transnational transport corridors, which is also the theme of Ministerial Exchange of Views Session. In this regard, to raise awareness on the transnational transport corridors and to discuss the ways and means of addressing the challenges faced by the Member in this regard, five special sessions will be organized on the sidelines of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC. These special sessions will take place on 23 November 2017 with the following topics:

- Private Sector Perspective on Transnational Transport Corridors
- Governance of Transnational Transport Corridor: A Managerial Perspective
- Economic Impacts of Transport Corridors
- Developing Special Transport Corridors
- Special Forum on the Transport Corridors

The main objective of these events is to complement the discussions of the Exchange of Views Session with different aspects from the other stakeholders of transport corridors. The speakers of the panels will include dignitaries from the Member States, representatives of International and OIC Institutions, civil society and private sector organizations, think-tanks and the academia. All delegations of the OIC Member States attending the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session, as well as representatives of civil society, media, academia and private sector are expected to attend these events.

Moreover, the Side Event on “COMCEC Project Funding: Experiences of the Project Owners” will also be held on 21 November 2017, on the sidelines of the 33rd Session of COMCEC.

More information about these events can be found on the COMCEC website, <http://www.comcec.org>

CHAPTER VI: 33rd MEETING OF THE COMCEC FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE

The Follow-up Committee is one of the organs of the COMCEC to review the progress in the implementation of the programmes and projects approved by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. The Committee also prepares the draft agenda of the COMCEC Sessions. The Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC convenes annually, in May, in the Republic of Turkey.

The 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee was held on 10-11 May 2017 in Ankara, Turkey. The Committee reviewed the progress implementation in the COMCEC Strategy and its mechanisms, namely the Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding. Moreover, the Committee elaborated on the programs, projects and activities in the COMCEC agenda.

The Committee has prepared a set of recommendations to be submitted to the 33rd COMCEC Session. Accordingly, the Committee welcomed, among others, the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office particularly highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy, and commended the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. The Committee also requested the Member States and OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

All reports and documents submitted to the 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee are available at the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org).

CHAPTER VII: 30th MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

The Sessional Committee, which consists of the OIC Institutions working in the economic domain, meets on the sidelines of each COMCEC Ministerial Session and Follow-up Committee meeting to review and coordinate the activities and programs of the relevant OIC institutions. Along with the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office, the Sessional Committee Meetings are attended by the relevant OIC Institutions, namely ICCIA, ICDT, IDB Group, SESRIC, SMIC and OISA.

In this regard, on the sidelines of the 33rd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee, 30th Sessional Committee Meeting was held on 9 May 2017. During the Meeting, the OIC Institutions discussed their planned activities aligned with the COMCEC Strategy and the COMCEC policy recommendations. Moreover, the possible roles and responsibilities of the OIC Institutions for the implementation of the economic cooperation section of the OIC-2025 and enhancing cooperation with other regional and international organizations were also discussed during the 30th Sessional Committee Meeting. Moreover, “the Template of the List of Activities of the OIC Institutions to SDGs”, which was proposed by the CCO in line with the relevant resolution of the 32nd COMCEC Ministerial Session was reviewed by the Committee. After deliberations, the Committee underlined that the possible contributions of the OIC Institutions can play a role for the implementation of the SDGs in the member countries.

The Report of the 30th Meeting of the Sessional Committee is available at the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org).

CHAPTER VIII: 5th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMCEC FOCAL POINTS

Since the launch of the COMCEC Strategy in 2013, the CCO has been organizing annual focal points meetings with a view to providing a regular platform for interaction and consultation between the COMCEC Secretariat and the Member Countries with the aim of improving the overall work of the COMCEC, as well as the implementation of both instruments of the COMCEC Strategy: Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism. These meetings provide an opportunity for the member countries to share their feedbacks and observations on the implementation of these instruments. Through these interactive gatherings, communication and collaboration is improved between the CCO and the Member States, resulting in better realization of the goals and objectives of the Strategy. Therefore, these meetings have proven themselves as important gatherings, demonstrating the member-driven character of the COMCEC.

In this respect, the 5th Annual Focal Points Meeting of the COMCEC Working Groups was held on 23-25 May 2017 in Ankara. The Meeting was attended by COMCEC Working Group Focal Points and COMCEC National Focal Points from 35 Member States which have notified their focal points for the COMCEC Working Groups.

During the meeting, the participants were informed about the main achievements of the COMCEC and the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. In this regard, the CCO briefed the participants regarding the benefits of the Working Group Meetings and the efforts on knowledge production, knowledge sharing and knowledge utilization. The CCO also informed the participants regarding the improvements of the COMCEC Project Funding mechanism with better identified and focused project submission rules and procedures.

Moreover, during the meeting, the CCO briefed the focal points regarding the issues related to enhancing coordination of the COMCEC Activities at the National Level. In this respect, the importance of the raising awareness at the national level about the COMCEC works was highlighted regarding important programmes and projects under the COMCEC Agenda, cooperation efforts under the Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding as well as the knowledge production efforts such as field visits and questionnaires. In this respect, the participants concurred on that the coordination between the consultants, which are commissioned to prepare the research reports by the CCO, and the focal points should be enhanced by the COMCEC Coordination Office through conveying official letters to the focal points/relevant authorities.

Furthermore, regarding the issues and challenges in the implementation of the Policy Recommendations, which are formulated by the Working Groups and adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, the importance of the Member Countries' direct involvement to the formulation process of the Policy Recommendations and the significance of the active follow-up of the implementation of the policy recommendations by the member countries were stressed by the participants. To that end, evaluation forms for the all Working Groups are circulated to the focal points as important tools for assessing the progress in the Member Countries.

In addition, the participants discussed and exchanged their views on the themes of the WGs for 2018-2020 for each cooperation area. Accordingly, the focal points' observations were reflected to the list of the WG themes for 2018-2020.

On the sidelines of the Meeting, the COMCEC Coordination Office has organized a training program on the COMCEC Project Funding. At the training, COMCEC WG Focal Points had the opportunity to make an exercise on project preparation.

ANNEX: LIST OF ACTIVITIES

LIST OF ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY THE OIC INSTITUTIONS ALIGNED WITH THE COMCEC STRATEGY¹⁷ December 2016- November 2017

No	OIC Institution	Title 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	SESRIC	Agriculture Statistics	Statistical Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Cote d'Ivoire + National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) of Benin	31 January – 3 February 2017 Cotonou, Benin	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.
2	SESRIC	Agriculture Statistics	Statistical Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Cote d'Ivoire + National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) of Chad	27 February – 1 March 2017 N'Djamena, Chad	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.
3	SESRIC	Agriculture Statistics	Statistical Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Cote d'Ivoire + Office National des Statistiques (ONS) of Algeria	18 – 20 April 2017 Algiers, Algeria	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.
4	SESRIC	Agricultural Censuses	Statistical Training	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	Department of Statistics (DOS) of Jordan + Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries of Tunisia	2 – 4 May 2017 Tunis, Tunisia	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.
5	SESRIC	Agricultural Censuses	Study Visit	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	Department of Statistics (DOS) of Jordan + Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries of Tunisia	10 – 12 July 2017 Amman, Jordan	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 study visits 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.

¹⁷ The final version of the document will be available on the COMCEC Website: www.comcec.org.

No	OIC Institution	Title 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
6	SESRIC	Agriculture Statistics	Study Visit	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) + Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)	14 – 17 August 2017 Ankara, Turkey	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 study visits 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.
7	SESRIC	OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database on Agriculture	Updating Data	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	-	December 2016 – November 2017 Ankara, Turkey	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas is Reliable and Up-To-Date Data. In this respect, OICStat database of SESRIC is hosting 23 indicators related to agriculture.
8	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	Jordan Ministry of Agriculture.	24-25 July 2017 Amman, Jordan	Encouraged entrepreneurs and farmers to enhance their investments.
9	SESRIC	Integrated Pest Management and Crop Management	Training Course	Agriculture	Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Cotton Development Organization, the National Agricultural Research Organization and Operation Wealth Creation in Kampala	24-25 July 2017 Kampala, Uganda	Increased effectiveness and capacity of the government agencies
10	SESRIC	Environmental Impact Assessment	Training Workshop	Agriculture	Regulatory framework and institutional capacity	Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Republic of Turkey	22-24 May 2017 Ankara, Turkey	The outcome of the training course was to increase theoretical and practical knowledge on EIA.
11	SESRIC	Environmental Sensitivity Mapping in Suriname	Training Course	Agriculture	Reliable and Up-to-date Data and Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity		15-17 March 2017 Paramaribo, Suriname	The outcome of the training course was to increase theoretical and practical knowledge on Introduction of Environmental sensitivity mapping (ES MAP), Geographic Information System Technology, Coastal Ecosystem Research etc.
12	SESRIC	Cotton Varieties and Efficient Cultivation Technologies	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Nazilli Cotton Research Institute of Turkey+Agrarian Science Consultation and Information Center, Ganca Cotton Research Institute,Genetic Resources Institute of ANAS, State Sort Testing Commission.	15-19 May 2017 Baku, Azerbaijan	The training programmes have been organized by SESRIC to gain and growth theoretical and practical knowledge of the member countries and increase institutional capacity.
13	SESRIC	The Use of Advanced Technology in Cotton Production	Practical and Theoretical Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity		12-16 December 2016 Lahore and Multan-Pakistan	The training programmes have been organized by SESRIC to gain and growth theoretical and practical knowledge of the member countries and increase institutional capacity.
14	SESRIC	Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda	Workshop	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 19 OIC member countries	15-19 May 2017 Baku, Azerbaijan	40 participants from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 19 OIC member countries benefitted from the workshop

No	OIC Institution	Title 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
15	SESRIC	Future Prospects of Agroforestry in Sustainable Rural/Community Development'	Training Course	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity		13-16 December 2016 Banjul, Gambia	Enhanced effectiveness
16	SESRIC	MoU signed with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey	MoU	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL) of the Republic of Turkey	17 March 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Enhanced cooperation and effectiveness
17	SESRIC	Second Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda	Workshop	Agriculture	Increasing Productivity, Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	FAO	14-15 November, 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Enhanced cooperation and effectiveness
18	SESRIC	OIC Environment Report	Research	Agriculture, Poverty Alleviation	Increasing productivity, Regulatory framework and institutional capacity, Productive capacity of poor	-	October 2017 SESRIC	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.
19	IDB Group	Efforts in Globalizing Islamic Finance	Promoting Islamic trade finance solutions at global level by organizing workshops, seminars, reports etc	Finance	Trade Finance	ICC, WTO	2017 International trade organizations	ITFC organized a side event during the next WTO Public Forum
20	SESRIC	Government Finance, Fiscal and Public Sector Statistics	Statistical Training	Finance	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	BPS-Statistics Indonesia + Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE) of Brunei	6 – 8 December 2016 Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei	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.
21	SESRIC	Consultative Meeting on Developing Islamic Finance Industry Database for OIC Member Countries	Meeting	Finance	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics		24 September 2017 Muğla, Turkey	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.

No	OIC Institution	Title 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
22	SESRIC	Government Finance, Fiscal and Public Sector Statistics	Study Visit	Finance	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) + Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)	1 – 3 August 2017 Ankara, Turkey	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.
23	SESRIC	Banking, Insurance, and Financial Statistics	Statistical Training	Finance	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI) + Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)	8 – 11 January 2017 Dhaka, Bangladesh	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.
24	SESRIC	Banking, Insurance, Financial Statistics	Study Visit	Finance	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) + BPS-Statistics Indonesia	17 – 19 July 2017 Ankara, Turkey	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.
25	SESRIC	Workshop on Development Finance Statistics	Workshop	Finance	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	12-13 July 2017 Ankara, Turkey	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.
26	SESRIC	OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database on Finance	Updating Data	Finance	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	-	December 2016 – November 2017 Ankara, Turkey	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas is Reliable and Up-To-Date Data. In this respect, OICStat database of SESRIC is hosting 16 indicators related to finance.
27	SESRIC	The Fourth International Islamic Economics and Finance Summer School	Summer school	Finance	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	-	10-14 July 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Interested participants in the field of Islamic economics, finance and banking as well as the candidates of economics, political sciences, business and theology benefitted from the program.
28	SESRIC	First Meeting of the TOSSD Task Force	Task force	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in collaboration with the OECD Statistics Directorate	6 July 2017 Paris, France	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.

No	OIC Institution	Title 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
29	SESRIC	Ensuring Effective Regulations of Islamic Banks	Training Workshop	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Bank Negara Malaysia	15-19 May, 2017 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	The target groups of this training workshop were officials from central banks or regulatory agencies involved in developing policies and regulation for Islamic banks and participants from countries those currently have Islamic banking operation such as Malaysia, Gambia and Bangladesh.
30	SESRIC	Regional Seminar on Financial Inclusion Strategies in South Asia: Methodology and Perspectives	Seminar	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Association of National Development Finance Institutions in Member Countries of the Islamic Development Bank (ADFIMI) and Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited	28 – 29 March 2017 Islamabad, Pakistan	Enhanced awareness on the importance of financial inclusion, as well as to assess the state of financial inclusion in South Asia and study the good practices in conventional and Islamic Microfinance and Micro Takaful application in South Asia Region.
31	SESRIC	Conference on Soundness Indicators for Conventional and Islamic Finance	Conference	Finance	Regulatory and supervisory cooperation, Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the International Fund (IMF), and the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB)	1-2 March 2017 Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	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.
32	SESRIC	Training Course on 'Money and Banking Statistics' in Somalia	Training Workshop	Finance	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Central Bank of Somalia (CBS)	19-21 December 2016 Mogadishu, Somalia	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.
33	SESRIC	Sukuk and Islamic Liquidity Management'	Workshop	Finance	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	Istanbul School of Central Banking (IMB) and the World Bank Global Islamic Finance Development Center (GIFDC)	12-14 December 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	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.
34				Financial Cooperation				
35	SESRIC	Health Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) + Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of Sudan	25 – 29 December 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 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.

No	OIC Institution	Title 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
36	SESRIC	Gender Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	Department of Statistics (HCP) of Morocco + Department of Statistics and Demographic Studies (DISED) of Djibouti	17 – 18 January 2017 Djibouti City, Djibouti	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 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.
37	SESRIC	Gender Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	BPS-Statistics Indonesia + Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)	29 – 31 January 2017 Dhaka, Bangladesh	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 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.
38	SESRIC	Labour Cost Statistics	Statistical Training	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Skills Enhancement Programmes	Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) + BPS-Statistics Indonesia	6 – 7 March 2017 Jakarta, Indonesia	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 statistical training programmes that have been organized by SESRIC enhance data collection and data analysing capacity, increase quality of service in related statistics and increase institutional capacity.
39	SESRIC	Meeting of the Delegates of the National Statistical Offices of the OIC Member Countries	Meeting	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Skills Enhancement Programmes	UN	8 March 2017 New York, USA	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, this meeting aimed at increase synergies among the international and regional organisations to contribute to the statistical capacity development of OIC member countries.

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40	SESRIC	Environment Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) + Ministry of Development Planning & Statistics (MDPS) of Qatar	20 – 22 March 2017 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 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.
41	SESRIC	Population and Migration Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Agency of Statistics and Demographics (ANSD) of Senegal + National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) of Benin	28 – 30 March 2017 Cotonou, Benin	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 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.
42	SESRIC	Environment Statistics	Study Visit	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	Department of Statistics (DoS) of Jordan + Department of Statistics (HCP) of Morocco	24 – 26 April 2017 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 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.
43	SESRIC	Education Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of Sudan + Educational Center of ISESCO in Chad	2 – 4 May 2017 N'Djamena, Chad	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 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.
44	SESRIC	Living Conditions and Poverty Statistics Statistiques sur le revenu et les conditions de vie	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) of Mali + National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) of Benin	16 – 18 May 2017 Cotonou, Benin	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 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.

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45	SESRIC	Energy Statistics	Statistical Training	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Skills Enhancement Programmes	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of Egypt + Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of Sudan	2 – 4 July 2017 Khartoum, Sudan	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.
46	SESRIC	OPHI Summer School on 'Multidimensional Poverty Measurement & Analysis' on 3-15 July 2017 in Morocco	Summer School	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	OPHI, IDB	3 – 15 July 2017 Marrakesh, Morocco	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 summer school aimed at providing a thorough technical and practical introduction to multidimensional poverty measurement with a strong emphasis on the Alkire-Foster method
47	SESRIC	Health Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) + National Bureau of Statistics of Maldives	9 – 10 July 2017 Male, Maldives	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 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.
48	SESRIC	Price Statistics	Study Visit	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Skills Enhancement Programmes	Department of Statistics (DoS) of Jordan + Central Statistical Organization (CSO) of Iraq	17 – 19 July 2017 Amman, Jordan	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.

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49	SESRIC	Health Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Tunisia + Office National des Statistiques (ONS) of Algeria	18 – 20 July 2017 Algiers, Algeria	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 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.
50	SESRIC	Price Statistics	Statistical Training	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Skills Enhancement Programmes	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) + Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE)	18 – 20 July 2017 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 enhance data collection and data analysing capacity, increase quality of service in related statistics and increase institutional capacity.
51	SESRIC	Gender Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Cote d'Ivoire + National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) of Benin	18 – 20 July 2017 Cotonou, Benin	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 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.
52	SESRIC	Social Protection Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Tunisia + National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Cote d'Ivoire	25 – 27 July 2017 Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire	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 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.
53	SESRIC	Population and Migration Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	BPS-Statistics Indonesia + Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI)	7 – 9 August 2017 Tehran, Iran	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 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.

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54	SESRIC	Business Statistics	Statistical Training	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Skills Enhancement Programmes	Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBOS) + Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)	15 – 17 August 2017 Kampala, Uganda	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.
55	SESRIC	Workshop on Tobacco Questions for surveys (TQS): Data Analysis and Dissemination	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	CDC, CDC Foundation, WHO	16 – 17 August 2017 Ankara, Turkey	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 Workshop on ‘Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS): Data Analysis and Dissemination’ ad the objective to share the knowledge and experiences encountered throughout the integration process of TQS into ongoing surveys and provide comprehensive information and technical support to the OIC Member Countries in the way forward.
56	SESRIC	Health Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	BPS-Statistics Indonesia + Department of Statistics (DoS) of Malaysia	22 – 24 August 2017 Putrajaya, Malaysia	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 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.
57	SESRIC	Population and Housing Censuses; Registers of Population, Dwellings and Buildings	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	BPS-Statistics Indonesia + Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE) of Brunei	22 – 24 August 2017 Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei	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 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.

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58	SESRIC	Education Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	Department of Statistics (DoS) of Malaysia + Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)	11 – 13 September 2017 Islamabad, Pakistan	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 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.
59	SESRIC	International Statistical Classifications	Technical Mission	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Skills Enhancement Programmes	Department of Statistics (DoS) of Jordan + Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA) of Bahrain	11 – 12 September 2017 Manama, Bahrain	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.
60	SESRIC	International Standard Classification of Occupations	Technical Mission	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Skills Enhancement Programmes	Department of Statistics (DoS) of Jordan + Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA) of Bahrain	13 – 14 September 2017 Manama, Bahrain	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.
61	SESRIC	Health Statistics	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	BPS-Statistics Indonesia + Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)	18 – 20 September 2017 Islamabad, Pakistan	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 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.

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62	SESRIC	Entrepreneurship Statistics	Statistical Training	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Skills Enhancement Programmes	Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) + Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economics of Kazakhstan	18 – 20 September 2017 Almaty, Kazakhstan	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.
63	SESRIC	Income and Consumption Statistics	Study Visit	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Tunisia + Libyan Bureau of Statistics and Census (LBSC)	19 – 21 September 2017 Tunis, Tunisia	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 study visits 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.
64	SESRIC	Metadata	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	National Statistical Institute (INS) of Cameroon + National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) of Benin	19 – 21 September 2017 Cotonou, Benin	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 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.
65	SESRIC	Business Surveys	Statistical Training	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Skills Enhancement Programmes	Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) + General Bureau of Statistics (GBS) of Suriname	4 – 6 October 2017 Paramaribo, Suriname	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.

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66	SESRIC	Regional Meeting of Labour Statisticians in preparation for the 20th ICLS	Meeting	All Cooperation Areas	Statistical Skills Enhancement Programmes	ILO	9 – 11 October 2017 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 main purpose of this meeting was to bring the consultation and technical discussions to countries in the region, to ensure that the revised draft standard to be prepared by the ILO adequately reflects the labour markets and labour force data priorities of the region.
67	SESRIC	High-level Meeting of the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network	Meeting	All Cooperation Areas	Monitoring Poverty		17-19 October 2017 Beijing, China	Shared innovative work and exchange lessons-learned, including what works and what does not in this new field
68	SESRIC	Household Surveys	Statistical Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) + General Bureau of Statistics (GBS) of Suriname	23 – 25 October 2017 Paramaribo, Suriname	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 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.
69	SESRIC	OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database on Poverty Alleviation	Updating Data	Poverty Alleviation	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	-	December 2016 – November 2017 Ankara, Turkey	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas is Reliable and Up-To-Date Data. In this respect, OICStat database of SESRIC is hosting the following indicators related to poverty alleviation:• 22 indicators on Demography,• 42 indicators on Education,• 5 indicators on Energy,• 5 indicators on Environment,• 10 indicators on Gender,• 21 indicators on Health,• 6 indicators on Industry and Manufacturing,• 21 indicators on Infrastructure,• 22 indicators on Labour Force and Occupational Safety,• 8 indicators on Money and Prices,• 34 indicators on National Accounts,• 10 indicators on Science, Technology and Innovation,• 10 indicators on Tobacco Control,• 18 indicators on Water
70	SESRIC	First Meeting of the OIC-VET Working Group on TVET Teacher Education	Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	15-16 November, 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Developed the comprehensive multinational TVET strategy action plan for OIC Member Countries.
71	SESRIC	Workshop on Leadership and Entrepreneurship for Young Women in OIC Member Countries	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Ministry of Family and Social Policies Republic of Turkey	02-11 November 2017 Istanbul-Ankara, Turkey	Contributed to enhance cooperation and coordination for women in development among the member countries

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72	SESRIC	7th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers	Conference	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	25-26 October 2017 Rabat, Morocco	Contributed to enhance cooperation and coordination
73	SESRIC	Training on Effective Nonprofit Leadership & Management	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	21 October 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Enhanced cooperation and coordination
74	SESRIC	SESRIC and General Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies (DGSEE) of Gabonese Republic signed MoA	MoA	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	SESRIC and General Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies (DGSEE) of Gabonese Republic	16-17 August 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Enhanced cooperation and coordination
75	SESRIC	Health in Africa Congress	Congress	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Federation of Islamic Medical Associations (FIMA) in collaboration with the Turkish Ministry of Health, Hayat Foundation, and Istanbul Medeniyet University	20-21 July, 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Enhanced cooperation and coordination
76	SESRIC	SESRIC Signed MoU with the World Bank	MoU	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse		19 July 2017 Marrakech, Morocco	Enhanced cooperation and coordination
77	SESRIC	Data Revolution for the Sustainable Development Goals' Panel	Event	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	High Commission for Planning of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics of the State of Qatar	19 July 2017 Marrakech, Morocco	Enhanced cooperation and coordination
78	SESRIC	Multidimensional Poverty Measurement & Analysis	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	OPHI	3 – 15 July 2017 Marrakesh, Morocco	The short term trainings and workshops that have been organized by SESRIC, contributed to obtain advanced collection of accurate and reliable data as much as obtaining enhanced capacity of the member states in monitoring poverty.
79	SESRIC	OIC Statistical Briefing Based on the 2016 Human Development Report	Briefing	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	UNDP HDRO	12 July 2017 New York, USA	The Statistical Briefing is a first step in paving the way for cooperation between SESRIC and UNDP HDRO for exploring the possibility towards the preparation of the OIC Human Development Report.
80	SESRIC	8th Dakar International Exhibition of Health and Medicine Equipment	Exhibition	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse		28 June to 1 July 2017 Dakar, Senegal	Enhanced cooperation and coordination

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81	SESRIC	Capacity Development Training on South-South & Triangular Cooperation for the Representatives of Technical Cooperation Agencies	Training	Poverty alleviation	Diverse	United Nation Office for South-South Cooperation, the Islamic Development Bank and United Nations System Staff College	12-14 June, 2017 Astana, Kazakhstan	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.
82	SESRIC	Second Regional Networking Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation	Regional Networking	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and a number of other key regional and global stakeholders	15 June, 2017 Astana, Kazakhstan	The forum 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.
83	SESRIC	Effective Leadership and Management of Development Organizations	Training	Poverty Reduction	Diverse	The NGO World Foundation and the Institute of NGO Leadership and Management	02-05 May 2017 Islamabad, Pakistan	Academics and officials from Islamic Finance Institutions from OIC Member Countries benefitted from the programme.
84	SESRIC	Sub-regional Workshop on Data and Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for High-Level Official Statisticians	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring Poverty	The United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP) in collaboration with the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan.	30-31 May 2017 Baku, Azerbaijan	Contributed to obtain advanced collection of accurate and reliable data as much as obtaining enhanced capacity of the member states in monitoring poverty.
85	SESRIC	Improving Lives and Wellness in OIC Countries: Prevention, Early Detection & Treatment of Cancer	Side event	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse		16 May 2017 Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	Enhanced cooperation and coordination in health sector
86	SESRIC	Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Productive capacity of the poor	Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)+ Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF)+ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and the Union Chamber and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB)	24-26 April 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	The workshop spelt out the need for the OIC member countries to develop an appropriate infrastructure for a competitive and sustainable supply chain, which is the key for poverty reduction and rural growth.

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87	SESRIC	Strengthening Coordination and Capacity Building on Preparedness and Response for Health Emergencies in OIC Member States: Sudan Study visit	Study visit	Poverty Alleviation	Aid effectiveness	Ministry of Health of Turkey+ Ministry of Health of Sudan	06-08 March 2017 Ankara-Izmir Turkey	Enhanced coordination and cooperation between two member countries in health sector
88	SESRIC	Joint Planning Meeting for the Second Regional Networking Forum and Capacity Development Training for Technical Cooperation Agencies	Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Productive capacity of the poor	Ministry of Health of Turkey+ Ministry of Health of Sudan	13-14 February 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Enhanced coordination and cooperation between member countries
89	SESRIC	Capacity Development Training for Syrian NGOs in Istanbul	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	SESRIC, Ilke NGO Academy, Ensar Vaqf, OIC Humanitarian Affairs Department (OIC ICHAD) and Syrian Associations Platform	27-29 January 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Enhanced capacity of the member country of Syria regarding NGO management
90	SESRIC	Emergency Obstetrics and C-Section in War	On-site Training	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Ministry of Health of Turkey (MoH) and the Union of Medical Care and Relief Organisations (UOSSM)	17-31 January 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Enhanced capacity of the member country of Syria regarding gynaecology and obstetrics
91	SESRIC	Health and Safety Management System and Risk Assessment Methodologies' in Palestine	Training Course	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Tunisian Occupational Safety and Health Institute (TOSHI), at the Ministry of Labour, State of Palestine in Ramallah, Palestine	09-13 January 2017 Ramallah, Palestine	Enhanced capacity of the member country of Palestine regarding health and safety
92	SESRIC	Training Course on 'Project Cycle Management (PCM)'	Training Course	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Ministry for EU Affairs of the Republic of Turkey	3 January 2017 and 10-11 January 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Developed skills of the participants in project preparation, project design, project implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the implementing projects
93	SESRIC	Improving Occupational Health and Safety in Mauritania - Support for Legislation Development: Study Visit to Mauritania	Study Visit	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey (MoLSS)+The National Occupational Health Office (ONMT) in Nouakchott, Mauritania	19-23 December 2016 Nouakchott, Mauritania	Enhanced capacity of the member country of Mauritania regarding health and safety

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94	SESRIC	First Meeting of the Working Group on Preparation of Strategic Plan on OIC-VET	Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Productive capacity of the poor		20-21 December 2016 Ankara, Turkey	Developed cooperation among the institutions in order to improve the quality of TVET systems in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda.
95	SESRIC	Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Tobacco Control Policies for OIC Member States	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Aid effectiveness	Ministry of Health of Turkey and the Turkish Green Crescent Society	14-16 December 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	The workshop has shared knowledge on the essentials of comprehensive tobacco control policies and best practices for the tobacco policy implementation.
96	SESRIC	International Trade Unionism and Social Policy Training Programme	Certificate Ceremony	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	Confederation of Public Servants Trade Unions (MEMUR-SEN) and Public Administration Institute for Turkey and Middle East (PAITME)	25 May 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Certificates were distributed to 25 participants from 25 different confederations in different countries in the area of trade unionism and social policy.
97	SESRIC	International workshop on "trade unionism and social policy"	Workshop	Poverty alleviation	Diverse	MEMUR-SEN and TODAİE	17-18 May, 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Labour and international relations, improve external relations capacity of confederations, facilitate exchange of knowledge and experience, and provide a ground for the establishment of cooperation among the confederations.
98	SESRIC	Trade unionism and social policy	Certificate program	Poverty alleviation	Diverse	MEMUR-SEN and TODAİE	03 April, 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Twenty-five foreign relations officers from 25 different confederations in different countries in the area of trade unionism and social policy benefitted the program.
99	SESRIC	First Meeting of the OIC-VET Working Group on 'Qualification and Quality Assurance System and Occupational Standards'	Meeting	Poverty alleviation	Diverse	-	24-25 May, 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Develop cooperation among the institutions in order to improve the quality of TVET systems in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda as well as the OIC Ten-Year Plan of Action 2016-2025.
100	SESRIC	Scaling up and enhancing partnership for sustainable results among IDB Member Countries	Meeting	Poverty alleviation	Diverse	-	24-25 May, 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Develop cooperation among the institutions in order to improve the quality of TVET systems in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda as well as the OIC Ten-Year Plan of Action 2016-2025.
101	SESRIC	The Third International Seminar on Quality Assurance of Islamic Higher Education	Seminar	Poverty alleviation	Diverse	Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education of the Republic of Indonesia in collaboration with the Directorate General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)	17-20 December 2016 Indonesia	Identified the extent to which the implementation of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) would be possible to assess the effectiveness of the process on the universities in the OIC Member Countries based on targets. In other words, KPIs are indicators developed by OIC in collaboration with ISESCO to assess the success attainment of the universities in terms of Islamic Higher Education in the universities situated in the OIC Region.

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102	SESRIC	5th Congress on the Mother and Child Nutrition in the First 1000 Days	Congress	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	SESRIC collaborated with the Yükseliş Economic and Strategic Research Foundation (YISAV) and the Ministry of Health of Turkey (MoH)	19-22 March, 2017 Ankara, Turkey	The outcome of the congress was to raise awareness on the importance of a proper nutrition in the first 1000 days of life and address maternal and infant health related issues such as malnutrition, anaemia, psychiatric disorders, deterioration of physical, cerebral and metabolic functions, and diseases prevention.
103	SESRIC	Improving Occupational Health and Safety in Mauritania - Support for Legislation Development: Study Visit to Mauritania	Study visit	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Yükseliş Economic and Strategic Research Foundation (YISAV) and the Ministry of Health of Turkey (MoH)	19-22 March, 2017 Ankara, Turkey	The outcome of the congress was to raise awareness on the importance of a proper nutrition in the first 1000 days of life and address maternal and infant health related issues such as malnutrition, anaemia, psychiatric disorders, deterioration of physical, cerebral and metabolic functions, and diseases prevention.
104	SESRIC	SESRIC Internship Programme	On-the-job training	Trade and Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	December 2016 – November 2017 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.
105	SESRIC	Improving Occupational Health and Safety in Mauritania- Support for Legislation Development: Study Visit to Mauritania	Study visit	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	General Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) operating under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey (MoLSS) organized a study visit to The National Occupational Health Office (ONMT)	14-19 May 2017 Nouakchott, Mauritania	The study visit was the final stage of the legislation background improvement component of the capacity building project, was successfully completed by the experts of DGOHS and as a result of series of consultation and technical work, draft legislation and regulation sets were submitted to the ONMT for its further action for the adaptation
106	SESRIC	General guidelines on occupational Safety and Health	-	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring poverty	Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC).	12 April 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	The outcome of the guidelines was to set common standards to be implemented across the OIC region where the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) seeks to ensure the protection of consumers and the interoperability of products, and also to strengthen marketplace position of the OIC Member States in the global economy while fostering innovation and free trade initiatives Oman, Pakistan, Palestine and Sudan.
107	SESRIC	Occupational Safety: Risk Assessment' in Uganda	Study Visit and Training Course	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring poverty	General Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey + Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Republic of Uganda.	30 January - 02 February 2017 Kampala, Uganda	The training course was followed by a study visit of experts that aimed to provide with the opportunity to get to know and compare the experience, strategies and practices utilised at the Occupational Safety Department of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Republic of Uganda. Furthermore, a need assessment analysis was made that guided to a knowledge sharing process by specific projects and trainings.
108	SESRIC	Occupational Safety and Health'	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Monitoring poverty	General Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey + Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Republic of Uganda.	30 January - 02 February 2017 Kampala, Uganda	The training course enhanced capacity of the respective member states.

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109	SESRIC	Implementation of the SDG Indicator Framework in the ESCWA Region	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD)	05-06 April 2017 Beirut, Lebanon	The workshop reflected on the preparation of national indicator frameworks based on national, regional and global priorities, on the roadmaps for the development of a clear set of strategies to strengthen national statistical systems and their deliveries in line with the Global Action Plan, and the reporting systems in support of the Agenda 2030.
110	SESRIC	Experience Sharing with the OIC Labour Centre	Experience Sharing	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness	Delegation from Scientific Research and Training Centre, State Employment Service Expert.	05-06 April 2017 Beirut, Lebanon	Shared SESRIC's 40 years of experience in the area of statistics, research and training and technical cooperation to the OIC Labour Centre, and explore possibility of collaboration between two institutions in the future.
111	SESRIC	Project Consultation Meeting on Global Muslims Diaspora	Project Consultation Meeting	Poverty alleviation	Diverse	Ambassadors of OIC member countries as well as representatives from host countries.	28 March 2017 Ankara, Turkey	The ultimate objective of the GMD is to create a comprehensive and reliable empirical data source on Muslim diasporic communities around the globe as well as to provide an in-depth analysis of today and prospects for the future.
112	SESRIC	OIC Ministerial Conference on the Marriage and Family Institution and the Preservation of its Values in Member Countries	Conference	Poverty alleviation	Productive capacity of the poor		8-9 February 2017 Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Reviewed member countries efforts on marriage, family institution etc. and suggested appropriate solutions and mechanisms for the activation of the family's role in achieving the objectives of sustainable development in the Member Countries
113	SESRIC	World Muslim Health Societies Congress	Congress	Poverty alleviation	Diverse	Sağlık-Der	02-04 December 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	Enhanced cooperation and coordination with Muslim NGOs which are active in healthcare fields in different parts of the world
114	SESRIC	Humanitarian Crises in OIC Countries: Drivers, Impacts, Current Challenges and Potential Remedies	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	IDB	February 2017 SESRIC	This report analyses the drivers and impacts of humanitarian crises in OIC countries, reviews the current humanitarian crises and provides potential remedies. The overall objective is to promote joint initiatives on strengthening resilience to humanitarian crises and advocate for collaborative actions for strengthening the institutional capacities of the countries.
115	SESRIC	Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Disasters in Afghanistan	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	March 2017 SESRIC	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.
116	SESRIC	OIC Economic Outlook 2017: Industrial Development	Research	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	-	September 2017 SESRIC	This study provides a comparative analysis of trends in major economic indicators for the OIC member countries in light of the recent global and regional economic developments.
117	SESRIC	OIC Labour Report 2017	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	September 2017 SESRIC	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.

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118	SESRIC	OIC Health Report 2017	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	October 2017 SESRIC	This report evaluates the health performance of OIC member countries by analysing 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.
119	SESRIC	Labour Market Strategy Proposal	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	October 2017 SESRIC	3 rd Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers requested SESRIC to prepare a strategy proposal for labour market in OIC countries. The proposal will be submitted to the 4 th Session of the Conference.
120	SESRIC	OIC Environment Report	Research	Agriculture, Poverty Alleviation	Increasing productivity, Regulatory framework and institutional capacity, Productive capacity of poor	-	October 2017 SESRIC	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.
121	SESRIC	Elderly and People with Special Needs in OIC Member Countries	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	2017 SESRIC	This report looks at the profile of elderly people and people with special needs in three sub- groups: people with mental disabilities, people with psychological special needs, and people with mental disabilities.
122	SESRIC	D-8 Economic Outlook Report 2016	Research	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	D-8	December 2016 SESRIC	This report analyses 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.
123	SESRIC	Moving from MDGs to SDGs: Prospects and Challenges for OIC Member Countries	Research	All Cooperation Areas	Diverse	-	December 2016 SESRIC	This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the progress towards achieving the MDGs in OIC member countries based on the latest statistics and information. The study also identified some major challenges and prospects for achieving the SDGs in OIC member countries.
124	SESRIC	Labour Market Strategy Proposal	Research	Poverty Alleviation	Diverse	-	November , 2017 SESRIC	The draft document proposes five areas of cooperation: encouraging participation to labour market; enhancing employability; protecting the workers' safety and well-being; promoting labour productivity; and reducing unemployment. It will be submitted to the 4th ICLM to be held in Saudi Arabia in November 2017
125	SESRIC	Tourism Satellite Accounts	Statistical Training	Tourism	Statistical Capacity Building Programs	Department of Statistics (DoS) of Malaysia + Suriname Tourism Foundation	14 – 16 February 2017 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.
126	SESRIC	OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database on Tourism	Updating Data	Tourism	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	-	December 2016 – November 2017 Ankara, Turkey	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas is Reliable and Up-To-Date Data. In this respect, OICStat database of SESRIC is hosting 7 indicators related to tourism.

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127	SESRIC	Development and Promotion of Muslim Friendly Tourism in COMCEC Member Countries	Training Program	Tourism	Capacity Building and Training Programs	Funded by the COMCEC PCM Programme and implemented by SESRIC	04-07 July 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Encouraged its relatively advanced members in tourism sector to share their experiences with and provide capacity building and training opportunities for the rest of the COMCEC members.
128	SESRIC	5th Meeting of OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum	Meeting	Tourism	Private Sector Involvement	The Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism and COMCEC and OIC	4 May, 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Enhanced cooperation and effectiveness among OIC countries.
129	SESRIC	SESRIC awarded grant by COMCEC	Grant award	Tourism	Private Sector Involvement	COMCEC	27 March 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Enhanced tourism competitiveness
130	SESRIC	10th Session of Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers	Conference	Tourism	Covering all strategic output areas		12-14 November, 2017 Dhaka, Bangladesh	Enhanced cooperation and effectiveness among OIC countries.
131	SESRIC	Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries	Research	Tourism	Diverse	Republic of Indonesia, the OIC General Secretariat, IUT and SMIIC	2017 SESRIC	The Roadmap Document is intended to develop a framework in order to provide a systematic approach to promote cooperation among the member countries in Islamic tourism and specifies the needed actions for anticipated changes. It further outlines a guideline for the future development of Islamic tourism in OIC member countries.
132	SESRIC	International Tourism in D-8 Countries: Prospects and Challenges 2016	Research	Tourism	Diverse	D-8	December 2016 SESRIC	This Report examines the performance and economic role of international tourism sector in D-8 countries in the latest five-year period for which the data are available. It also focuses on Islamic Tourism in D-8 Countries
133	SESRIC	OIC Tourism Report 2017	Research	Tourism	Regulatory framework, Community based tourism, Marketing strategies	-	September 2017 SESRIC	This report examines the performance and the economic role of the international tourism sector in OIC member countries by analysing the latest available data on major indicators and highlighting major issues and challenges.
134	ICCIA	3 rd Training Program for Women Skill Development and Networking	Training Program	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States	Local Academia	19th December 2016 ICCIA Headquarters, Karachi,	It was a series of 3rd Training Programme organized for women and youth. The purpose was to promote entrepreneurial activities for women and youth who were either doing business or planning to start businesses. The participants were trained to make marketing strategy for developing their products around customer needs
135	ICCIA	Overview of Youth in OIC Countries and the Role of Ethics in Doing Business	Workshop	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States	Local Academia	28th March 2017 ICCIA Headquarters, Karachi	The participants especially youth from a reputed Institute learnt as to how ethics can play the role in the corporate world. OIC role in the promotion of Youth in Islamic Countries was also highlighted.

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136	ICCIA	Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries	Workshop	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States	FAO/PGTF / UNOSSC	24-26th April 2017 Istanbul, Republic of Turkey	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.
137	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 / UNDP / Sharjah Chamber	7-9th August 2017, Sharjah, UAE	The intended outcome of the Training Program was to create in the long term a platform that will focus on knowledge sharing, best practices and experiences; exchanging new ideas and explore opportunities and harness the true potential existing in the OIC Member States
138	ICCIA	Forum/Workshop for Private Sector Investors in the area of Development of Islamic Tourism.	Forum / Workshop	Trade	Enhanced communication among private sector representatives / institutions of the Member States	MCs	Postponed on the request of the hosting country Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt	Outcome to be determined after the Meeting
139	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, OMPIC, WIPO	20-22 December 2016 Casablanca/ Morocco	Building Capacity of participating OIC Member States on various Intellectual Property Issues.
140	ICDT	15th Meeting of the Economic Counselors of the OIC Embassies accredited in Rabat	Meeting	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	OIC Member States	19 January 2017 Rabat/ Morocco	Raising Awareness of OIC Member States about ICDT future and planned activities for 2017.
141	ICDT	workshop on the Mechanisms for settlement of Trade and Investment Disputes among the OIC Member States	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry in Charge of Industry of Morocco, International Islamic Center for Reconciliation and Arbitration (IICRA)	20-21 February 2017 Casablanca/Morocco	Sharing experiences with the OIC Member Countries and International Experts in the field of Trade and Investment Disputes Settlement and participants proposed to establish national and OIC Arbitration Centre for more regulating trade and investment flows of Member States
142	ICDT	Seminar on Trade in Services	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry in Charge of Foreign Trade of Morocco SESRIC, ITC, WTO, OIC Member States	22-24 March 2017 Casablanca/Morocco	The training contributed to enhancing the awareness of the importance of the sector of services in regional economic integration through the implementation of the new generation of free trade agreements and 'building capacity of OIC Member States' to negotiate in the field of Trade in Services and to increase their capacity to promote trade in services at the OIC level, thus boosting intra-OIC trade and assisting OIC Member States to achieve relevant sustainable development goals.

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143	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	Promoting trade among participating OIC Member States in the agribusiness sector.
144	ICDT	Workshop on the impact of Brexit on the Economies of the OIC Member States	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	DRMC/IDB, Ministry of Economy of UAE	18-19 April 2017 Dubai - United Arab Emirates	participants took stock of the importance of Brexit on Member Countries' economies and agreed to propose OIC Common Solution on Brexit implication and seeking the views of Member States on this issue and present to OIC Member States the preliminary findings of the joint study on Brexit
145	ICDT	Workshop on the preparation of WTO Ministerial Conference 11: An African Perspective	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	DRMC/IDB, Ministry of Foreign Trade of Morocco	17-19 July 2017 Casablanca/Morocco	The workshop provides technical assistance and capacity building to the officials and the private sector in OIC Member States in the area of WTO Trade Negotiations and the preparatory of WTO upcoming Ministerial Meeting to be held in Argentina on December 2017.
146	ICDT	Workshop on TPS/OIC of the OIC Member States	Training Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Trade of Indonesia and CCO	13-14 September 2017 Jakarta, Indonesia	enhancing the awareness of public and private sector of the Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia of the importance of TPS/OIC in trade integration among the OIC Member States and speeding up the signature and ratification of Indonesia and Brunei of TPS/OIC Agreement and its protocols with a view of reaching the goal of 25% intra-OIC Trade share by 2025
147	ICDT	OIC-Asia –Africa Trade and Investment Forum	Business Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	OIC Business Center Malaysia	19-20 September 2017 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Coordination via emails and tel between organisers and Member Countries. contributing to the increase trade and investment flows between OIC Asian and African Countries
148	ICDT	3rd Forum of the OIC TPOs	Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Morocco Export and ITFC	11-12 October 2017 Casablanca, Morocco	to strengthen coordination and create a dynamic of cooperation between the Trade Promotion Organs of the OIC Member States, and to exchange experiences in the field of capacity building of Trade Promotion Organs with a view to improving their services.
149	ICDT	Forum on the role of Industrial Free Zones in attracting Industrial Investment and Expanding Exports	Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	AIDMO	23-25 October 2017 Tangiers, Morocco	increasing collaboration between OIC Member States in the field of Industrial development in free zones
150	ICDT	Workshop on Non-Tariff Barriers among the OIC Member States	Seminar	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	COMCEC	24-25 October 2017 Rabat, Morocco	to identify and analyze non-tariff barriers to Trade and their impact on Trade of the OIC Member Countries and contribute to the progressive removal of these barriers hampering the intra-OIC Trade development
151	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	Outcomes to be determined after the events

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152	ICDT	Buyers/Sellers Meeting on pharmaceuticals	Business Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	- Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, - Ministry of Trade, Handicrafts and SMEs Promotion of Cote d'Ivoire, ITFC	2-3 November 2017 Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire	Connecting exporters and importers of African and Arab Countries for enhancing trade and investment flows within the framework of Arab African Trade Bridge of ITFC
153	ICDT	5th OIC Halal Expo	Expo and Forum	Trade	Developing intra-OIC Trade	Ministry of Economy of Turkey, SMIIC, ITFC, ICCIA	20-23 November 2017 Istanbul/Turkey	Enhancing trade and investment flows among the OIC Member States in Halal Sector
154	IDB Group	Launching Forum of the Arab Africa Trade Bridges (AATB) Program	Ministerial Forum on trade dev and economic integration,	Trade	Trade Promotion and Facilitation	MoT, National TSIs frArab/African MCs.	22-23 Feb 2017 Rabat, Morocco	Organized the Launching Forum of the AATB to present draft 3 years work program
155	IDB Group	OIC TPOs Forum	Capacity Development, Trade cooperation	Trade	Capacity Development	TPOs, TSIs in MCs	11 & 12 October 2017 Morocco	TPOs from both Arab and African MCs will meet and exchange experiences, develop institutional cooperation between them and with the other MCs' TPOs.
156	IDB Group	Forum on "The Promotion of Arab Exports to Africa"	Trade Development	Trade	Trade facilitation Trade Developmt	Arab&African Companies, chambers of Commerce and Financing Institutions	28 October 2017 Duabi	This Forum aims at bringing together the Arab and African Businessmen, highlight the success stories in the Arab African Business Dev and expose the financing tools offered by the Financing Institutions. Ex: ITFC, BADEA, ...
157	IDB Group	Reverse Linkage Initiative In Guinea "Recovery of the Private Sector in Guinea"	TA & Cap. Dev. Program	Trade	Trade Promotion Capt. Dev.	Tunisian Agency of Tech, Cooperation, Min. Of Trade of Guinea, IDBG	Sept 2017- Guinea, Tunisia	Institutional capacity development for TSIs provided, National Quality Infrastructure to be developed; SMEs supported in that regard, Trade facilitation measures identified & implemented
158	IDB Group	B2B Meeting for Pharmaceuticals, Medical Equipments	B2B Meeting	Trade	Trade Promotion	MOT & Min of Health, ICDT	2&3 Nov. 2017 Cote D'Ivoire	Provide platform for companies to present their products, facilitate intra-OIC trade partnership
159	IDB Group	B2B Meeting for Marine Industry	Int. Exhibition B2B Meeting	Trade	Trade Promotion	ICDT	March 2018 Dakar, Senegal	
160	IDB Group	Side event During 6 th Global Review of Aid for Trade on "IDBG Promoting Connectivity 4 Development	Seminar	Trade	Trade Promotion Trade Facilitation	MCs, Int. Orgs.	11 July 2017 Geneva	Participants were informed IDBG efforts, projects both infrastructure projects, trade, investment financing facilities, and its TA interventions aiming at promoting connectivity among its MCs.
161	SESRIC	International Trade Statistics	Statistical Training	Trade	Trade Promotion	National Statistical Institute (INS) of Cameroon + National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) of Benin	29 November – 2 December 2016 Cotonou, Benin	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.

No	OIC Institution	Title 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
162	SESRIC	International Trade Statistics	Statistical Training	Trade	Trade Promotion	Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI) + Central Statistics Organization (CSO) of Afghanistan	8 - 10 January 2017 Kabul, Afghanistan	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.
163	SESRIC	International Trade Statistics	Technical Mission	Trade	Trade Promotion	National Statistical Institute (INS) of Cameroon + National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Cote d'Ivoire	1 – 3 August 2017 Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire	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.
164	SESRIC	International Trade Statistics	Statistical Training	Trade	Trade Promotion	Department of Statistics (DoS) of Malaysia + BPS-Statistics Indonesia	28 – 29 August 2017 Jakarta, Indonesia	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.
165	SESRIC	OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database on Trade	Updating Data	Trade	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	-	December 2016 – November 2017 Ankara, Turkey	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas is Reliable and Up-To-Date Data. In this respect, OICStat database of SESRIC is hosting 18 indicators related to trade.
166	SESRIC	Impact of Brexit on the Economies of the OIC Member State	Workshop	Private sector in Economic cooperation	Diverse	ICDT and IDB	18-19 April 2017Dubai, UAE	Understood the impact of Brexit and enhance economic cooperation among the member states.
167	SESRIC	Trade in Services for OIC Member States	Training Workshops	Trade	Trade promotion	Ministry in charge of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco, Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the International Trade Centre (ITC)+ World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	22-24 March 2017 Casablanca Morocco	The workshop was to build capacity of OIC Member States to negotiate in the field of Trade in Services and to increase their capacity to promote trade in services at the OIC level, thus boosting intra-OIC trade and assisting OIC Member States to achieve relevant sustainable development goals.
168	SESRIC	Impact of Brexit on OIC Member Countries	Research	Trade, Financial Cooperation	Diverse	ICDT, IDB	January 2017 SESRIC	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.
169	SESRIC	Joint Publication with the UNDP		Economic cooperation	Diverse	SESRIC and UNDP Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD)	15 May 2017 Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	The joint publication entitled “Engaging the Private Sector in Skills Development: a Best Practices Guideline and Toolkit” will provide results on how the private sector can contribute to active labour market measures to complement effort of addressing the lack of relevant skills for disadvantaged youth, women and other marginalized groups.

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170	SESRIC	Modelling the Youth Economic Empowerment in Palestine	Seminar	Economic cooperation	Productive capacity of the poor		15 May 2017 Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	Contributed to promote poor people oriented programs to increase the productivity.
171	SESRIC	Kick-Off Meeting for the SME Development and Empowerment Project	Meeting	Economic cooperation	Diverse	Libyan Programme for Reintegration and Development (LPRD) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Istanbul, Turkey	06-07 February 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	The meeting was to come out with an implementation plan for building a Libyan SME Incubator Centre which will help in developing the Libyan economy through supporting entrepreneurs.
172	SESRIC	Reforming International Investment Agreements: An Action Plan	Training	Economic cooperation	Diverse	Islamic Development Bank Group Investment Promotion Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) of Islamic Development Bank Group the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and Moroccan Investment Development Agency.	23-26 January 2017 Casablanca, Morocco	The training program was to deepen the understanding of the participants on challenges in International Investment Agreements (IIA), to identify and examine issues, problems and interests and to ensure that the concerns of investors are adequately addressed. The course benefited from the use of UNCTAD's most recently developed Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD), and UNCTAD's Roadmap for IIA Reform.
173	SMIIC	13 th Meeting of the SMIIC Board of Directors (BOD)	Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	16 December 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	Regular meeting in which Member States reviewed and discussed activities of SMIIC.
174	SMIIC	10th General Assembly (GA) Meeting	Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	17 December 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	Regular meeting in which Member States reviewed and discussed activities of SMIIC.
175	SMIIC	World Halal Summit (WHS)	Conference	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC GS	15-17 December 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	The summit brought together around 10,000 people from all over the world along with prominent speakers from leading countries on Halal. World Halal Summit Istanbul, the biggest halal event in the sector, has created a platform where the views and experiences of international speakers from 26 countries were shared with the audience.
176	SMIIC	4th OIC Halal Expo and Forum	Expo	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC GS and ICDT	15-17 December 2016 Istanbul, Turkey	OIC Expo visited by 10,000 people provided a platform for relevant stakeholders to enhance their networks and to see the latest developments in Halal industry.
177	SMIIC	1st Meeting of the Task Force Group(TFG)	Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	16-17 January 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Meeting of the TSG for the discussion of comments/feedbacks received from Member States regarding the revision of the SMIIC internal documents.
178	SMIIC	2nd Meeting of the Task Force Group(TFG)	Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	16-17 February 2017 Dubai/ United Arab Emirates	Meeting of TFG in which the study and draft revisions of the SMIIC Internal Documents to be submitted to the approval of the SMIIC GA was finalized.
179	SMIIC	14 th Meeting of the SMIIC Board of Directors (BOD)	Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	14 March 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Regular meeting in which Member States reviewed and discussed activities of SMIIC.
180	SMIIC	Technical Committee Week 1	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC GS and Members States	26-31 March 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Technical Committees 4, 5, 8 &9 worked to finalize scope, discussed their business plans and/or new projects.
181	SMIIC	SMIIC/TC1 Halal Food Issues Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC GS and Members States	26.March 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	TC1 discussed revision works of OIC/SMIIC 1.

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182	SMIIC	SMIIC/TC2 Halal Cosmetic Issues Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC GS and Members States	27.March 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	TC2 continued final work on the development of the Halal Cosmetic Standard.
183	SMIIC	SMIIC CCA(Committee on Standards for Conformity Assessment) Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC GS and Members States	29.March 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	SMIIC CCA continued works on the revision of OIC/SMIIC 2 and 3.
184	SMIIC	11th General Assembly (GA) Meeting	Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	07 May 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Regular meeting in which Member States reviewed and discussed activities of SMIIC.
185	SMIIC	4th Metrology Committee(MC) Meeting	Meeting	Trade	Trade Facilitation	SMIIC GS and SMIIC Metrology Council	08.May 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	MC discussed the latest developments, revised MC TOR and elected their Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council. MC discussed possible projects and training activities for enhancing their capacity building in metrology field.
186	SMIIC	2017 Technical Committee Week 2	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC GS and Members States	22-24 May 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Technical Committees 3, 6, 7, 11 and 12 worked to finalize scope, discussed/finalize their business plans and/or new projects.
187	SMIIC	2017 Technical Committee Week 3	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC GS and Members States	25-30 September 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	All Technical Committees worked to finalize scope, discussed/finalized their business plans, new projects, draft standards
188	SMIIC	SMIIC CCA(Committee on Standards for Conformity Assessment) Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC GS and Members States	25-30 September 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	SMIIC CCA continued works on the revision of OIC/SMIIC 2 and 3.
189	SMIIC	15 th Meeting of the SMIIC Board of Directors (BOD)	Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	25 November 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Regular meeting for Member States to discuss and review activities of SMIIC.
190	SMIIC	12th General Assembly (GA) Meeting	Meeting	Trade	Trade liberalization	SMIIC Member States	26 November 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	Regular meeting for Member States to discuss and review activities of SMIIC.
191	SMIIC	Istanbul 2017 World Halal Summit (WHS)	Conference	Trade	Trade Facilitation	SMIIC GS	23-25 November 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	International conference aiming to gather stakeholders of the Halal industry to exchange views and experiences.
192	SMIIC	5th OIC Halal Expo	Expo	Trade	Trade Facilitation	SMIIC GS and ICDT	23-25 November 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.
193	SESRIC	Transport Statistics	Statistical Training	Transport and Communications	Institutional and Human Capacity	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of Egypt + Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of Sudan	28 November – 1 December 2016 Khartoum, Sudan	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.

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194	SESRIC	Community Outreach Through Social Media for National Statistics Offices	Statistical Training	Transport and Communications	Institutional and Human Capacity	National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Cote d'Ivoire + General Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies (DGSEE) of Gabon	13 – 14 March 2017 Libreville, Gabon	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.
195	SESRIC	Transport Statistics	Statistical Training	Transport and Communications	Institutional and Human Capacity	National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of Nigeria + Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)	9 – 10 August 2017 Kampala, Uganda	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.
196	SESRIC	OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database on Transport and Communications	Updating Data	Transport and Communications	Reliable and Up-To-Date Data	-	December 2016 – November 2017 Ankara, Turkey	In the COMCEC Strategy, one of the output areas is Reliable and Up-To-Date Data. In this respect, OICStat database of SESRIC is hosting 5 indicators related to transport and communications.
197	SESRIC	Knowledge and Experience Sharing Workshop on “Media Literacy” in Indonesia	Workshop	Transport and Communications	Institutional and Human Capacity	IBRAF	20-23 February 2017 Bandung, Indonesia	Increased cooperation among Islamic Countries Broadcasting Regulatory against the backdrop of digitalisation and convergence.
198	SESRIC	Postal Codes and Addressing System	Training course	Transport and Communications	Institutional and Human Capacity	PTT, Turkey	16-18 May 2017 Ramallah, Palestine	Increased cooperation among Islamic Countries regarding postal service
199	SESRIC	Cross Border Activities	Training course	Transport and Communications	Institutional and Human Capacity	Bangladesh Railway	21-22 December 2016 Dhaka, Bangladesh	Enhanced knowledge and experience on railway sector in Bangladesh
200	SESRIC	Training Workshop on “Health Journalism	Training Workshop	Transport and communications	Institutional and Human Capacity	ISESCO, Anadolu Agency (AA)	08-18 August 2017 Ankara, Turkey	Journalists were equipped with further knowledge and skills regarding health journalism. At the same time, they were informed about the current situation of health in OIC Member Countries. More visibility was gained in the media about OIC efforts in the domain of health.
201	SESRIC	SESRIC signed MoU with Anadolu Agency (AA)	MoU	Transport and communications	Diverse	Anadolu Agency (AA)	03 March 2017 Ankara, Turkey	The MoU aims at bringing about a synergy between SESRIC and AA on capacity building directed towards staff members of news agencies across OIC member countries, as well as enhancing exchange of information and expertise among the agencies on key issues with regards to the news industry, notably in the effort to establish an “Islamic World News Agencies Cooperation Network”.
202	SESRIC	Short Film on Syria	Film	Transport and communications	Diverse	-	27 January 2017 Istanbul, Turkey	The film aimed to increase the awareness towards the Syrian refugees who put their lives in danger for crossing the Mediterranean Sea in hope of reaching Europe.
203	SESRIC	Transportation for Development	Research	Transportation and Communications	Diverse	-	November 2017 SESRIC	This report looks at the transportation sector in OIC countries in a comparative perspective. It investigates the performance of the different modes of transportation under three broad categories: land, water and air transportation. The report also highlights the relationship between transportation and trade and tourism.

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203	CCO	9th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Agriculture	Increasing productivity	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	February 23rd, 2017 Ankara/Turkey	The 9th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held with the theme of "Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries" and a research report was prepared specifically for this meeting. The participants shared their experiences, major causes and measures of food waste during the Meeting. At the end of the meeting, policy recommendations have been formulated regarding reducing food waste in the member countries.
204	CCO	10th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Agriculture	Market Performance and Access Regulatory Framework and Institutional Capacity	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	September 28th, 2017 Ankara/Turkey	The 10th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held with the theme of "Improving Agricultural Market Performance: Creation and Development of Market Institutions" and a research report was prepared specifically for this meeting. The participants shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in improving market performance through creation and development of market institutions in their respective countries.. At the end of the meeting, policy recommendations have been formulated regarding creation and development of market institutions in the member countries.
205	CCO	8th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Financial Cooperation	Training, R&D Activities and Statistics Regulatory and supervisory cooperation	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	March 30th, 2017 Ankara	The 8th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group was held with the theme of "Improving Public Debt Management in the OIC Member Countries" and a research report was prepared specifically for this meeting. The participants shared their experiences on public debt management and identified common challenges in this regard. At the end of the meeting, policy recommendations have been formulated regarding improving public debt management.
206	CCO	9th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Financial Cooperation	Visibility of Financial Markets Training, R&D Activities and Statistics	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 26th, 2017 Ankara	The 9th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group was held with the theme of "Diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments" and a research report was prepared specifically for this meeting. The participants shared their experiences on diversification of Islamic financial instruments and identified common challenges in this regard. At the end of the meeting, policy recommendations have been formulated regarding diversification of Islamic financial instruments.
207	CCO	9th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness, Productive capacity of the Poor	MCs, OIC and other international institutions and NGOs	April 6th, 2017 Ankara/Turkey	The 9th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on 6th April, 2017 with the theme of "Malnutrition in the OIC Member Countries: A Trap for Poverty". The participants shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in reducing malnutrition in their countries. The Meeting considered the study titled "Malnutrition in the OIC Member Countries: A Trap for Poverty". The Meeting has come up with policy recommendations for reducing malnutrition in the member countries.

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208	CCO	10th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	Aid Effectiveness, Productive capacity of the Poor	MCs, OIC and other international institutions and NGOs	October 5th, 2017 Ankara/Turkey	The 10th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on 5th October, 2017 with the theme of "Education of Disadvantaged Children in the OIC Member Countries: The Key to Escape from Poverty". Participants shared their experiences, best practices and challenges in education of disadvantaged children in their countries. The Meeting considered the study titled "Education of Disadvantaged Children in the OIC Member Countries: The Key to Escape from Poverty". The Meeting has come up with policy recommendations for improving disadvantaged children's access to education in the member countries.
209	CCO	9th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Tourism	Muslim Friendly Tourism: Regulating Accommodation Establishments in the OIC Member Countries	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	February 16th, 2017 Ankara	The 9th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group was held with the theme of "Muslim Friendly Tourism: Regulating Accommodation Establishments in the OIC Member Countries" and a research report was prepared specifically for this meeting. The participants shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in Muslim Friendly Tourism. At the end of the meeting, policy recommendations have been formulated regarding MFT regulations in the member countries.
210	CCO	10th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Tourism	Risk and Crisis Management in the Tourism Sector: Recovery from Crisis in the OIC Member Countries	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	September 21th, 2017 Ankara	The 10th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group was held with the theme of "Risk and Crisis Management in the Tourism Sector: Recovery from Crisis in the OIC Member Countries" and a research report was prepared specifically for this meeting. The participants shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in Risk and Crisis Management in the Tourism Sector. At the end of the meeting, policy recommendations have been formulated regarding risk and crisis management in tourism sector in the member countries.
211	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 Ankara/Turkey	The 9th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was held with the theme of "Single Window Systems in the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade" and a research report was prepared specifically for this meeting. The participants shared their views on the benefits of SW Systems on trade facilitation, analyzed the current status of the SW Systems in the Member Countries as well as formulated policy recommendations.
212	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/Turkey	The 10th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was held with the theme of "Special Economic Zones in the OIC Member States" and a research report was prepared specifically for this meeting. The participants shared their experiences on developing special economic zones and identified common challenges in this regard. At the end of the meeting, policy recommendations have been formulated regarding special economic zones.

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213	CCO	9th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Transportation and Communications	Information and Communications Technologies	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	March 16th, 2017 Ankara/Turkey	The 9th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group was held on March 16th, 2017 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "Increasing Broadband Internet Penetration in the OIC Member Countries". The Meeting was attended by 12 Member Countries as well as private sector and international organizations' representatives. The participants shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in the field of broadband internet penetration. The Meeting considered the Study "Increasing Broadband Internet Penetration in the OIC Member Countries". At the end of the meeting, policy recommendations were formulated regarding broadband internet penetration.
214	CCO	10th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group	Working Group Meeting	Transportation and Communications	Transport Infrastructure Policies	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 18th- 19th, 2017 Ankara/Turkey	The 10th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group was held on October 18th-19th, 2017 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "Improving Transnational Transport Corridors in the OIC Member Countries: Concepts & Cases". The meeting was attended by the representatives of 24 Member States as well as private sector and international organizations' representatives. The participants shared their experiences, achievements and challenges regarding transnational transport corridors. The meeting has mainly considered the study titled "Improving Transnational Transport Corridors in the OIC Member Countries: Concepts & Cases". At the end of the meeting, policy recommendations were formulated regarding transnational transport corridors.