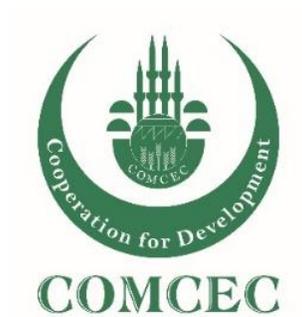


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ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA

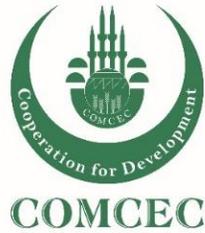
**34th Session of the COMCEC
(Istanbul, 26-29 November 2018)**

COMCEC Coordination Office

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**DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE 34th SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 26-29 November 2018)**

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation
3. The Implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action
4. World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries
5. Intra-OIC Trade
6. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
7. Improving Transport and Communications
8. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
9. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
10. Alleviating Poverty
11. Deepening Financial Cooperation
12. Exchange of Views on “Facilitating Trade: Improving Customs Risk Management Systems in the OIC Member States”
13. Date of the 35th Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Resolutions

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to give background information and the current status on the cooperation areas, programs and projects of the COMCEC for its 34th Session, to be held on 26-29 November 2018 in İstanbul, Turkey.

The document provides background information and the required actions on the Draft Agenda Items from 2 to 13. As the remaining Agenda Items are self-explanatory; they are not included in the Document.

The reports and studies to be submitted under each agenda item will be placed on the COMCEC's website (www.comcec.org).

ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM 2 Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation

- The COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation

COMCEC has been continuing its activities in light of the COMCEC Strategy, which has become operational in 2013.

The Strategy has a well-defined implementation mechanism, which ensures active and direct involvement of the Member Countries with its two instruments. Through the Working Groups (WGs), member country experts in the cooperation areas convene twice a year with the aim of producing and disseminating knowledge, and sharing experience and good practices. The WGs also provide a solid ground for creating a common understanding and approximating policies among the Member Countries to respond their common development problems.

The COMCEC Project Funding, second instrument of the COMCEC Strategy, enables the member countries registered to the WGs and the relevant OIC Institutions, to submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO).

As of November 2018, the WGs have held 12 rounds of meetings in six cooperation areas (11 meetings for Financial Cooperation Working Group) so far and deliberated on important issues and themes in each cooperation area. The details of each working group are given under the relevant agenda item. Under the COMCEC Project Funding mechanism, in 2018, 19 projects are being implemented and expected to be finalized by the end of the year. The CCO made the sixth project call on September 1st, 2018. The relevant documents regarding the COMCEC Project Funding are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org)

Successful implementation of the Strategy requires effective coordination and communication between the member states and the CCO. In this regard, COMCEC National Focal Points and Working Group Focal Points responsible for each cooperation area in each member country convene annually to discuss ways and means to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the Strategy. In this respect, the 6th Annual Coordination Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points was held on 3-5 July 2018, in Ankara, Turkey.

Moreover, cooperation efforts of the OIC Institutions operating in the economic domain have particular importance for the realization of the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy. In this respect, in line with the relevant resolution of the COMCEC, the OIC Institutions have been organizing activities aligned with the objectives and expected outputs of the COMCEC Strategy.

In this framework, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC welcomed the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy and commended the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to its implementation. Furthermore, the Session requested the Member States and OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy. Commending the efforts of the Member Countries and OIC Institutions towards the realization of COMCEC Ministerial policy recommendations, the Session invited all the Member Countries to exert efforts, to the extent possible, to implement the policy recommendations and urged relevant OIC Institutions to support the Member States in this regard.

Besides, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC welcomed the finalization of the nine projects funded under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2016 and the progress achieved in the implementation of the fourteen new projects under the fourth project call in 2017 and also welcomed the fifth project call, made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in September 2017. The Session invited the Member Countries to utilize the COMCEC Project Funding to implement the policy recommendations developed in the COMCEC Working Groups and adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions.

The 33rd COMCEC Session also expressed its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, and SMIIC for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

The 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC held on 9-10 May 2018 in Ankara welcomed the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC. The Committee also commended the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their field of competence and welcomed the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in February-April 2018.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the COMCEC Strategy and its implementation. The Session will consider the report submitted by the CCO for necessary action.

- Report of the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC

The 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC was held on 9-10 May 2018, in Ankara, Turkey. The Committee reviewed the implementation of the programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC and prepared recommendations for the 34th Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): The 34th Session of the COMCEC will be briefed by the Rapporteur of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the recommendations of the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3

OIC 2025: Programme of Action

The OIC Programme of Action for the period of 2016-2025 (OIC-2025: Programme of Action) was adopted at the 13th Islamic Summit held in İstanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 31st and 32nd Sessions of COMCEC, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC underlined the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action by the COMCEC and requested the OIC General Secretariat to regularly submit comprehensive progress reports on the implementation of the Programme to the COMCEC Sessions and to the Follow-up Meetings.

Moreover, taking note of the preparations by the OIC General Secretariat for the Implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, the Session called upon to Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions/Organs which have not done so yet to share their inputs and comments to the economic sections of the "Implementation Plan of OIC-2025: Programme of Action" for its further development and requested the OIC General Secretariat to make the necessary modifications in the relevant sections of the implementation plan in accordance with the observations and report them to the 34th Session of the COMCEC for consideration.

Required Action(s): The OIC General Secretariat is expected to brief the Session on the recent developments regarding the implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action and to inform the Session regarding the inputs and comments of the Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions/Organs to the above-mentioned Implementation Plan. The Session will consider the General Secretariat's report on the subject for necessary action.

AGENDA ITEM 4

World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries

- Annual Economic Report on the OIC Member Countries

SESRIC, in light of the relevant decision of the 12th Session of the COMCEC, has been preparing an annual report on recent world economic developments and their implications on the OIC member countries and submit it to the annual sessions of the COMCEC.

In its Annual Economic Reports, SESRIC summarizes the global and regional economic and financial developments as well as provides some policy recommendations for the member countries.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to submit a report on world economic developments. The Member Countries will share their experience regarding the recent economic developments.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Intra-OIC Trade

COMCEC Strategy identifies the expansion of intra-OIC trade as one of the important strategic objectives of the COMCEC. In this regard, trade occupies an important place in the COMCEC agenda. The 33rd Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation of the convening of the 9th and 10th Meetings of the Trade Working Group (TWG) and welcomed the policy recommendations formulated in these meetings.

In accordance with the relevant resolution of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC, the 11th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was held on March 7-8, 2018 in Ankara with the theme of "Facilitating Trade: Improving Customs Risk Management Systems in the OIC Member States." Therefore, the TWG has come up with a set of policy recommendations to be reported to the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 34th COMCEC Meeting. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

Moreover, 12th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group will be organized on November 6th, 2018 with the theme of "Improving Authorized Economic Operators Programs in the OIC Member States".

Regarding the multilateral projects under the trade cooperation area, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts of Uganda and their partner countries for the successful implementation of a project in 2016 and also commended the efforts of Palestine, Suriname and ICDT for the projects finalized within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2017. The 34th Meeting of the

Follow-up Committee also commended the efforts of Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan and SMIIC for the projects to be implemented in 2018 under the 5th Project Call.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 11th and 12th Meetings of the Trade Working Group as well as the projects finalized in 2017 and being implemented in 2018 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the Trade Working Group for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the main challenges faced by the OIC Member Countries in facilitating trade?
- ii) What measures can be taken to improve effectiveness of existing customs risk management systems in the OIC Member Countries?
- iii) What mechanisms can be utilized for enhancing cooperation with regards to authorized economic operator programmes in the Member Countries? How can mutual recognition agreements be disseminated among the Member Countries?
- iv) How can the cooperation among the member countries be enhanced regarding trade facilitation?

There are also several important programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC to enhance cooperation among the OIC Member States in the field of trade. Some of the ongoing programs and activities are; TPS-OIC, Islamic Trade Fairs, WTO-Related Technical Assistance, Trade Financing Activities and Trade Related Activities of SMIIC.

- TPS-OIC

TPS-OIC (Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States) is the most important project of the COMCEC in trade area. The System is based on three agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and the Rules of Origin. The legal basis of the TPS-OIC was completed in 2011. The required number of member countries for the operationalization of the System has already been reached by the end of 2014.

COMCEC, in its 33rd Session, welcomed the signing and ratification of the TPS-OIC Framework Agreement by Brunei Darussalam and 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. Moreover, the Session welcomed the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, Islamic Republic of Iran and Morocco and invited the concerned participating Member Countries to convey their updated concession lists at their earliest convenience to the TNC Secretariat with a view to operationalize the TPS-OIC.

Required Action(s): As the TNC co-Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the progress regarding the operationalization of the TPS-OIC. The Session will consider the recent developments and take appropriate action, if necessary.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) Has there been a new development in your country since the 33rd Session of the COMCEC regarding the signing/ratification of TPS-OIC Agreements, submission of updated concession lists, or administrative measures for the implementation of the System?

- ii) What is the level of awareness on TPS-OIC System in your country? Do you think more sensitization events are needed?
- iii) Which additional measures can be taken to expedite successful implementation of the TPS-OIC?

- Islamic Trade Fairs

Islamic trade fairs are held every two years in one of the OIC Member Countries in order to promote intra-OIC trade. ICDT has organized fifteen Islamic Trade Fairs to date. In addition to the Islamic Trade Fairs, sector specific exhibitions are also organized by the ICDT in the Member States.

The 33rd Session of the COMCEC reiterated its request to ICDT to continue holding sector specific fairs in cooperation with the Member States and submit regular progress reports on the fairs to the COMCEC Sessions. The Session also reiterated its request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

Required Action(s): ICDT is expected to report the recent developments on the Islamic Trade Fairs.

Question(s) for Discussion:

- i) How do you evaluate the performance of the Islamic Trade Fairs? How can the trade fairs be improved?

- WTO Related Technical Assistance

COMCEC encourages its members to join the WTO in order to benefit from the international trade system on an equitable and fair basis. For this purpose, the IDB Group and ICDT organize training courses, seminars and workshops on the WTO related issues for the benefit of the Member Countries.

The 33rd Session of the COMCEC expressed its thanks and appreciation to the IDB Group and ICDT for organizing WTO-related training courses and seminars for the benefit of the Member States. The Session also called on IDB, SESRIC and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and to carry on with their efforts in raising the awareness of Member States on the importance of the WTO trade negotiations and their impact on economies.

Moreover, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC requested ICDT and IDB Group to submit a working paper for the consideration of the next COMCEC meeting about practical options to increase OIC Ministers of Trade Coordination vis-à-vis recent developments in the negotiations at the WTO and to formulate positions on priority issues for OIC countries in the current Doha Development Round and on new issues currently being proposed in the WTO. Noting the efforts made by the ICDT and IDB Group in preparation of the above-mentioned report, the 34th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee requested them to complete their study and submit the said paper to the 34th COMCEC Session. In this regard, as part of the implementation of this COMCEC Resolution, ICDT organized a coordination meeting on 5-6 July 2018 in Casablanca, Morocco in order to review the progress achieved in preparing the draft study.

Required Action(s): IDB and ICDT are expected to report their activities in this field to the 34th Session of the COMCEC and inform the Committee about the preparations of the above-mentioned working paper.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the challenges faced by your country in implementing the WTO provisions or acceding to the WTO? In this framework, what are your country's technical assistance requirements on the WTO-related matters?
- ii) Do you consider the WTO-related technical assistance programs of the IDB and ICDT adequate? What additional measures can be taken in this regard?

- Trade Financing Activities

Access to affordable trade financing is one of the crucial factors for the business people to engage in international trade. Trade financing activities are mainly carried within the IDB Group's trade financing organ, which is Islamic Trade Financing Corporation (ITFC). Moreover, Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) has been providing export credit insurance to mitigate the risks of trades.

The 33rd Session of the COMCEC appreciated trade finance, promotion and development activities of ITFC, as well as the mobilization of funds from the international market and development partners for funding the trade operations in the Member States.

Moreover, the 33rd COMCEC Session took note of the proposal made by ICIEC on "Business Intelligence Center" and requested the ICIEC to further elaborate on the proposal in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions and prepare a detailed concept note and submit it to the 32nd Meeting of the COMCEC Sessional Committee and 34th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee. In line with this resolution, the 34th Follow-up Committee took note of the Interim Report prepared by ICIEC on "Business Intelligence Center" and requested the Member Countries to provide their feedbacks on the document by July 30th, 2018 and also requested the ICIEC to improve the document with the said observations and submit it to the 34th COMCEC Session.

Required Action(s): The IDB Group is expected to report its activities on trade financing and export credit risk insurance as well as inform the Session on the above mentioned report.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the main challenges faced by the SMEs, of your country in access to trade finance?
- ii) Does your country have specific policies/programs for better utilization of Shariah compliant export credit and investment insurance services by the private sector?
- iii) What can be the benefits of the establishment of a business intelligence center under the IDB to enhance the economic and commercial cooperation among the Member Countries?

- Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

SMIIC, as the affiliated institution of the OIC, aims at enhancing trade among the Member Countries through realizing harmonized standards and eliminating technical barriers. The 33rd Session of the COMCEC welcomed the activities of the SMIIC in the area of standardization, metrology and accreditation and their impact on trade facilitation and capacity building.

The 34th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee invited the Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and

Accreditation Councils. The Committee also expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for hosting and SMIIIC and ICDT for supporting the organization of the World Halal Summit (WHS) in Istanbul on 23-25 November 2017 and called upon the Member Countries to participate in “Istanbul 2018 World Halal Summit” to be held on 29 November - 2 December 2018 under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey.

Required Action(s): SMIIIC will inform the Session on the recent developments regarding the SMIIIC’s trade related activities.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What measures can be taken to enhance the visibility of SMIIIC and its services in the Member States?

AGENDA ITEM 6

Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation

- Private Sector Meetings

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.

The 33rd Session of the COMCEC took note of the efforts of the ICCIA in organizing Forums, Training Program, B2B Meetings, Seminars and Workshops in order to galvanize the role of the Private Sector to expand their network and increase their trading and investment opportunities and encouraged the Chambers of Commerce of the Member States to be actively involved in the ICCIA’s activities.

Moreover, 34th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee took note of the organization of the Training Program on “Technology Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Management of Business Incubation and Technology Parks” on 23-25 April 2018, in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey.

Required Action(s): The ICCIA is expected to inform the Session on the recent developments regarding private sector meetings.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) In addition to ongoing efforts, what other additional steps can be taken for the active involvement of the private sector in the cooperation efforts under the COMCEC?
- ii) How can the effectiveness of ICCIA as the umbrella organization of Islamic chambers be enhanced?

- OIC Arbitration Center

ICCIA and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) have been working towards the establishment of the OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul/Turkey. The 33rd Session of the COMCEC took note of the briefing by the ICCIA and TOBB on setting up of the OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul and welcomed the offer of the TOBB to host a series of task force meetings in 2018 to

finalize technical preparations for the establishment of the Center and requested ICCIA and TOBB to submit a report to the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee and 34th Session of the COMCEC.

The 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee welcomed the organization of the First Task Force Meeting on setting-up of the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul affiliated to ICCIA, by TOBB and ICCIA on 13th April 2018 and requested the ICCIA and TOBB to jointly invite Chambers of Commerce of the Member Countries to the 2nd Task Force Meeting to discuss and finalize the establishment documents of the said OIC Arbitration Center and submit a report on this issue to the 34th COMCEC Session. In this regard, the 2nd Task Force Meeting was held on July 9th, 2018 in İstanbul/Turkey by the ICCIA and TOBB.

Required Action(s): The ICCIA and TOBB are expected to submit a report to the Session on the recent developments towards the establishment of the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul. The Session will consider the issue and take necessary action accordingly.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Improving Transport and Communications

The development of transport and communications among the Member States is given utmost importance by the COMCEC. The 33rd Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation the convening of the 9th and 10th Meetings of the Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) and welcomed the policy recommendations formulated in these meetings.

Since the 33rd Session of the COMCEC, the Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) has held its 11th Meeting on March 15th, 2018 with the theme of “Governance of Transport Corridors in the OIC Member States: Challenges, Cases and Policy Lessons”. The Working Group has come up with a set of policy recommendations. The relevant documents of the 11th Meeting of TCWG are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

Moreover, 12th Meeting of the TCWG was organized on October 11th, 2018 with the theme of “Planning of National Transport Infrastructure in the OIC Member States”. The Working Group has come up with a set of policy recommendations. The relevant documents of the 12th Meeting of TCWG are available on the COMCEC web-site (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

Regarding the multilateral projects financed by the COMCEC Project Funding, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts of Turkey and partner countries for the successful implementation of the project under the third project call in 2016. Moreover, the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee commended the efforts of Cote d’Ivoire and partner countries for the successful implementation of a project in 2017 under the fourth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 11th and 12th Meetings of the TCWG as well as the projects finalized in 2017 and being implemented in 2018 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the WG for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the main challenges faced by your country with respect to the governance of transnational transport corridors?
- ii) What type of governance mechanisms/institutional structures should be developed for improving the transnational transport corridor management in the OIC Region?
- iii) What are the major obstacles faced by your country with regard to the planning of national transport infrastructure?
- iv) What are the ways and means that can be utilized to have an effective national transport infrastructure planning?

AGENDA ITEM 8

Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector

The modern tourism industry requires a well-designed and functioning destination management. Given the importance of the Destination Management, Tourism Working Group (TWG) devoted its three consecutive meetings to this crucial subject.

Since the 33rd Session of the COMCEC, TWG has held its 11th Meeting on February 15th, 2018 with the theme of “Destination Development and Institutionalization Strategies in the OIC Member Countries.” The Tourism Working Group has come up with concrete policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

Moreover, 12th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group was organized on September 13th, 2018 with the theme of “Destination Marketing Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”. The Tourism Working Group has come up with concrete policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

Furthermore, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts of Malaysia and the partner countries as well as the efforts of the Gambia and the partners for the successful implementation of the tourism projects under the third project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2016. Furthermore, the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee commended the efforts of the Mozambique, Sudan, Gambia and SESRIC for the successful implementation of the tourism projects in 2017 under the fourth project call. The Committee also commended the efforts of Burkina Faso, Iran, Mali, Mozambique and SESRIC for the tourism projects to be implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

Regarding the ongoing cooperation activities in this cooperation area;

- The 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) was held on 5-7 February 2018 in Dhaka/Bangladesh. The Ministers approved the selection of Dhaka (Bangladesh) as the OIC City of Tourism for 2019, and Gabala (Azerbaijan) as the OIC City of Tourism for 2020. The session also welcomed the offer by the Republic of Azerbaijan host the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) in 2020.
- The 6th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum was held on 6 March 2018 in İstanbul, Turkey with the theme of “Cultural Heritage as a Tool for Sustainable Tourism in the OIC Member Countries”. The Forum emphasized the importance of raising the awareness about cultural heritage and sustainable tourism within the Islamic World and beyond.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 11th and 12th Meetings of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group and the projects finalized in 2017 and being implemented in 2018 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the 11th and 12th Meetings of Tourism Working Group Meetings for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the policies, initiatives or strategies implemented in your country for improving destination management in tourism sector?
- ii) What are the possible ways to enhance cooperation among the Member Countries on destination marketing?
- iii) What are the ways and means that can be utilized to enhance destination marketing in tourism sector?
- iv) What are the strategies, policies and initiatives implemented in your country for destination governance in tourism sector?

AGENDA ITEM 9

Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security

Agriculture is one of the important cooperation areas of the COMCEC since many OIC Member Countries are at developing stages and their economies strongly depend on agriculture sector. Within this perspective, the 11th Meeting of the AWG was held on February 22nd, 2018 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving Agricultural Market Performance: Developing Agricultural Market Information Systems”. The research report on the theme of the meeting was considered by the AWG. As the outcome of the meeting, the WG has come up with concrete policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

The 12th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on September 20th, 2018 with the theme of “Analysis of Agri-Food Trade Structures to Promote Agri-Food Trade Networks among the OIC Member Countries”. As the outcome of the meeting, the WG has come up with concrete policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

Within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts of Iran, Palestine and Turkey for the successful implementation of the agriculture projects under the third project call in 2016. The 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee also commended the efforts of the Gambia and Indonesia for the successful implementation of the two agriculture projects in 2017 under the fourth project call. The Committee also commended the efforts of Indonesia and Turkey for the two projects to be implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

The Committee welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 8th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in the last quarter of 2019 in Istanbul.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 11th and 12th Meetings of the Agriculture Working Group and the projects finalized in 2017 and being implemented in 2018 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the Agriculture Working Group Meetings for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) Does your country have a well-functioning Market Information System (MIS)? What are the challenges faced by your country in this respect?
- ii) How Agri-Food Trade Networks among the OIC Member Countries can be enhanced?

AGENDA ITEM 10
Alleviating Poverty

Poverty alleviation is occupying an important place in the COMCEC agenda. In line with the relevant resolution of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC, the 11th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on April 5th, 2018 in Ankara with the theme of “Quality of Education in the OIC Member Countries”. Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, best practices, challenges and policy implementations on education quality from poverty perspective. The Working Group has come up with some policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

The 12th Meeting of the PAWG was held on October 4th, 2018 with the theme of “Skills Development in the OIC Member Countries: Vocational Education”. The research report on the theme of the meeting was considered by the PAWG. The Working Group has come up with some policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org).

Regarding the COMCEC funded projects in the area of poverty alleviation, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts of Indonesia and the partner countries for the successful implementation of one project under the third project call in 2016. Moreover, the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee commended the efforts of Albania, the Gambia, Indonesia and Suriname for the successful implementation of the four projects in 2017 under the fourth project call. The Committee also commended the efforts of the Gambia and Indonesia for the two projects to be implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 11th and 12th Meetings of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group and the projects finalized in 2017 and being implemented in 2018 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will consider the policy recommendations of the WG for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) What are the main factors that determine the quality of education in your country?
- ii) What are the efforts to increase quality of education and what are the critical success factors?
- iii) What are the main factors that determine the performance of vocational education in your country?
- iv) What are the efforts/policies and the instruments utilized to improve the performance of vocational education system and practices?

Moreover, the ongoing cooperation efforts in the area of poverty alleviation have been carried out under the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA), Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA)**

The ISFD is a special fund established with the purpose of reducing poverty in the OIC Member Countries through providing financial support to enhance the productive capacity and sustainable means of income for the poor. The SPDA is another Special Program developed to alleviate poverty in the Member States in Africa with a view to enhancing agricultural production and creating employment opportunities.

The 33rd Session of the COMCEC reiterated its request to the Member Countries, which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and to consider making additional commitments on a voluntary basis. The Session also requested the Member Countries who have not yet pledged to the ISFD to do so in order to enable the Fund to undertake more developmental projects in the member countries.

The 34th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee requested the ISFD to increase its efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including the private sector in the Member States.

Required Action(s): The IDB Group is expected to submit a report on the implementation of the ISFD and SPDA to the Session.

OIC-VET Program

SESRIC initiated Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) in 2009 in order to enhance the quality of vocational education and training in the Member Countries. SESRIC reports the developments regarding the implementation of the OIC-VET to the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings and the COMCEC Sessions.

The 33rd Session of the COMCEC appreciated the efforts of SESRIC towards initiating and implementing various vocational capacity building programmes and training courses in different fields.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to inform the Session of the progress in the implementation of the OIC-VET Program.

- **Implementation of SDGs**

Following the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was announced at the UN Special Summit in September 2015, bringing a new perspective with new goals and targets to be achieved by 2030.

Taking note with appreciation of the report presented by SESRIC on Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of the OIC Member Countries, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC invited the Member States, who have not done so yet, to complete the “Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries”. The Session also requested SESRIC to submit a report on the results of the survey to the 34th Follow-up Committee Meeting and 34th COMCEC Session. Accordingly, the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee took note of the results of the above-mentioned Tendency Survey and invited the Member Countries, that have not done so yet, to complete the survey; and requested SESRIC to submit an updated report on the results of the survey to the 34th Session of the COMCEC; and further

requested the OIC institutions to plan and conduct activities based on the priority SDGs as indicated in the aforementioned Report.

In addition, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC took note of the list of SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC Institutions compiled by the COMCEC Coordination Office and called upon the Member States and relevant OIC Institutions to closely follow up and participate in these activities. Moreover, the Session requested the CCO to continue compiling the SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC Institutions and submit the list to the annual COMCEC Sessions.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to submit a report on the results of the tendency survey to the Session. The COMCEC Coordination Office is also expected to submit a report on the OIC Institutions' activities related to the implementation of the SDGs in the member countries.

AGENDA ITEM 11

Deepening Financial Cooperation

Financial cooperation, which has a significant place on the COMCEC agenda, is of particular importance for contributing financial stability and economic growth of the Member Countries. In this regard, the Financial Cooperation Working Group (FCWG) provides a regular platform for deepening the cooperation among the Member Countries in this field.

Within this perspective, in accordance with the relevant resolution of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC, the 10th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group was held on March 29th, 2018 with the theme of "The Role of Sukuk in Islamic Capital Markets." The Financial Cooperation Working Group has come up with concrete policy recommendations. All the relevant publications and presentations are available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org and ebook.comcec.org). The 34th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee took note with appreciation of the convening of the Meeting and welcomed its policy recommendations.

Moreover, the 11th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group will be held on October 25th, 2018 with the theme of "Islamic Fund Management".

Regarding the COMCEC funded projects in the area of financial cooperation, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts of Gambia and the partner countries for the successful implementation of one project under the third project call in 2016. Moreover, the 34th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee commended the efforts of Nigeria and Turkey for the two projects to be implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 10th Meeting and 11th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group and the projects finalized in 2017 and being implemented in 2018 under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Session will also consider the policy recommendations of the Financial Cooperation Working Group for necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) Does Your Esteemed Country have a legal and regulatory framework to promote the development of Islamic financial infrastructure?
- ii) Is there enough awareness among key market stakeholders about Islamic fund management in Your Esteemed Country?

- iii) What are the main challenges for sukuk issuance in Your Esteemed Country? What can be done for improving/strengthening sukuk market in the OIC member countries?
- iv) What is the level of development of the Islamic fund management in Your Esteemed Country?

Furthermore, other ongoing activities in the area of finance have been carried out under the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum, COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum and Meetings of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities.

- OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum

The OIC Member States Stock Exchanges Forum has been continuing its efforts for enhancing cooperation among the relevant authorities of the Member Countries towards the harmonization of the rules and regulations governing market operations. In this regard, the Forum has conducted 12 meetings so far. Since its establishment, the Forum has also developed some important projects including S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index. The 12th Meeting of the Forum was organized on September 11th, 2018 in İstanbul . The information about the efforts of the Forum is available on the Forum website (<http://www.oicexchanges.org/>).

Regarding the efforts towards the establishment of a gold exchange/platform among the OIC Member Countries, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC took note of the report of the 11th Meeting of the OIC Member States' Stock Exchange Forum on the various options towards the realization of the highly adaptable web-based gold trading and clearing platform with the ultimate aim of establishing a gold exchange/platform among the volunteering member countries and requested the Forum's Secretariat to finalize the necessary work and report the progress to the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee and 34th COMCEC Session. In accordance with this resolution, the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee took note of the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum on the efforts, including utilizing the newly developed trading and storage infrastructure of Borsa İstanbul, towards establishing a highly adaptable web-based gold trading and clearing platform with the ultimate aim of a gold exchange among the volunteering Member Countries and requested the Forum's Secretariat to finalize the necessary technical work and report the progress to the 34th COMCEC Session.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, Borsa İstanbul is expected to inform the Session of the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum as well as to submit a comprehensive report on the above-mentioned gold exchange/platform. The Session will discuss the issue and take necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) Is there enough awareness about the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index in Your Esteemed Country? What can be further done for the promotion of the Index?
- ii) Is there enough awareness about the Gold exchange Initiative in Your Esteemed Country? How can this project be promoted in the Member Countries?

- COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum

The COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum formed in 2011 has been continuing its efforts for developing cooperation among the capital markets regulatory bodies of the Member States. The Forum has held six meetings till now. The 6th Meeting of the Forum was organized on October 31st

2017 in Turkey. Detailed information about the endeavors of the Forum is available on the Forum website (<http://www.oicexchanges.org/>).

The Forum also continues its efforts towards the establishment of COMCEC Real Estate Exchange among the Member Countries. In this regard, the 33rd Session of the COMCEC requested the Forum/the Forum's Secretariat to finalize necessary legal, administrative and technological preparations for the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform before the 34th Session of the COMCEC and submit an interim report to the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the progress achieved.

Recalling the relevant resolution of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC, 34th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meeting took note of the briefing by the Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum on the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange among the interested OIC Member States and requested the Forum/the Forum's Secretariat to finalize necessary legal, administrative and technological preparations for the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate exchange/electronic platform before the 34th Session of the COMCEC. Furthermore, the interested member states were called upon by the Committee to actively participate in the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform and invited to identify their authorized bodies and notify them to the Forum's Secretariat by July 2nd, 2018.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, Capital Markets Board of Turkey is expected to brief the Session on the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum as well as the efforts towards the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate Exchange. The Session will discuss the issue and take necessary action.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) Is there enough awareness about the Real Estate Exchange initiative and what can be done for further promotion of this project in the member countries?
- ii) What are the challenges and obstacles in your country for improving Islamic capital market?

- **Meetings of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities**

The Meetings of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities bring together the relevant authorities of the Member Countries annually for sharing experiences and enhancing institutional as well as human capacity in this field. 16th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States will be held on 23-25 September 2018 in Antalya/Turkey.

The 33rd Session of the COMCEC commended the training and capacity building programs organized by the SESRIC among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States in different aspects of cooperation and requested the SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the relevant institutions of the Member States.

Required Action(s): The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey is expected to brief the Session on the outcomes of the 16th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States. Moreover, SESRIC is expected to brief the Session on the recent developments regarding capacity building programs in this area.

Questions for Discussion:

- i) How can the cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities be enhanced?
- ii) What are your country experiences in enhancing the institutional and human capacity of the Central Banks/Monetary Authorities?

AGENDA ITEM 12
Exchange of Views on

“Facilitating Trade: Improving Customs Risk Management Systems in the OIC Member States”

Exchange of views sessions are held regularly at the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. The 33rd Session of the COMCEC decided the theme of the Ministerial Exchange of Views of the next COMCEC Session as “Facilitating Trade: Improving Customs Risk Management Systems in the OIC Member States” and requested the COMCEC Trade Working Group, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 34th COMCEC Session.

In line with the above-mentioned resolution, the 11th Meeting of the Trade Working Group deliberated on the preparations for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 34th Session of the COMCEC and came up with some policy recommendations to be submitted to the said Session. The draft policy recommendations are available at COMCEC website: <http://www.comcec.org>.

Furthermore, the 34th Follow-up Committee Meeting encouraged the Member States to prepare their country reports on the mentioned theme and convey them electronically to the CCO by October 15th, 2018 at the latest.

Required Action(s): CCO will inform the Session regarding the preparations for the exchange of views session including the recommendations of the Working Group which will be submitted to Ministerial Exchange of Views Session for consideration. The Session will consider the recommendations and take necessary action.

Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 35th Session of the COMCEC

During its 34th Meeting, the Follow-up Committee discussed on the possible themes and took note of the following themes for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 35th Session of the COMCEC:

- Theme 1: Facilitating Trade: Public Availability of Customs Information in Islamic Countries
- Theme 2: Improving Takaful Sector in Islamic Countries
- Theme 3: Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries
- Theme 4: Multi-Destination Tourism Corridors in Islamic Countries
- Theme 5: Improving Health Services for Poverty Alleviation in Islamic Countries
- Theme 6: Improving the Implementation of PPPs in Transport Infrastructure in Islamic Countries

The 34th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee requested the COMCEC Coordination Office to circulate a questionnaire among the Member States to explore their views on the above-mentioned themes and any other views and report the outcome to the 34th Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office is expected to present the results of the questionnaire on the theme of exchange of views session of the 35th Session of the COMCEC. The 34th Session of the COMCEC will decide on the theme of the next year's ministerial exchange of views session.

AGENDA ITEM 13
Date of the 35th Session of the COMCEC

The Session will decide on the dates of the 35th Session of the COMCEC and the 35th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee. Annual sessions of the COMCEC are generally held in November and the Follow-up Committee meetings are usually held in May.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office will propose specific dates for the 35th Session of the COMCEC and the 35th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee. The Session will decide on the dates of the said meetings.