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REPORT
OF
THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT
TO
THE 34TH SESSION OF STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC (COMCEC)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The report of the Secretary General features the most recent actions by the General Secretariat and institutions working in the economic domain, since the convening of the 33rd COMCEC General Assembly session held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 20-23 November 2017. These actions are aimed at following up the implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, the relevant resolutions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, COMCEC and other decision-making bodies of the OIC.
2. The period of this report witnessed continuation of the ongoing OIC efforts towards: elaboration of OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy (IDRIP), and an intra-OIC cooperation framework on the development of strategic agricultural commodities, as well as convening of two OIC Ministerial Conferences on tourism, and labour and employment. The report also highlights other activities implemented during the year under review with regard to agricultural development and food security; promotion of intra-OIC trade and investment; development of Private sector; execution of OIC poverty alleviations initiatives and regional development programmes; and economic assistance to the needy OIC member states, among others.
3. The report would also show-case activities aimed at attaining the new intra-OIC target of 25% in 2025, including the objective of establishing a trade-free zone, in the wake of the anticipated implementation of the Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC). Other programmes elaborated and implemented during the year under review are in the domain of industrialization, transport sector cooperation, energy, tourism, labour, employment and social protection, the role of the Private Sector, entrepreneurship and financial sector development.

II. AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

4. Intra-OIC cooperation in the agricultural sector has always centered on the activities of the newly established specialized institution, the Islamic Organization for Food Security, the implementation of the outcome of the OIC ministerial conferences on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security, and the dedicated programmes for development of strategic commodities.

(a) Islamic Organization for Food Security

5. During the period under review, the General Secretariat, in collaboration with Director General of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), has continued to deploy efforts towards the take-off of the Secretariat of the IOFS in Astana, Kazakhstan with a view to commencing the execution of IOFS 5-Year Plan of Action in a timely manner. Following the ratification of the Headquarters Agreement between IOFS and the Government of Kazakhstan by the Parliament of Kazakhstan in November 2017, the Secretariat of IOFS has started its operations on 1 March 2018.

6. With regard to signing and ratification of the IOFS Statute, the General Secretariat has continued to sensitize the OIC member states on the need to accede to the Statute. In this regard, it is encouraging to note that the Statute of IOFS entered into force definitively on 19 February 2018 upon its ratification by ten (10) member states. In addition, during the year under review, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have also ratified the Statute and deposited the instruments of ratification at the OIC General Secretariat, respectively. In view of this development, the number of OIC member states, which have signed the IOFS Statute, presently stands at 32, while 12 countries have so far ratified the same.
7. Following the entry into force of the IOFS Statute, the second session of IOFS General Assembly is scheduled to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 10-11 December 2018. The General Assembly will consider issues relating to general and financial policies, work programme and organizational structure of IOFS. It also will reconstitute the membership of IOFS Executive Board in view of the entry into force of the IOFS Statute. The General Assembly will further consider the developing and executing cooperation projects on food security as well as full implementation of the IOFS 5-Year Plan of Action approved by the Inaugural General Assembly in 2016.
8. Notwithstanding the growing interest, which accession to IOFS has generated among OIC member states since its establishment, the General Secretariat renews its request to other OIC member states to conclude all necessary arrangements to accede to the Statute of IOFS at their earliest convenience.

(b) Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development

9. The Government of the Republic of Turkey has graciously offered to host the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCFSAD) in Istanbul, Turkey in the last quarter of 2019. To this end, the General Secretariat is presently working with the relevant authorities in Turkey on fixing of the dates as well as preparing documents of the Conference, including necessary logistical arrangements.
10. It is expected that the 8th MCFSAD will consider the implementation of resolutions of the previous Conferences, including the activities of IOFS, and financing of projects in the domain of agriculture and food security in OIC member states. It will also consider the OIC Programme of Action for Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities (wheat, rice, and cassava), which will outline the main objectives and focus areas of intra-OIC-cooperation. In addition, the 8th MCFSAD will appoint members of the Steering Committee of the MCFSAD, which will be established by the Conference for the purpose of following-up of implementation of the OIC resolutions in the domain of agriculture and food security.

(c) OIC Programmes of Action for Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities

11. The OIC countries occupy 29% of the world agricultural land area and 31 of them from different climatic regions rank among the top 20 producers of major agricultural

commodities worldwide. These commodities vary from cereals such as wheat, rice and maize to tropical zone commodities such as cocoa, cassava, coffee, rubber and sugar.

12. Notwithstanding OIC countries vulnerability to external shocks partly due to the dependency on the export of raw commodities is a continuous cause of worry. It is in this regard that 43rd Session of CFM, which was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in October 2016, called for continued actions on enhancing intra-OIC trade through additional initiatives on trade promotion, trade financing and development of strategic commodities, among others.
13. Pursuant to CFM resolution, the General Secretariat requested OIC member states to provide their respective inputs to the proposed OIC programmes of action for development of strategic agricultural commodities such as wheat, rice and cassava. So far, only 4 OIC member states have provided their inputs.
14. The proposed programmes, though still at a development stage, lay out a vision for commodity-led industrialization. They will seek to enable OIC countries, which are top producers of these commodities, to add value, extract higher rents from their commodities, integrate into the global value chains, and promote value addition, among others. Accordingly, the draft Programmes of Action will be submitted to the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in Turkey in the last quarter of 2019 for review and validation.
15. In view of the foregoing, OIC member states, which have not done so, are hereby implored to send their inputs to OIC Programme Action for Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities.

(d) Financing of Agricultural Projects by IDB

16. Considering the crucial importance of agriculture sector to socio-economic development of OIC member states, the IDB has consistently put agriculture at the forefront of its activities and has been engaged in various initiatives to improve this sector. Accordingly, during 2017, the IDB approved US\$720million for financing 46 projects in the agriculture sector. As of the end of 2017, the cumulative agriculture sector portfolio of IDB, since its inception, stood at US\$ 9.4 billion for 866 projects. In terms of regional focus, OIC countries in North Africa were the largest beneficiaries, followed by OIC Asian countries, with OIC West African in third position in terms of amount of financing.

III. EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY

17. The overall objective of intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of labour, employment and social protection is to build better quality of life, promote productive employment, and create adequate social protection for OIC peoples through enhancing workforce competitiveness, creating a harmonious and progressive workplace, and promotion of

decent work for all. Accordingly, this section highlights the various activities that have been undertaken by OIC and its relevant institutions as well as some member.

18. The focus of the General Secretariat in the implementation of the resolutions of Labour, Employment and Productivity has, during the reporting year, been on the implementation of the matrix of activities approved by CFM, following the recommendation of the relevant sectoral ministerial conferences.

(a) *4th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers*

19. The 4th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers was held on 21-22 February 2018 at the Conference Palace in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The 4th ICLM considered and adopted the three legal frameworks to harmonize standards and practices on labour matters among OIC member states, namely: i) Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Skills; ii) Bilateral Agreement on Exchange of Workforce; and iii) OIC Labour Market Strategy, which will further boost collective efforts of OIC member states to prepare the OIC labour force to face the challenges of globalization and trade liberalization.
20. The 4th ICLM also received presentations on OIC Labour Market Report 2017, activities within the frameworks of OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET), and execution of IDB's Youth Employment Support (YES) Programme. The Conference further welcomed the offer of the United Arab Emirates to host 5th ICLM in 2020. In this regard, the member states and relevant institutions of OIC have been encouraged to take necessary measures to implement the above mentioned cooperation frameworks.

(b) *Accession to the Statute of OIC Labour Centre*

21. The 43rd and 44th Sessions of CFM called on OIC member states to sign and ratify the Statute of OIC Labour Centre in order to facilitate its timely operationalisation. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that during the period under review, the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Azerbaijan signed the Statute of OIC Labour Centre.
22. In view of the foregoing, it should be noted that the Statute of OIC Labour Centre provides that it shall be applied provisionally upon signing by at least ten OIC member states and definitively enter into force when ten member states submit their instruments of ratification.
23. Against this background, the General Secretariat hereby renews its earlier request to other OIC member states to conclude all necessary arrangements to accede to the Statute of OIC Labour Centre at their earliest convenience.

IV. INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT

24. Intra-OIC trade activities feature cooperation actions and interventions in the area of trade promotion, financing and facilitation, and export credit insurances. Other areas of activity include halal sector development, investment promotion and capacity building programmes, OIC South-South cooperation, including outcome of the various consultations and coordination with regional and international partners.

(a) Recent Outlook of Intra-OIC Trade

25. According to ICDT data, intra-OIC net trade volume reached US\$ 322.2 billion in 2017 compared to US\$ 278.2 billion in 2016, due to the fluctuation of commodities prices including oil, mining and food products. Besides, the share of intra-OIC Trade in the overall foreign trade of Member States increased by 6 % from 18.7% in 2016 to 19.8% in 2017.
26. The main intra-OIC trading countries in 2017 were: UAE, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Egypt, Pakistan, Oman and Iraq. These countries registered 74.6% of the intra-OIC trade for a total of US\$ 481 billion.
27. In 2017, about 28 countries reached the 25% target of intra-OIC trade target set up in the OIC-2025: Programme of Action. These countries are: Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, The Gambia, Togo, Mali, Tajikistan, Djibouti, Jordan, Bahrain, Lebanon, Senegal, Oman, Sierra Leone, Egypt, UAE, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Benin, Comoros, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Chad.
28. As for world trade of OIC countries as a group, the share of OIC countries decreased from US\$ 4.2 trillion in 2014 to US\$3.2 trillion in 2017, i.e. a 22% decline. This was a result of fluctuating commodity prices, the existence of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment and the fragile environment of the global economy and trade. The trade share of the OIC countries accounted for 11% in 2014 against 9.4% of world trade in 2017, i.e. a 14.4% decline.

(b) Trade Promotion

29. During the period under review, the OIC, through its relevant institutions, organized the following specialized exhibitions, aimed at promoting trade exchanges and increasing access to goods and products from OIC member states:
- *The 5th Exhibition of the OIC Halal Expo was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 23-25 November 2017.* This Exhibition witnessed the nearly 30,000 visitors, over 150 firms, and 250 international B2B delegations.
 - *Exceptional Edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States was held Kuwait City, State of Kuwait, on 6-10 February 2018.* In line with the resolution of the 44th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the State of Kuwait and the

Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) have organized an exceptional edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in Kuwait City on 6 to 10 February 2018. The Fair was held over an area of 7,000 square meters and registered the participation of about 300 companies from different sectors (agri-business, Furniture, handicrafts, Innovation, halal and cosmetics, Building,) and 3,000 Businessmen from the 24 OIC Member States seeking for business opportunities and partnership.

- 2nd Exhibition on Furniture and Decoration of the OIC Member States was held Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 13-16 March 2018. The aim of the Exhibition was to promote the intra-OIC trade in furniture and decoration activities. About 22 private sector entities from the OIC Countries participated at the Exhibition.
- 11th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries in the OIC Members States was held Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 20-23 March 2018 for promoting trade among participating OIC Member States in the agribusiness sector.

(c) Trade Financing and Export Credit Insurances

30. The steady increase in trade financing interventions by the relevant OIC organs has contributed greatly to stimulating productivity and appreciable growth among the beneficiary enterprises of the OIC member states. The major preoccupation is to put in place a robust modality for ensuring access of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to trade financing, particularly in the various sub-regions of the Organization.
31. In 2017, ITFC approved 51 projects in 20 countries. Out of the total approvals, 31% was for Least Developed Countries and 56% for facilitating trade between member states. ITFC's trade finance approvals and disbursements reached US\$ 4.8 billion and US\$ 3.2 billion, respectively. Breakdown of the approvals by region was as follows: Asia US\$ 2.4 billion (50% of total approvals), MENA US\$ 1.6 billion (33% of total approvals), and Sub Saharan Africa US\$ 826 million (17% of total approvals).
32. As for sectoral distribution in 2017, energy financing represented 69% of total approvals, amounting US\$ 3.3 billion. The bulk of the energy-related financing went to countries in Asia and MENA, followed by countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. ITFC's approval in the agriculture sector amounted to US\$374 million. The bulk of the financing was to support key export commodities such as cotton, groundnuts, wheat, and sugar. Agriculture accounts for the largest share of ITFC's trade financing portfolio for Sub-Saharan Africa.
33. In 2017, ITFC has continued to exert efforts for the implementation of its trade development flagship programs, which included Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS), which was completed by 31 December 2017. In this regard, an independent evaluation of AfTIAS Programme is being planned for the next year. ITFC also carried out other capacity building initiatives in international trade and marketing such as Youth Training and Employment for International Trade in Egypt, and The International Trade Capacity Building and Market Access Support Program in Senegal.

34. In addition, ITFC, in cooperation with the Coordination Group, designed a program that aims to increase the volume of trade exchange between the Arab and Africa regions, under the name “Arab Africa Trade Bridge (AATB) Programme”. This Program has designed a 3 year-Action Plan that includes a series of activities and projects in the Arab and African countries to highlight the trade opportunities and the increase of trade exchanges between the two regions. The Launching Forum of the Arab African Trade Bridges Programme was organized in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 22-23 February 2017.
35. Within the framework of the AATB Programme implementation, the B2B on Pharmaceutical Products was organized in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire on 2-3 November 2017, which featured the participation of more than 70 African and Arab companies and entities. The total value of the negotiated deals was estimated at US\$ 80 million. Similarly, under the AATB, a Forum on “Financing Arab – African Trade” was organized in Dubai, UAE on 21 December 2017.
36. On its part, ICIEC has recorded a solid growth of its insured business. During 2017, ICIEC aggregate business insured exceeded US\$ 7 billion, and a gross premium of US\$ 38 million. The Corporation’s 3-year business plan estimates that by 2020, ICIEC, together with its strategic partners, would cross US\$ 10 billion mark of insured business, generating a premium of over US\$ 53 million.
37. ICIEC has successfully maintained high asset quality portfolio to support its Aa3 credit rating that is a key element of Moody’s credit rating assessment of ICIEC is the examination and monitoring of asset quality and risk within the investment portfolio.

(d) Trade Facilitation

38. The General Secretariat has continued to sensitize member states on the need to give effect to the various OIC multilateral trade instruments in force. Although the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) on TPS-OIC could not convene during the period of this report, the status of signing and ratification of OIC economic agreements, including TPS-OIC is annexed to this Report (*Annex-I*).
39. The following 14 OIC member states: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Turkey, Malaysia, Syria, Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan and Jordan have sent to the TNC Secretariat the List of Products for tariff concessions under the TPS/OIC. Moreover, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Morocco and Turkey notified to the TNC Secretariat their internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS/OIC Rules of Origin.
40. The TNC Secretariat requested the concerned member states to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience. The Committee welcomed the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan and Iran.

41. It is, therefore, appropriate to renew invitation to member states, which are yet to complete the signing, and ratification processes of OIC economic agreements to endeavour to do so at their earliest convenience. In the same vein, member states who have signed and ratified the TPS-OIC may wish to forward the required documents, in line with the relevant provisions of CFM and COMCEC resolutions. This includes the submission of their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of products (schedules of concessions), sample of certificates and specimen impression of stamps used in their customs and to complete internal legislative, and administrative measures.

(e) Investment Promotion

42. The High Level OIC Expert Meeting on “Investment Obstacles in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities” was held on 24-25 January 2018 in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco. The Meeting was organized by ICDT in partnership with the Investment Division of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The main objectives of this Meeting were to share international, regional and national perspectives on main obstacles, to propose better solutions to Investment in Africa in one hand and on the other hand to prepare the draft Conference Declaration and the draft OIC Investment Guidelines that will be presented for the consideration of the OIC Africa Investment Conference, scheduled to hold in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d’Ivoire in 2018. The General Secretariat has distributed the said two documents among the Member States for their inputs.
43. The following key recommendations were adopted by the Meeting to address Investment Obstacles in Africa:
- i. Encourage OIC Member States to accede to and complete the ratification process of Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among Member States of the OIC;
 - ii. Establishing an OIC Dispute Settlement Body in accordance with Article 17 of OIC Investment Agreement;
 - iii. Establishing a joint mechanism between the OIC General Secretariat and the Islamic Development Bank and all relevant partners to oversee the implementation and modernizing the agreement;
 - iv. Establishing an OIC Portal and Database on foreign Direct Investment;
 - v. Create Investment Promotion Agencies (in one Stop Shop format);
 - vi. Review national IIA regimes and be an active partner in the ongoing IIAs debate both at the regional and international levels.

(f) Business Forums

44. The Business Forum of the Agadir Agreement and West African OIC Member States was held in Casablanca, Morocco, on 10-11 May 2018. The forum was organized by the ICDT,

ITFC and Agadir Agreement Technical Unit (ATU) under the Arab-African Trade Bridge Program. The Business Forum aimed to enhance trade and investment flows between Agadir Agreement Member States (Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan) and West African OIC Member Countries. The 16 OIC Member States namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Jordan, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Palestine, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Tunisia as well as the relevant OIC institutions (ICDT, ITFC and ICCIA) and other international organization attended the Forum. The Recommendations of the Forum were distributed among the Member States of the OIC.

(g) Second OIC Regional Investment Forum

45. The General Secretariat of the OIC in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Tunisia and the relevant OIC institutions, will organize a Second OIC Regional Investment Forum in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia in March 2019. This Forum is taking place in accordance with the 43rd CFM Resolution held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016.
46. The objective of the Forum is to attract more foreign direct investments to the OIC regions and provide guidance and practical examples for ways in which intra-OIC investment flows can be promoted towards achieving socio-economic development goals of the countries in the region. The Forum will also provide a platform for policy makers and respective business communities at national and regional levels to meet and exchange knowledge, and articulate commitments to improve the investment climate in the region. The Concept Note on the Forum was distributed among the Member States in September 2018.

(h) Halal Sector Development

47. The World Halal Summit (WHS) was held on 23-25 November 2017 with the participation of the Standardization, Accreditation, Certification bodies and private sector representatives from 45 OIC member states as well as 27 non-OIC countries. The Halal Summit was organized by the Republic of Turkey in cooperation with the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC).
48. The aim of the Summit was to showcase the activities in Halal sector and to develop partnership with public and private organizations as well as NGOs within and outside OIC. Within the framework of five Working Sessions, participants discussed various aspects of Halal production, standardization, Islamic jurisdiction, country experiences, accreditation and certification and the role of SMIIC and International Islamic Fiqh Academy. Speakers at the Summit emphasized on the following opportunities to further develop of Halal industry, including, among others: (a) global promotional campaigns in order to increase halal awareness; (b) modalities for increasing Halal market share; (c) a more focused scientific research on the benefits of Halal foods; (d) providing accurate and well-researched market data; and (e) support of innovative projects in halal industry.

(i) Capacity Building Program on Islamic Microfinance

49. The SESRIC, in cooperation with the State of Palestine, organized a Training Course on Islamic Microfinance in Ramallah, Palestine, on 8-9 January 2018. The training course was provided for the benefit of 22 experts from Palestine and covered the applications of the Islamic microfinance, its products and mechanisms, its different models and deposit management, as well as the micro takaful (Islamic Micro Insurance) and risk mitigation.

V. TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

50. The 44th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), commended the celebration of the City of Tourism Award, and encouraged OIC member states to actively participate in the commemorative programmes to be undertaken in their respective countries. While urging all member states to organize annual events on Islamic tourism in order to promote intra-OIC tourist flow, CFM encouraged private sector entities of the member states to promote intra-OIC tourism by actively participating in the Third OIC Tourism Fair, to be held in Cairo, Egypt in 2018.

(a) Commemoration of Madinah Al Munawwarah as OIC City of Tourism Award 2017

51. In line with the 9th ICTM Resolution, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia organized the launching Ceremony of Madinah as OIC City of Tourism 2017, in Madinah on 18 February 2017. The launching was performed by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the President of Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage. The occasion was also attended by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz, the Governor of Al-Madinah. Also in attendance were the Minister of Tourism of Sudan, Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives of OIC member states, among other dignitaries.
52. The audience also received the speech of His Excellency, Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimen, the OIC Secretary-General, wherein he congratulated the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the Government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on this well-deserved award to the City of Al-Madinah and expressed his hopes that the various programmes and activities lined up for the celebration of the OIC City of Tourism in 2017 would boost the potential of Madinah Al-Munawwarah as a regional hub for heritage and eco-tourism, considering its peculiar ecological attractions, historical landmarks and opportunities for desert safari, among others.
53. In addition to the impressive choreographic dances and historical displays on the ancient city of Al-Madinah, the authorities unveiled several other programmes and activities lined up for the celebration of the award during the year. These include: Festivals of Tourism and Heritage of Al-Madinah, the Ansar Village Programme for Youth and Sports, the Madinah Festival of Fireworks, Interactive Family Entertainment Programme, the Origin of Culture and Technology, Al-Mubarakah Exhibitions and Economic Development Fair. Other programmes and activities include: Madinah Arts Gallery, Choir Competition,

Women Handicrafts Exhibition and Students Programmes by both Universities of Al-Madinah and Taibah as well as Women Cultural Shows.

54. The Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage have created a web site on Madinah as OIC City of Tourism (<http://madinah2017.com/?lang=en>), which published all the commemorative activities during the year.

(b) Commemoration of Tabriz as OIC City of Tourism Award 2018

55. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has organized an official Launching Ceremony on Commemoration of Tabriz, as OIC City of Tourism for 2018, in Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran on 25 April 2018. The delegates from Member States, diplomatic Missions and guests attended the Ceremony. Numerous cultural and artistic events as well as street festivals are underway across Tabriz in celebration of the occasion. The city has also offered special discounts on hotels, museums, historic sites and handicrafts for visitors.

(c) 10th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers

56. The 10th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers was held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-7 February 2018. The Conference adopted the Dhaka Declaration and Resolution on Tourism Development in the OIC member states. The Conference also selected Dhaka (Bangladesh) and Gabala (Azerbaijan) for OIC City of Tourism Award for 2019 and 2020 respectively. The 10th ICTM further reviewed and adopted the Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism and the Study on Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market.

(d) Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States

57. The "Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States", which was adopted at the 10th ICTM, provides a systematic approach to promote cooperation among the member states in this area for development and specifies the needed resources for anticipated changes. It outlines a guideline for the future development of Islamic tourism in OIC member states via Islamic tourism standards and quality control drafts in management, operations and implementation.
58. The Strategic Roadmap also sets a stage for cooperation among OIC member states, OIC Institutions and relevant international organizations in the field of Islamic tourism. The document identifies five key specific thematic areas of cooperation in the domain of Islamic tourism, namely data and monitoring, policy and regulation development, marketing and promotion, destination and industry development, and capacity development in order to enhance cooperation at intra-OIC level as well as to improve Islamic tourism ecosystem in OIC member states.

(e) Study on Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market

59. A Study on Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market has been prepared by ICDT and has been shared with member states, which have already provided their respective inputs. The study starts with the analysis of the concept of Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) and its various components. It discusses the opportunities and challenges in developing and marketing MFT.
60. This rapid growing new trend of demand for Halal products is due to changes in the social and economic conditions of predominantly Muslim nations, thereby requiring an Islamic Marketing and Branding to regulate the operations of all stakeholders in the Islamic tourism market. There are several other recommendations in the Study related to areas covering directly the MFT. Their implementation will also allow OIC member states to better position themselves in the MFT market and gain a higher share of the Muslim visitors' arrivals.

(f) OIC Award of Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts

61. In line with the Mechanism and Criteria for the Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts, IRCICA has prepared a programme for the implementation of the said OIC Award in coordination with the member states and OIC General Secretariat. This award aims at stimulating an innovation by encouraging artisans for more creativity, while drawing attention of craftsmen to their important role in preserving crafts and heritage.
62. Within the spirit of the said OIC Award, IRCICA and Tabriz University for Islamic Arts jointly organized the Tabriz International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts, which was worth US\$80,000 in total. Winners of the award have been chosen in ten categories from the participants of the Tabriz International Festival of Arts, Crafts and Creativity, which took place in Tabriz, Iran on 4-12 May 2017. The Festival was attended by artisans from OIC member states and non-OIC countries (31 countries). The Jury Committee members assessed and examined the following characteristics in the presented craft products: Excellence, Creative Concept Design and Invention in Traditional Technique. During the assessment and evaluation process of the submitted works, the Jury took into account all the characteristics and technical features of each product, and special attention was given to products which came in accordance with the terms and conditions of the award.

(g) Tourism related capacity building programmes

63. The Training Seminar on "Development of Halal Tourism" was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 23-25 October 2017. The Seminar was organized by SESRIC and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The aim of the Seminar is to gain and growth theoretical and practical knowledge of the Member States and increase institutional capacity as well as to increase awareness of Islamic/Halal Tourism market among the travel industry stakeholders through standardizing terminology used in Islamic/Halal tourism,

introducing customer service training programmes and utilizing social media for promotion and marketing.

64. In line with the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism, the SESRIC implemented a project on Islamic Tourism under the theme “Improving Islamic Tourism Ecosystem in OIC Member Countries: Destination and Industry Development”. The programme took place in the historical city of Malatya, Turkey on 09-12 July 2018. The project included two days training course and two days study visits. The main objective of the programme was to provide participants with an exceptional opportunity to learn how to develop a sound Islamic tourism destination and industry in their countries.

VI. COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF TRANSPORT

65. Promoting transport connectivity among OIC member states has become one of top development priorities for the Organization and its member states. This part of the report summarizes the recent developments and planned OIC activities in this important sector.

(a) Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers

66. As it was reported to 33rd Session of COMCEC, the Government of the Republic of Sudan has graciously offered to host the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers in Khartoum, Sudan on 17-19 December 2017. However, Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers has been postponed due to some unforeseen logistical difficulties.
67. In view of the foregoing, the General Secretariat is presently working with the relevant authorities in Sudan on the rescheduling of Conference. It is expected that the Conference will evaluate the implementation of the OIC resolutions on transportation and review the progress on execution of OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project. The Conference will be briefed on the progress made in the execution of cross-border transport corridors such as (a) Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway project; and (b) Trans-Saharan Road Corridor. Most importantly, Conference will review and validate the envisaged actions of OIC-IDRIP in the transportation sector.
68. The envisaged actions of OIC-IDRIP in the transportation sector will feature the design and formalisation of the OIC multi-modal transport networks, including the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project. It will also seek to establish safe and efficient integrated regional road transport networks and corridors in line with international standards for the promotion of trade and tourism within the OIC.
69. In addition, the Conference will also receive a presentation on the activities and challenges of OISA and make pronouncement on modalities for enhancing the role of OISA in realizing the OIC agenda on cooperation in maritime sector.

(b) Financing of Transport Sector Projects by IDB

70. IDB continues to focus on regional transport networks that facilitate the integration of OIC member states with the regional and global economy. During 2017, IDB approved US\$ 774.5 million for financing 7 transport sector projects in a number of OIC member states. Of this total, 82% went to the road sub-sector, while 18% to the maritime/port subsector. Sub-Saharan African countries received 36% of the financing, followed by OIC countries in Central Asia and Europe (25%), Asia (21%) and MENA (15%). The approved projects feature such projects as Reconstruction of the Atyrau-Astrakhan Road and Expansion and Development of the Port of Tripoli in Lebanon, among others.

(c) High-Level International Conference on Central Asia in the System of International Transport Corridors:

71. In the light of the OIC prioritization of transport sector cooperation, the General Secretariat attended the High-Level International Conference on Central Asia in the System of International Transport Corridors: Strategic Perspectives and Unrealized Opportunities, which was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 20-21 September 2018. OIC participation in the Conference provided the auspicious occasion of apprising participants with the various decisions, efforts, policies and interventions of OIC and its agencies in the area of transport sector development. A major outcome of the Conference was the proposal for the creation of a Regional Agreement on Joint Development of Transport System in Central Asia. Similarly, the Conference unanimously agreed on the elaboration of a strategy for development of transport logistics in Central Asia as well as the creation of a Regional Council for Transport Communication of Central Asian Countries. There was also an agreement of the need to harmonize all policies within the Belt and Road Initiative aimed at developing East-West and North-South transport corridors. Emphasis was also placed on joint training of personnel in the transport sector, cooperation in the domain of standards and legislations. In this regard, the outcome of the Conference will provide the much-needed inputs into the on-going arrangements for the validation of OIC- IDRIP policy, more so as the major pre-occupation of the OIC is in tandem with the consensus established at the Conference.

VII. ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR

72. Private sector growth is widely acknowledged to be an essential component in promoting socio-economic development and providing more economic opportunities in any given society. Recognizing this, the various CFM sessions called on member states to mainstream the role of the Private sector for the advancement of socio-economic development and cooperation within the OIC. Accordingly, this segment of report summarizes the activities of the relevant OIC institutions.

(a) 26th Board of Directors and 34rd General Assembly Meetings of ICCIA

73. The 26th Board of Directors (BoD) and 34rd General Assembly meetings of Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) were held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 22 May 2018. The General Assembly Meeting adopted the Budget of ICCIA and Plan of Activities of the Chamber for the year 2018. The major planned

activities of ICCIA for 2018 include: 17th Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member States/Trade Exchange Forum; 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Chamber; Sharing of Best Practices for the Benefit of the Private Sector; Forum/Workshop for Public and Private Investors in the area of Tourism development; Workshop on Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries-Challenges and Opportunities.

74. On the lines of the Private Sector Meetings, the ICCIA is utilizing the platform of Statutory Meetings to provide an opportunity to the participants to explore new opportunities for trade and investment. In this context, the ICCIA, in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, organized an event on the theme of “Inclusion in Sharia Economy: A New Paradigm”, on the sidelines of the 27th Board Meeting of the Islamic Chamber, which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 22nd – 23rd October 2018. These events were included four specialized session on the “Development of Halal Economy for OIC Countries”, “Opportunities for Investment in OIC Countries (Infrastructure Development in Indonesia)”, “Economic Empowerment of Businesswomen” and “Digital Economy - A Dynamic Concept for OIC Countries”. The objectives of these sessions were to highlight the opportunities available in the specific areas, in Indonesia, to the interested participants from other OIC Countries.

(b) Sharing of Best Practices for the Benefit of the Private Sector

75. The outcome of the activities undertaken by the ICCIA for the empowerment of women has had a positive impact on skill enhancement, making of business plan, branding and marketing. One of the positive results of the Businessmen Forums organized by ICCIA has led to the setting up of a Family Bank in Sudan with a capital of US\$35 Million. The said Bank’s portfolio provides micro-financing on Sharia terms for start-ups, productive families, women and youth. The Bank has expanded all over Sudan with 41 branches, offering services to the targeted segment of the society. The Project will be submitted in the forthcoming 7th Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women’s role in the Development of OIC Member States to held in 30th November to 1st December 2018 in Burkina Faso. The ICCIA has called for the Conference to adopt a Resolution calling for the possibility of establishing similar entities in other OIC Countries, for the benefit of the women and family.

(c) Establishment of OIC Arbitration Centre

76. Within the framework of implementing the OIC agreement for the protection, promotion and guarantee of investments among member states and the decision of the 13th OIC Summit, the ICCIA and Union of Turkish Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) are presently working on the establishment of OIC Arbitration Centre in Istanbul, as an affiliated organization of ICCIA. In this regard, the ICCIA and the TOBB organized the First Task Force Meeting on setting-up of the ICCIA affiliated OIC Arbitration Center, in Istanbul on 13 April 2018. The Meeting was attended by high level experts from OIC countries and some international organizations dealing with international arbitration. After in-depth deliberations, the task Force agreed on the importance of such a center, which

would serve the business community of the OIC Countries. The Meeting agreed to hold the second meeting of Task Force in order to discuss and finalize the establishment documents of the Arbitration Center.

77. In a related development, the OIC General Secretariat and the International Islamic Center for Reconciliation and Arbitration (IICRA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 20 March 2017. The MoU aimed at establishing a partnership between two parties on investment and trade disputes, exchange of expertise, consultations and information and organization of symposia, conferences and specialized training programmes.
78. Similarly, the 43rd Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) mandated the Secretary General (Resolution No. 1/43-E) in consultation with Member States and relevant OIC organs/institutions including COMCEC to propose modalities for the creation of a permanent body for the settlement of disputes arising the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the OIC Member States. In this context, the General Secretariat has commenced preliminary consultations with ICDT and IDB on modalities for an OIC dispute settlement mechanism as distinct from the envisaged OIC Commercial Arbitration Center.

(d) Training Programmes on Technology Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Management of Business Incubation and Technology Parks

79. The ICCIA organized a 3-day Training Program on “Technology Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Management of Business Incubation & Technology Parks” in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-25 April 2018, in collaboration with the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF) and Union of Turkish Chambers of Commerce & Industry (TOBB). The objective of the Training Programme was to make entrepreneurs aware of the use of technology to promote their enterprise as well as to create opportunities for self-employment and to provide employment.

(e) Activities of Islamic Corporation for Development of Private Sector (ICD)

80. The Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), a member of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, currently has an authorized capital of US\$ 4 billion and its shareholders feature 54 OIC member states and 5 public financial institutions. The mandate of the ICD is to support the economic development of OIC member states through the provision of finance to private sector projects in accordance with the principles of Sharia’a.
81. Since inception till 31st December 2017, gross approvals of ICD have amounted to US\$ 5.9 billion, allocated to more than 390 projects. In terms of disbursement, the total ICD disbursement amounted to US\$ 2.65 billion worth of investments. Sector-wise, cumulative ICD approvals spread over a number of industries, ranging inter alia from financial to infrastructure, agriculture, oil and gas, and manufacturing. As a priority sector, the financial sector (including funds) accounted for the largest share, representing 55.3% of gross

approvals since inception. The industrial and mining sector takes up the second largest share (21.2 %), with a gross approved amount of US\$ 1.25 billion. This is followed by real estate, healthcare and other social services, energy, information and communication, transportation, trade and agriculture, accounting for around 23% of total approvals.

82. Regarding geographic distribution, ICD investment operations expanded to over 50 member states. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region accounts for the bulk of cumulative ICD approvals, representing 34% of gross approvals. Regions such as Europe and Central Asia (23%), Sub-Saharan Africa (15%), and Asia and Pacific (14%) follow accordingly. The share of regional/global projects covering several countries was nearly 14% of gross approvals.
83. According to ICD's General Assembly Resolution, the authorized capital of ICD has been increased from US\$ 2 billion to US\$ 4 billion, and the capital available for subscription has been raised from US\$1 billion to US\$2 billion. So far, ICD has received strong support of its shareholders for the 2nd General Capital Increase. As of the end of 2017, out of US\$ 1 billion available for subscription, US\$ 866.42 million worth of shares were subscribed by 37 ICD shareholders. On the payment side, and as of the end of 2017, ICD has already received the first installment payments of 23 different shareholders at a total amount of US\$ 150 Million.

VIII. POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

84. The high incidence of poverty in OIC member states has made poverty alleviation programmes an important policy option over the years. Accordingly, OIC poverty alleviation programmes such as Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA) and Special Programme for Central Asia (SPCA) are aimed at improving the living standard of the population, especially vulnerable groups. This segment will highlight the latest developments with regard to operations of ISFD and execution of SPDA and SPCA.

(a) *Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD)*

85. The 45th Session of CFM called upon OIC Member states to redeem their respective pledges to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and to make additional commitments on a voluntary basis, including allocation of Waqf in favour of ISFD so as to achieve the target capital of the said Fund, which is US\$ 10 billion.
86. As of 1 January 2018, the level of pledged capital contributions to the ISFD stood at US\$2.7 billion, committed by 49 member states (US\$1.7 billion) and the IDB (US\$1 billion). This represents 27% of the approved target capital of US\$10 billion. No new commitment has been made in 2018.
87. The total amount of paid contributions stood at US\$2.584 billion, of which US\$1 billion was paid by the IDB and US\$1.584 billion by member states. Out of 49 OIC member states, 28 have fully redeemed their pledges, 10 partially, and 11 have yet to redeem their pledges.

88. With regard to operations, ISFD has continued to approve projects within the framework of its programmes such as Micro-Finance Support Programme (MFSP), Vocational Literacy Programme (VOILP), Sustainable Villages Programme (SVP), Save the Mother's Programme and the Renewable Energy Programme for the Poor. To this end, in 2017, the ISFD has approved US\$ 175.6 million for financing 11 projects in a number of OIC member states.
89. Cumulatively, ISFD, since its inception in 2007, has approved US\$734.22 million for financing of a total of 117 projects in 33 OIC member states. The main sectors of focus have been (i) Agriculture (45%); (ii) Education (24%); (iii) Health (13%); and (iv) Finance (13%). The OIC Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have been the main beneficiaries, receiving more than 80% of the Fund's financing.
90. In line with the relevant resolutions of CFM, the General Secretariat has sensitized member states of the need to make in-kind contributions to ISFD through allocation of Wakf landed property for ISFD and through the mobilization of contributions from high net-worth persons and philanthropies from OIC member states.
91. Subsequently, Benin, Burkina Faso and Comoros have allocated a plot of land to ISFD under the Waqf Programme. In addition, several countries have already expressed their interest to commit land for this purpose, including: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Maldives, Togo and Sudan.

(b) Special Programme for Central Asia

92. As it was reported to 33rd Session of COMCEC, SPCA, which is aimed at supporting the cooperation efforts of OIC Member States in Central Asia, and which has been elaborated within the framework of OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia (PACCA), covers six OIC countries, namely, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. This Programme with a total financing of US\$6 billion features four priority areas as trade; energy; transport and agriculture, and its implementation period is set 2016-2020.
93. Within the framework of SPCA's execution, in 2017, IDB has received 12 projects, amounting to US\$1.04 billion. Of these, two are energy projects aimed at tapping into the gas and water resources of the region to generate energy, while two transport projects will contribute to linking the region both within and with neighboring countries. Two agriculture projects will support increased fruit production and trading as well as the development of complementary infrastructure in an economic zone in Tajikistan and Halal meat standardization and certification in the Kyrgyz Republic. Other projects include a project on upgrading internet connectivity in Turkmenistan and a capacity building project on development value chains, among others.

(c) Special Programme for the Development of Africa

94. The SPDA is a US\$12 billion facility launched in 2008 and aimed at advancing pro-poor socio-economic activities. The sectoral priorities under the SPDA are geared towards promoting economic growth and regional integration. The SPDA focuses on (i) agriculture for food security; (ii) water and sanitation; (iii) power generation and distribution; (iv) transport infrastructure; (v) education; and (vi) eliminating major communicable diseases.
95. In November 2012, when the approval phase of SPDA was completed, the level of funding commitments to the Programme by IDB Group reached US\$ 5 billion, while those from other international partners amounted to US\$7 billion. A total of 480 projects has been approved for financing under the SPDA in 22 OIC African member states. While most of the approved projects are still going through the various stages of implementation, it is noteworthy that at the end of the execution of the projects, the following outcomes, among others, would have been realized: In infrastructure: over 2,500 KM of roads would have been either constructed or upgraded in 13 Member States, in addition to two new airports in Senegal and Sudan. Similarly, more than 900MW of electricity would have been produced in six countries with increased access to over 40,000 households; while almost 700 KM of power lines would be laid. On human development, more than 325 new primary and secondary schools and over 1000 classrooms would be built and equipped. This will be in addition to the building of three technical colleges and 8 university faculties built or equipped; over 10 new hospitals and over 120 clinics, health centers and primary healthcare centers, resulting in an increase in bed-capacity of about 1200. On agriculture, over 800,000 hectares of land would be developed and cultivated, in addition to the execution of 8-10 strategic grain reserves to support food security programmes, including the building of about 5-6 soil and/or seed research laboratories.
96. The implementation of the SPDA has proved to be an effective tool in supporting the development aspirations of OIC African Countries. To this end and considering the need to consolidate the successes recorded in SPDA execution, three Working Sessions of the Governors of IDB from African Countries on the implementation of SPDA, which were held on the sidelines of the 37th, 38th and 39th Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors of IDB in Sudan in April 2012, in Tajikistan in May 2013, and in Saudi Arabia in June 2014, respectively, concluded with unanimous support for the elaboration of a successor programme.
97. Consequently, the 13th Islamic Summit Conference, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the SPDA and reiterated the need for the implementation of OIC regional programmes within a comprehensive OIC infrastructure development policy in order to realize the vision of an integrated OIC economic community.
98. In view of the foregoing, the General Secretariat, in collaboration with relevant OIC institutions, is presently working on elaboration of OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy (OIC-IDRIP), which will provide a general framework for OIC regional economic programmes for OIC Member States in Africa, Asia, and Middle East

and North Africa (MENA). It is expected that elaboration of a successor programme to SPDA will be one of the central components of OIC-IDRIP.

IX. OIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION POLICY

99. The availability of adequate infrastructure of regional interest and the efficient provision of related services are seen as crucial to the objective of achieving a greater degree of productive specialization and developing competitive advantages within the OIC region. In light of these considerations, infrastructure development and regional integration have become a key factor for fostering growth and reaching higher levels of development in the specific region. This is why OIC member states need to develop and put in place a framework that will foster connectivity among the countries of the specific region through increased physical infrastructure, connecting communication channels by means of transport, along with integrating the different types of energy and telecommunications networks.
100. It is against this background that 45th Session of CFM, while taking note the preparation and circulation to OIC member states of a draft OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy (OIC-IDRIP), requested OIC member states to submit their comments on the draft. It also requested the General Secretariat to organize a number of consultative meetings on the sidelines of the relevant OIC sectoral conferences (agriculture, transport, etc) on each of the six priority areas of OIC_IDRIP, as preparatory for the Inter-Governmental Experts Group meeting approved by the 44th CFM.
101. The OIC-IDRIP aims at supporting creation of cross-border projects aimed at promoting regional integration and it seeks to intervene in six priority sectors, namely: transport; energy; telecommunication and postal services; trade; industrial development; and agricultural development. The vision of the Policy is to develop an OIC economy that is integrated, interconnected, internally competitive, inclusive, growth-oriented and sustainable. The major goals of the Policy is to promote development and rehabilitation of infrastructure, facilitation of joint studies, mobilization of resources and facilitation of enabling legislative environment for the proper execution of these projects.
102. As a result, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey and Uzbekistan have so far submitted their comments on the draft OIC-IDRIP. While supporting the policy document, Egypt has made several proposals for incorporation in the draft. These proposals relate to energy and transport sectors. Furthermore, Egypt underscored the need for provision of an appropriate mechanism for financial and technical support as well as determination of a specific timeframe for the implementation of policy.
103. Similarly, Jordan proposed additional projects such as the execution of energy network and development of renewable energy projects as well as programmes on awareness-raising on rationalization of conventional and renewable energy.

104. In its comments, Iraq observed the absence of specific projects and financing mechanism in the document. It also suggested including in priorities security, tourism, education and scientific research.
105. Lebanon has made several additional proposals for inclusion in all six priority areas of the document. While Morocco proposed a number of goals relating to development of agriculture in OIC member states, Sudan has forwarded its additions on transport for due reflection in the document. In the same vein, Uzbekistan proposed additions on transport, industrial development and agriculture.
106. Saudi Arabia also made several proposals for inclusion in the draft document. These proposals feature coordination with other regional integration initiatives along with indication of the targeted initiatives in each area; increasing investments among the member states and launching of economically feasible joint projects; setting up a structure to govern policy and its implementation; and linking policy to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
107. Similarly, Qatar and Tunisia expressed their support for the elaboration of OIC-IDRIP and underscored the importance of enhancing intra-OIC cooperation in all six priority areas for the purpose of increasing connectivity among OIC member states, and improving living conditions and quality of life for the people in the OIC region.
108. On its part, Turkey observed that the draft OIC IDRIP has many ambitious targets/objectives without a well-defined implementation and monitoring mechanisms. In addition, financing mechanism of the policy needs to be further elaborated, while the existing programmes under the COMCEC and similar OIC organs should be taken into consideration to avoid duplication and waste of resources. Turkey further suggested conducting a needs assessment of OIC member states on infrastructure in order to identify sound targets in this field.
109. The proposed OIC-IDRIP will be implemented through preparation of sub-regional programmes for Asia, MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa and their translation to regional/cross-border projects in each of the six priority areas. Accordingly, the comments sent by the above-mentioned member states are presently being incorporated into the revised draft of OIC-IDRIP.
110. In view of the foregoing, during 2019-2020, the General Secretariat, in collaboration with relevant OIC institutions, is planning to organize a series of consultation and validation workshops on OIC-IDRIP in three geographical zones of OIC, namely in Africa, Asia and MENA. The main objective of these workshops will be to review and revise the each component of the policy, one by one, in the light of submissions by Member States. Accordingly, the outcomes of this exercise will be submitted to the CFM.

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

111. In line with the ideals of partnership, mutual assistance and solidarity among OIC Member states, some well-endowed OIC member states have continued to contribute to financing of the various development projects in the needy OIC member states and other developing countries. Accordingly, this segment of the report summarizes the assistance provided by some OIC member states to other OIC member states as well as non-OIC countries in recent years.

(a) Development Assistance by Saudi Arabia

112. The Government of Saudi Arabia has continued, through the Saudi Fund for Development (SDF), to finance development projects in a number of low-income OIC member states and non-OIC countries through concessional loans. In 2016, SDF contributed financing to 33 development projects for a total amount of 4346.46 million Saudi riyals in 16 countries, consisting of 14 OIC member states (8 in Africa, 4 in Asia and 1 in MENA), 1 OIC-observer country and 2 non OIC-countries.

113. SDF's assistance was directed to financing projects in a number of crucial sectors of the economy, including social infrastructure, transportation and communication, agriculture, energy and other sectors. The largest share of financing was allocated to the social infrastructure (education, water supply and sewerage, housing and urban development, and health), transportation and communication sectors.

114. In this context, it is worth mentioning that SDF had, since its inception in 1975 and up to the end of 2016, allocated a total amount of 51445.69 million Saudi Riyals to finance 609 development projects and programmes for the benefit of 82 developing countries worldwide, majority of them being OIC member states.

(b) Development Assistance by United Arab Emirates

115. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) continues to play a leading role in the area of financing development in other countries. During 2014-2017, UAE provided assistance in the form of humanitarian and development support to 51 OIC member states in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa in the amount of US\$19.3 billion.

116. The top sectors to which UAE directed their assistance during 2014-2017 were: commodity aid; general programme assistance; humanitarian aid and emergency relief; transport and storage; agriculture; energy generation and supply; infrastructure development; health; education; government and civil society; and water and sanitation, among others.

117. The largest recipients of UAE development assistance during this period were: Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Iraq, Sudan, Morocco, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Palestine. The bulk of UAE assistance was provided in the form of grants, while some in the form of concessional loans.

(c) COMCEC Project Cycle Management (PCM)

118. Under the COMCEC Project Cycle Management (PCM), 62 projects were successfully implemented during 2013-2017 and more than 40 OIC countries have participated in the COMCEC Project Funding. Moreover, during the year 2018, 19 projects were approved for implementation. These projects relate to strengthening the capacities of the beneficiary countries in such areas as agriculture, tourism, trade, transportation and poverty alleviation.
119. Through the COMCEC PCM, member states 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 policy recommendations have been formulated by the Working Groups (WGs) and adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Meetings. Thus, this mechanism provides a policy support instrument for the project owners and beneficiaries. It also gives the member states an opportunity to work together in order to overcome their common challenges.

(d) Support for Niger's 5-Year Social and Economic Development Plan

120. During the two-day Niger Renaissance Conference, which was held in Paris, France on 13-14 December 2017, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Arab Coordination Group have pledged to support the 2017-2021 Social and Economic Development Plan (PDES) of Niger with US\$1.5 billion.
121. The PDES is the first 5-year plan for the implementation of the Niger 2035 Strategy for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth (SDDCI). The PDES addresses Niger's challenges and priorities for the consolidation of democratic institutions, security, infrastructures, food security and basic social sectors.
122. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that the Government of Niger successfully raised over US\$23 billion to support the country's efforts to finance and implement its 2017-2021 PDES during the above-mentioned event.

XI. CONCLUSION

123. The commencement of IOFS Secretariat's operations in March 2018 will add the required momentum to intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of agriculture and food security. This is more so considering the effect, which the expeditious implementation of IOFS 5-Year Plan of Action will have in addressing the pressing and serious challenges to agriculture and food security in OIC member states.
124. Equally important is the successful convening of the OIC Ministerial Conferences on Tourism, and Labour and Social Protection in February 2018. In addition, the OIC Ministerial Conferences on Agriculture and Food Security, and Transportation, which are scheduled for 2019, will further strengthen intra-OIC cooperation in these important sectors. The outcomes of these conferences are vital for further consolidating intra-OIC cooperation in such critical sectors as developing tourism; promoting productive employment and decent work for all; developing sustainable agriculture and enhancing

food security, and improving transport and logistics connectivity within OIC region, among others. These new initiatives are aimed at consolidating on the gains realized during the implementation of the various regional developmental projects, including the Special Programme for the Development of Africa and the OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia.

125. Furthermore, the continuation and expansion of OIC trade and investments related activities remains an effective tool for increasing intra-OIC trade as well as facilitating the integration of OIC member states in the global economy. In the same vein, development assistance by well-endowed OIC member states to needy OIC member states contributes to their economic growth, thus becoming an important component of intra-OIC cooperation and solidarity.
126. It is, therefore, important for member states to make adequate use of OIC cooperation framework, timely accede to its many multilateral instruments and avail themselves of its various activities, aimed at promoting social and economic growth and sustainable development among OIC member states and their peoples.
127. Furthermore, the coordination of the various OIC institutions and the instrumentality of ACMOI have increased the delivery of qualitative services in the domain of trade financing and financial sector development. This is more so as the exploration of new initiatives for intra-OIC investment continued through the on-going studies on strategic commodities, Halal industry development, single window modality, micro and social finance for the OIC poverty alleviation programmes. Similarly, the reinvigoration of the Private Sector through the involvement of the relevant member of the IDB Group dealing with Private Sector Development, namely ICD will ensure that the Private Sector is given its prime of place in the realm of OIC socio-economic cooperation.

**OIC General Secretariat
Department of Economic Affairs,
8 October 2018**

LIST OF MEMBER STATES
WHO SIGNED/ RATIFIED THE DIFFERENT AGREEMENTS AND STATUTES ON
ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES

NAMES OF MEMBER STATES	General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation		Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments		Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System		Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS)		TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM (TPS)-OIC Rules of Origin		Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council		Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union		Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC)		Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)		Statute of OIC Labour Centre (OICLC)	
	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1/8-E of the 8th ICFM Tripoli/Libya 16-22/05/1977</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 7/12-E of the 12th ICFM Baghdad/Iraq 1-5/06/1981</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 6th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 7-10/10/1990</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 21st COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 22-25/11/2005</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 23rd COMCEC Istanbul, Turkey 14-17/11/2007</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 16/13-E of the 13th ICFM Niamey/Niger 22-26/08/1982</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 17/15-E of the 15th ICFM Sana'a/Yemen 18-22/12/1984</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 14th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 1-4/11/1998</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.3/40-E of the 40th CFM Conakry/Guinea 9-11/12/2013</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.2/43-E of the 43rd of CFM Tashkent/Uzbekistan 18-19 10/2016</i>	
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify
Afganistan	8/10/2010	4/2/2018-	8/10/2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/2/2018	-	-	-	-	-	10/12/2013	20/7/2016		
Albania	-	-	16/11/1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Algeria	20/05/1980	19/03/2007	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01/12/2007	-	23/10/2007	-	-			
Azerbaijan	20/06/2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/06/2006	-	20/06/2006	-	-	23/11/2017		
Bahrain	21/05/1980	30/08/1980	-	-	25/11/2005	01/06/09	-	29/06/2009	12/09/2013	05/06/2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Bangladesh	05/12/1977	18/04/1978	04/11/1997	-	04/11/1997	17/01/04	24/11/2006	02/11/2009	15/02/2011	23/06/2011	10/09/1983	05/12/2001	-	16/04/1988	-	-	28/4/2016	4/7/2017		
Benin	13/8/2012	-	13/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	11/02/2015	-		
Brunei Darussalam	20/5/2015	2/11/2017-	-	-	20/5/015	2/11/2917-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Burkina Faso	23/12/1985	-	-	19/05/1992	14/9/1993	-	10/6/2009	-	10/6/2009	-	21/10/2001	-	-	-	21/10/2001	-	10/12/2013	26/1/2016		
Cameroon	23/01/1978	11/07/1983	25/10/1994	26/09/1995	24/10/1994	26/09/1995	24/11/2006	20/4/2015	17/11/2007	-	-	-	-	-	07/07/2000	-	28/4/2016	-		
Comoros	28/04/1978	16/01/1981	30/06/2012	-	7/10/2010	-	7/10/2010	-	7/10/2010	-	30/06/2012	-	30/06/2012	-	30/06/2012	-	10/12/2013	-		
Cote d'Ivoire	07/11/2009	-	07/11/2009	-	07/11/2009	-	17/9/2012	-	17/9/2012	-	-	-	12/4/2016	-	12/4/2016	-	12/4/2016	-		
Djibouti	21/04/1979	-	25/08/1982	-	25/01/2012	2/12/2012	25/01/2012	-	25/01/2012	-	18/05/2010	-	18/05/2010	02/12/2012	18/05/2010	-	10/12/2013	-		
Egypt	08/11/1977	06/06/1978	-	16/12/1978	15/11/1996	31/12/1999	24/11/2005	-	-	-	-	-	11/06/1987	07/05/1988	-	-	26/2/2016	2018		
Gabon	23/01/1978	21/01/1908	-	21/01/2008	-	21/01/2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/04/2012	-	-	-		
Gambia	21/05/1980	11/08/2009	04/09/1993	11/08/2009	05/09/1993	11/08/2009	-	31/1/2013	11/08/2009	31/1/2013	08/11/1995	29/10/2012	08/11/1995	27/4/2011	24/11/2006	30/08/2012	10/12/2013	27/11/2016		
Guinea	26/12/1977	10/02/1981	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	17/11/2007	-	12/09/2007	-	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	-	20/06/2003	10/12/2013	-		
Guinea-Bissau	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	10/12/2013	-		
Guyana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Indonesia	30/04/1979	08/01/1980	01/05/1983	03/12/1983	04/02/1992	14/07/2011	6/09/2011	-	6/09/2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Iran	08/11/1995	07/11/1995	08/11/1995	15/09/1994	08/11/1995	12/05/1993	27/04/2009	22/12/2010	-	11/11/2012	08/11/1995	-	04/09/1993	06/10/1993	-	-	10/12/2013	-		
Iraq	02/07/1978	1978	-	9/7/2015	24/10/2001	15/12/2011	-	-	-	-	-	27/10/2002	21/11/2001	09/02/2014	-	9/2/2016	-	-		
Jordan	29/12/1977	10/05/1979	04/11/1998	25/02/1999	01/02/1993	21/12/1998	24/11/2005	13/02/2007	12/09/2007	9/10/2007	26/10/1994	-	12/03/1988	08/04/1989	24/11/2005	13/02/2007	-	-		
Kazakhstan	25/11/2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10/12/2013	21/11/2014		
Kuwait	05/12/1977	10/05/1980	18/11/1981	12/04/1983	26/11/2004	17/04/2013	20/10/2011	29/12/2014	20/10/2011	29/12/2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15/5/2016		

NAMES OF MEMBER STATES	General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation	Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments	Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System	Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS)	TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM (TPS)-OIC Rules of Origin	Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council	Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union	Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC)	Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)	Statute of OIC Labour Centre										
	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1/8-E of the 8th ICFM Tripoli/Libya 16-22/05/1977</i>	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 7/12-E of the 12th ICFM Baghdad/Iraq 1-5/06/1981</i>	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 6th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 7-10/10/1990</i>	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 21st COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 22-25/11/2005</i>	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No. 1 of the 23rd COMCEC Istanbul, Turkey 14-17/11/2007</i>	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 16/13-E of the 13th ICFM Niamey/Niger 22-26/08/1982</i>	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 17/15-E of the 15th ICFM Sana'a/Yemen 18-22/12/1984</i>	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 1st COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 1-4/11/1998</i>	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.3/40-E of the 40th CFM Conakry/Guinea 9-11/12/2013</i>	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.2/43-E of the 43rd of CFM Tashkent/Uzbekistan</i>										
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify
Kyrgyz Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	15/11/1996	26/11/2003	15/11/1996	06/03/2005	15/11/1996	11/7/2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	18/11/2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	05/12/1977	15/04/1978	25/10/1994	13/02/1996	05/02/1992	02/11/1992	-	-	-	-	-	-	04/01/1989	-	15/12/2008	15/04/2014	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	18/05/1978	14/01/1981	30/09/1987	-	30/06/2004	23/08/2004	27/03/2006	20/05/2006	17/11/2007	14/10/2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maldives	17/12/1977	-	-	-	-	11/04/2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mali	27/04/1978	08/08/1981	-	24/05/1982	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/10/2011	-	-	-	-	03/05/2005	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Mauritania	08/11/1977	09/05/1979	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	-	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	29/10/2014	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Mazambique	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28/4/2016	-	-
Morocco	23/01/1978	16/04/1979	02/11/1981	07/05/1990	29/09/1993	25/7/2006	24/10/2008	07/03/2013	24/10/2008	07/03/2013	26/10/2000	25/07/2006	30/12/1985	-	-	31/07/2006	-	-	-	-
Niger	18/05/1978	07/08/1978	10/09/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	08/12/1984	-	-	10/9/2010	-	10/9/2010	10/12/2013	12/12/2015	-	-
Nigeria	04/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	-	09/11/2009	-	09/11/2009	-	4/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	-	09/11/2009	-	-	-	-	-
Oman	15/04/1980	28/04/1981	25/10/1994	10/12/1994	06/05/2007	08/07/2007	24/10/2008	20/01/2009	24/10/2008	20/01/2009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pakistan	14/01/1978	1978	20/12/1981	10/07/1982	25/10/1994	11/10/1993	17/02/2007	20/11/2007	03/09/2008	13/04/2012	-	1989	-	30/04/1986	16/7/2010	16/7/2010	-	-	-	-
Palestine	28/04/1978	18/03/1980	15/03/1982	15/03/1982	10/09/1992	12/07/2011	27/12/2010	20/12/2011	27/12/2010	20/12/2011	22/05/1983	16/04/2013	03/01/1987	11/11/1986	07/11/1999	19/8/2014	10/12/2013	8/3/2016	-	-
Qatar	24/9/1978	09/09/1980	26/10/2000	05/11/2002	26/11/2004	11/03/2007	23/10/2008	27/10/2009	07/11/2009	02/09/2009	21/10/2001	05/11/2002	-	-	-	-	28/4/2016	26/12/2017	-	-
Saudi Arabia	14/01/1978	27/06/1979	23/06/1985	17/09/1984	10/09/1992	01/01/2007	02/06/2008	08/06/2009	09/11/2009	11/08/2010	-	11/04/2004	-	-	-	-	15/03/2016	30/09/2018	-	-
Senegal	25/12/1977	28/02/1979	17/06/1987	30/06/1994	09/09/1991	30/06/1994	-	-	-	-	17/06/1987	04/02/1989	17/06/1987	04/02/1989	17/11/2007	-	11/7/2017	-	-	-
Serra Leone	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	09/11/2009	-	09/11/2009	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Somalia	24/12/1978	-	19/12/1983	25/11/1984	08/11/2009	13/05/2010	08/11/2009	13/5/2010	08/11/2009	13/5/2010	09/11/2009	13/05/2010	09/11/2009	13/05/2010	08/11/2009	13/05/2010	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Sudan	14/01/1978	-	20/12/1981	30/05/2002	13/05/1992	-	18/03/2013	-	18/03/2013	-	04/09/1993	26/08/2006	04/09/1993	26/8/2006	26/10/2000	28/01/2003	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Suriname	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Syria	04/06/1978	15/07/1980	21/10/2001	04/01/2010	26/11/2004	27/11/2005	23/05/2006	30/07/2008	24/10/2008	15/04/2010	-	02/04/2002	-	-	07/11/1999	-	-	-	-	-
Tajikistan	04/11/1997	-	04/11/1997	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28/4/2016	-	-	-
Tchad	27/04/1978	-	-	-	14/01/1992	-	-	-	-	-	06/02/2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Togo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tunisia	27/01/1979	13/04/1980	10/06/1982	11/11/1983	21/01/1993	31/07/2000	25/11/2005	-	12/09/2007	-	06/01/1983	11/11/1983	08/11/1995	14/02/2000	18/09/2001	27/03/2006	-	-	-	-
Turkey	29/12/1977	02/07/1982	16/07/1987	09/02/1991	23/09/1991	28/11/1991	24/11/2005	02/05/2008	12/09/2007	02/11/2009	-	-	-	-	07/11/1999	15/07/2010	10/12/2013	-	-	11/7/2017
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U. A. E.	29/12/1977	1979	12/02/1989	14/01/1989	26/11/2004	15/08/2005	24/11/2006	12/10/2008	12/09/2007	12/10/2008	30/05/1989	21/03/1989	30/05/1989	21/03/1989	24/11/2006	05/04/2009	12/01/2015	25/10/2017	-	-
Uganda	08/08/1978	14/11/2001	26/11/1987	10/02/1987	05/09/1993	14/11/2001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Uzbekistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yemen	29/12/1977	-	12/06/1982	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25/10/1994	26/3/2008	25/10/1994	-	14/11/2006	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :	49	32	38	29	40	31	31	18	30	18	25	17	24	19	24	17	31	12	2	0

14th October 2018