



**COMCEC**

# **REPORT THIRTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC**



**Ankara, 24-25 April 2019  
COMCEC Coordination Office**

**OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/REP**

# **COMCEC**

**Standing Committee for Economic and  
Commercial Cooperation of the Organization  
of the Islamic Conference**

## **REPORT**

### **THIRTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC**

**Ankara, 24-25 April 2019**

**COMCEC Coordination Office  
Ankara, April 2019**

**ADDRESS:**

**COMCEC Coordination Office**

**Necatibey Cad. 110/A**

**Ankara-TURKEY**

**Phone : 90-312-294 57 10 – 294 57 30  
90-312-294 57 16**

**Fax : 90-312-294 57 77 – 294 57 79**

**Website: [www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org)**

**e-mail : [comcec@comcec.org](mailto:comcec@comcec.org)**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Report of the Thirty Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation.....	6

## A N N E X E S

I.	List of Participants of the Thirty Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC .....	39
II.	Opening Statement by H.E. Naci AĞBAL, President of the Strategy and Budget of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey.....	45
III.	Message of H.E. Dr. Yousef A. AL-OTHAIMEEN, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) ...	51
IV.	Report of the 34 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee.....	55
V.	Agenda of the Thirty Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.....	60
VI.	Policy Recommendations of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be Submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 35 <sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session .....	62
VII.	Policy Recommendations of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to be Submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 35 <sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session	67
VIII.	Policy Recommendations of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to be Submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 35 <sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session .....	71
IX.	Policy Recommendations of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to be Submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 35 <sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session .....	75



	<u>Page</u>
X. Policy Recommendations of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to be Submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 35 <sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session .....	80
XI. Policy Recommendations of the 12 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to be Submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 35 <sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session .....	85
XII. Draft Agenda of the Thirty Fifth Session of the COMCEC.....	89
XIII. Closing Speech by H.E. Ambassador Salih Mutlu ŞEN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC.....	91
XIV. List of Basic Documents Considered and/or Presented at the Thirty Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.....	95

-----  
-----

# **R E P O R T**

**THIRTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE  
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC COOPERATION**

**(Ankara, 24-25 April 2019)**

Original: English

**REPORT**  
**THIRTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE**  
**FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE**  
**ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION**  
**(Ankara, 24-25 April 2019)**

1. The Thirty Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 24-25 April 2019 in Ankara, the Republic of Turkey.

2. The representatives of the following Member States of the Committee attended the Meeting:

- |                                  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1- Republic of Turkey            | : | (Chairman, Permanent),                           |
| 2- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia       | : | (Vice Chairman, Permanent Member),               |
| 3- State of Palestine            | : | (Vice Chairman, Permanent Member),               |
| 4- State of Qatar                | : | (Vice Chairman, Representing the Arab Region),   |
| 5- Republic of Gabon             | : | (Vice-Chairman Representing the African Region), |
| 6- Malaysia                      | : | (Vice Chairman, Representing the Asian Region),  |
| 7- Islamic Republic of Pakistan: | : | (Rapporteur),                                    |
| 8- State of Kuwait               | : | (Member of the Previous Bureau),                 |
| 9- Republic of Indonesia         | : | (Member of the Previous Bureau).                 |

3. The Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC) also attended the Meeting.

*(The list of participants is attached as Annex I.)*

## **Agenda Item 1: Opening Session**

4. Following the recitation from the Holy Qur'an, H.E. Naci AĞBAL, President of Strategy Budget of the Presidency of Republic of Turkey, inaugurated the Meeting.

5. In his statement, H.E. AĞBAL, underlined the critical role of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC in terms of reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC, taking note of overcoming the challenges in the implementation process and preparing the agenda of the COMCEC Ministerial Meeting. In this regard, he emphasized that dialogue, cooperation and solidarity is the most efficient way of overcoming setbacks and obstacles in the OIC Region.

6. H.E. AĞBAL stated that, at present, import and export performance of the OIC Member States are far from the desired level. The total OIC trade volume is still below the level of the year 2012. H.E. AĞBAL mentioned the fluctuations in world demand, oil prices and international currencies, and the developments in the OIC Region in recent years as the some of the basic factors affecting our trade performance negatively. H.E. AĞBAL underscored the necessity for economic restructuring in the OIC Region by promoting use of technology, innovation, value addition, branding and product diversification in the Member Countries.

7. Moreover, H.E. AĞBAL underlined that early operationalization of the TPS-OIC is crucial for not only enhancing trade among the OIC member countries but also for improving interactions among the private sector and providing cargo to well-functioning transport corridors in the OIC Region.

8. Furthermore, expressing the importance of the implementation of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations by the Member Countries, H.E. AĞBAL suggested that each country may conduct an internal study on how to implement these recommendations at the national level in line with their needs and potentials and prepare simple roadmaps for putting the recommendations into concrete action. He also expressed that the COMCEC Coordination Office may regularly gather data on the progress and report them to the annual COMCEC Ministerial Sessions.

9. H.E. AĞBAL also touched upon the latest development concerning the major COMCEC Project namely; the OIC Arbitration Center. In this regard, he informed the participants that the necessary preparations are underway by the ICCIA and TOBB. He expressed his belief that the OIC Arbitration Center will contribute to economic and commercial cooperation among the Islamic Countries through its efficient dispute settlement mechanism.

10. H.E. AĞBAL concluded his remarks by emphasizing the critical role of effective follow-up of the cooperation efforts and expressing his wishes for the success of deliberations towards peace, prosperity and welfare of the Islamic Ummah.

*(The text of the Statement of H.E. Naci AĞBAL is attached as Annex II.)*

11. The message of H.E. Dr. Yousef AL-OTHAIMEEN the Secretary General of the OIC, was read out by Mr. Naghi JABBAROV from the Economic Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat. In his message, H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN expressed his deepest appreciation to the Government and the friendly people of Republic of Turkey for the elaborate arrangements made for this meeting and for the warm reception and kind hospitality accorded to all participants.

12. H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN highlighted the various economic resolutions, which have been adopted by the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of CFM held in Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019. In this regard, H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN mentioned that the ISFD is very crucial to the financing of poverty alleviation programmes of importance to the vulnerable segments of OIC population. Moreover, H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN commended the efforts of the Government of Turkey for the various interventions carried out under the COMCEC Project Financing Mechanism, while congratulating those countries which have successfully utilized this mechanism.

*(A copy of the text of the message of H.E. Dr. Yousef A. AL-OTHAIMEEN is attached as Annex III.)*

13. The Meeting was addressed by the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Florentinus KRISTIARTONO, Deputy Director at the Ministry of National Development Planning. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey and COMCEC Coordination Office for hosting and organizing the Meeting. In his speech, Mr. KRISTIARTONO highlighted the importance of utilizing all existing means, particularly in supporting the COMCEC Strategy and its implementation to address and respond to common issues and challenges facing Islamic countries.

### **Sideline Event**

14. The 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee was held on 23 April 2019.

*(Report of the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex IV.)*

### **Working Sessions**

15. The working sessions of the Meeting were chaired by H.E. Ambassador Salih Mutlu ŞEN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC.

16. The agenda of the Meeting was adopted by the Committee.

*(A copy of the Agenda is attached as Annex V.)*

### **Agenda Item 2: The COMCEC Strategy and its Implementation**

17. The Committee **welcomed** the Report on the Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy and **commended** the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to the implementation of the Strategy. The Committee also **requested** the Member States and OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

18. The Committee **welcomed** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and **also welcomed** the research studies conducted by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for enriching the discussions in each COMCEC Working Group Meeting.

19. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their fields of competence and **welcomed** the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in February-April 2019.

20. **Commending** the efforts of the Member Countries and OIC Institutions towards the realization of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, the Committee **invited** all the Member Countries to exert every effort, to the extent possible, to implement the policy recommendations and **urged** relevant OIC Institutions to support the Member States in this regard.

21. The Committee **welcomed** the readiness of the SESRIC to contribute to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations particularly through organizing capacity building and training programmes in the six cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy.

22. **Taking note** of the valuable outcomes of projects previously financed by COMCEC since 2014, the Committee **invited** Member Countries to intensify their efforts to harness the benefits of COMCEC Project Funding particularly with a view to materialize the Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

23. The Committee **welcomed** the finalization of the seventeen projects funded under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2018 and **also welcomed** the launching of twenty-four new projects to be implemented in 2019.

24. The Committee **called on** the COMCEC National Focal Points and Working Group focal points to work more closely with the COMCEC Coordination Office for effective coordination and communication.

25. The Committee **invited** the Member Countries to ensure the participation of the COMCEC National Focal Points and COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, to the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings and the COMCEC Sessions.

26. The Committee **encouraged** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Working Groups to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the relevant Working Groups.

27. The Committee **welcomed** that the COMCEC Coordination Office will organize the Seventh Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points in July 2019 in Turkey and **called upon** the Working Group Focal Points and National Focal Points to actively participate in the meeting.

28. The Committee **called upon** the WG Focal Points to discuss the ways and means for the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations including developing national roadmaps in the Member Countries during the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points.

29. The Committee **called upon** the Member States concerned to respond to the “Evaluation Forms” circulated each year by the COMCEC Coordination Office with a view to following up the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations and **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to analyze the replies and report the results to the 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session for appraisal and necessary action.

30. The Committee took note with appreciation that the member countries namely Indonesia, The Gambia, Nigeria and Turkey have already set up national coordination mechanisms for facilitating the coordination of COMCEC related work particularly the implementation of the COMCEC Resolutions and Ministerial Policy Recommendations at the national level and,

**encouraged** the other Member States to set up similar coordination mechanisms for these purposes.

31. The Committee **also called upon** the Working Group Focal Points to be actively involved in knowledge production efforts of the COMCEC through, among others, assisting in collection and verification of country specific data and providing feedbacks to research studies.

32. The Committee **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.

33. The Committee **requested** the concerned Member States to actively participate in the activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in the cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy and **called upon** these institutions to send invitations to the Member States sufficiently in advance of the meetings so as to ensure their participation.

### **Agenda Item 3: Implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action (TYPOA)**

34. The Committee **took note of** the report presented by the OIC General Secretariat on the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action.

35. **Underlining** the importance of the active follow up of the economic and commercial section of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action by the COMCEC, the Committee **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 in line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC.

36. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat for organizing the Fourth Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) in Jeddah, OIC Headquarters on 3-4 December 2018.

37. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, the Committee **requested** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to sign and ratify the agreements in the economic domain for furthering economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.



#### **Agenda Item 4: Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade**

38. **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on 7 March 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Enhancing Public Availability of Customs Information in the OIC Member States”, the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations:

- Encouraging the establishment of a formal consultation mechanism between regulatory authorities and trade community towards ensuring an efficient trade environment for the interest of various stakeholders at the national level,
- Utilizing Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) effectively for the dissemination of trade, especially customs related information,
- Encouraging the development of an effective Advance Ruling System in order to enhance the certainty and predictability of customs operations,
- Promoting integrated Single Windows (SW) Systems and Trade Information Portals for combining the transaction processing functions of SW Systems with a comprehensive repository of trade-related laws, regulations, rules and procedures,
- Leveraging international and regional cooperation and making use of successful country experiences for promoting trade information availability.

*(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex VI.)*

39. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to actively participate in its 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be organized on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the theme of “Improving Customs Transit Systems in the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Trade Working Group.

40. The Committee also **welcomed** the activities organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in the area of trade aligned with the COMCEC Strategy since the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

41. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan and SMIIC for the successful implementation of the following projects in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “The Feasibility Study on the Interoperability of Selected Single Window Systems in the OIC Region” implemented by Morocco in partnership with Cameroon and Tunisia,
- The Project titled “Boosting Intra-OIC Trade Through Improvement of Trade Facilitation Measures in the OIC Region” implemented by Nigeria in partnership with Morocco and Indonesia,
- The Project titled “Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Single Window Systems in the OIC Member States” implemented by Sudan in partnership with four other Member States,
- The Project titled “Harmonization of National Halal Standards with the OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards” implemented by SMIIC in partnership with 20 Member States.

42. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Indonesia, Lebanon, Palestine and SMIIC for the following projects to be implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Empowering Halal Industry to Boost Intra-OIC Trade” to be implemented by Indonesia in partnership with five other Member States,
- The Project titled “Supporting Cooperatives to Enhance Their Access to OIC Markets” to be implemented by Lebanon in partnership with Turkey and Kuwait,
- The Project titled “Introduction of Palestinian Export Products to Selected OIC countries” to be implemented by Palestine in partnership with Algeria and Indonesia,
- The Project titled “Increasing Public Halal Awareness in OIC countries” to be implemented by SMIIC in partnership with Turkey and Malaysia.

43. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire for hosting and ICDT and WIEF for organizing the workshop on “Online marketing for Business women” on 15-18 April 2019 in Abidjan.

44. The Committee **welcomed** the organization of the workshop on “Online marketing for Business women” to be hosted by the People’s Republic of Bangladesh on 10-14 June 2019 in Dhaka in collaboration with ICDT and IUT.

*i) TPS-OIC*

45. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have not yet signed or ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, PRETAS and the Rules of Origin, to do so at their earliest convenience.

46. The Committee **welcomed** the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretariat on behalf of its six Member Countries, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman and **requested** the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Secretariat to communicate with the concerned participating Member States to ensure the submission of the concession lists in the same format and circulate them among the concerned Member States accordingly.

47. **Commending** the efforts of TNC Secretariat for finalizing the completion of updated concession lists process, the Committee **called upon** the concerned Member States to expedite their efforts for the submission of the concession lists in the same format for the operationalization of the TPS-OIC at the earliest.

48. The Committee **requested** the participating Member States, who have not done so yet, 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.

49. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the Republic of Sudan for hosting and ICDT, COMCEC Coordination Office and ICCIA for organizing “Regional Workshop on TPS-OIC and the Multilateral Trading System” in Khartoum on 17-18 December 2018 and **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Suriname to organize a workshop on “TPS-OIC and Intra-OIC Trade Solutions” in Paramaribo in 2019 in close cooperation with TNC Secretariat.

50. The Committee **requested** the ICDT, COMCEC Coordination Office, and other relevant OIC Institutions to continue organizing awareness raising and capacity building activities with regard to TPS-OIC.

*ii) Islamic Trade Fairs*

51. The Committee **expressed** its thanks and appreciation to the following Member States for hosting Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT:

- The Republic of Turkey for hosting and ICDT and SMIIC for organizing the “6<sup>th</sup> OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 29 November-2 December 2018,
- The Republic of Cote d’Ivoire for hosting the “4<sup>th</sup> OIC Health Expo” and “Medical Expo Cote d’Ivoire” concurrently in Abidjan on 7-9 December 2018,
- The Republic of Iraq for hosting the “16<sup>th</sup> OIC Trade Fair” in Baghdad on 7-13 April 2019,
- The Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the Expo and Forum on Transportation and Logistics of the OIC Member States concomitantly with LogisMed 2019 in Casablanca on 9-11 April 2019;

52. The Committee **welcomed** that World Expo “EXPO 2020 Dubai” would be hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai from 20 October 2020 to 10 April 2021.

53. The Committee **also welcomed** the invitation extended by the United Arab Emirates to the OIC Institutions to actively participate in the EXPO 2020 Dubai.

54. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the following Member States to host Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT in 2018 and 2019 and **requested** the Member States to encourage active participation of their private sectors and relevant institutions in these events:

- The Republic of Turkey to host the “7<sup>th</sup> OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul from November 28<sup>th</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 in coordination with SMIIC,
- The People’s Republic of Bangladesh to host Maritime Economy and the Shipbuilding and Fisheries Expo of the OIC Member States in Dhaka in November 2019,
- The State of Kuwait to host the “Forum of Women Entrepreneurs and Expo in Jewelry and Cosmetics” on 27 October-1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 and “Exceptional Edition of the Tourism, Handicrafts and Interior Decoration Exhibition of the OIC Member States” in Kuwait-City on 18-23 December 2019.

55. The Committee **reiterated** its request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

56. The Committee also **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.

*iii) WTO Related Technical Assistance*

57. The Committee **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 and underlines the need for more effectively disseminating information on training courses among all Member States.

58. The Committee **called on** IDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and to enhance their efforts in sensitizing the Member States to the impact of WTO trade negotiations on their economies and **requested** IDB and ICDT to continue to synergize and coordinate their efforts to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on an equitable and fair basis.

59. The Committee **called upon** the WTO members of the OIC to assist non-WTO Members of the OIC in their accession process to WTO.

60. The Committee **welcomed** the organization of the Workshop on Post-WTO Eleventh Ministerial Conference by the Kingdom of Morocco in collaboration with IDB to be held on 26-27 June 2019 in Casablanca.

61. The Committee **also called upon** the Member Countries and the relevant OIC institutions to extend support to the Member Countries who need technical assistance on trade facilitation practices towards the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

62. The Committee **underlined** the importance of raising awareness in the Member Countries about the ongoing WTO reform process.

*iv) Trade Financing Activities*

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

64. The Committee **took note with appreciation** that ITFC's cumulative approvals and disbursement in trade financing reached, since its inception in 2008 until the end of March 2019, US\$47.4 billion and US\$37.2 billion respectively, and its total approvals and disbursement in 2018 reached US\$5.2 billion and US\$4.5 billion respectively.

65. The Committee **commended** the efforts of ITFC in financing SMEs, Least Developed Member Countries and intra-OIC trade and **took note** of its efforts to diversify its portfolio and extend more financing for agriculture sector that has direct and prominent impact on improving productivity, job creation, increasing export revenues and alleviating poverty.

66. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to complete their membership requirements for the institutions of the IDB Group (ITFC and ICIEC) so that the IDB Group implements its mandate successfully.

67. The Committee **took note of** the trade promotion and capacity development initiatives being implemented by ITFC under its various flagship programs including Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS), Special Programme for Central Asia (SPCA), Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program (AATB), Trade Development Fund, West Africa SMEs Program and Trade Development Forum to raise awareness of the private sectors on the activities of the ITFC.

68. The Committee took note of the efforts of the ITFC in implementing Integrated Trade Solution Programmes, including Indonesia Coffee Development Programme, Guinea Reverse Linkage Programme, the Cotton Bridge Programme, Program for the Development of Dates Sector in Medina Region, Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment of Iraq, the Gambia Aflatoxin Mitigation Programme, and various programmes for Tunisia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, CIS Countries, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Comoros and Djibouti.

69. The Committee **took note of** ITFC's efforts for the diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments, supporting training programs on Islamic finance and promoting Islamic Finance solutions at international fora.

70. The Committee **took note** of the efforts of the ICIEC as the only multilateral export credit and investment insurance Corporation in the world that provides Shariah-Compliant insurance and reinsurance solutions.

71. **Congratulating** the ICIEC for its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a unique Multilateral Company providing Takaful credit and investment insurance

services among the OIC Member Countries, the Committee **acknowledged** the ICIEC's role in supporting USD 8.5 billion of Intra-OIC business involving 35 countries with a cumulative insurance approval since its inception in 1994 which has reached USD 41.5 billion to end-2018; with business insured exceeding USD 52 billion.

72. The Committee **commended** the ICIEC for the two prestigious awards received at the recent Project Finance International Awards which is one of the most distinguished events that brings together the world's project finance industry to celebrate excellence.

73. The Committee **took note of** the launching of new edition of the Annual Development Effectiveness Report (ADER) which encompass the ICIEC performance throughout the last 25 years.

74. The Committee **took note of** the progress report submitted by the ICIEC on OIC Business Intelligence Programme.

75. The Committee **welcomed** the mutual arrangement between IDB Group, in particular ICIEC and SESRIC regarding the allocation of space location and other relevant resources by SESRIC for technical instruments for the OIC Business Intelligence Programme.

76. The Committee **also welcomed** the IDB Group's endeavours to further the OIC Business Intelligence Programme with the necessary financial resources and process towards its implementation with the completion of studies including SWOT analysis, benchmarking study, operational processes and stakeholder expectations as well as market segmentation analysis.

*v) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC*

77. The Committee **welcomed** the activities of Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in the area of standardization, metrology and accreditation and their impact on trade facilitation and capacity building.

78. The Committee **invited** the Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Councils.

79. The Committee **welcomed** the Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Uzbekistan as the new members of the SMIIC, which has increased the number of SMIIC Member States to 37 along with 3 Observers and **invited** the

concerned Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Councils.

80. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence and **invited** Member States to support to further increase its visibility in international fora, particularly through its accession as an observer to the WTO-Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

81. The Committee **invited** the Member Countries to adopt and use the OIC/SMIIC Standards as their national standards in order to help the harmonization of standards and eliminate the technical barriers to trade among the Member Countries and **called upon** the relevant Member Countries, which use OIC/SMIIC Standards, to officially adopt the standards according to SMIIC adoption guidelines.

82. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the Republic of Turkey for hosting and SMIIC and ICDT for supporting the organization of the World Halal Summit (WHS) in Istanbul on 29 November – 2 December 2018 and **called upon** the Member Countries to participate in “Istanbul 2019 World Halal Summit” to be held on 28 November - 1 December 2019 under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey in coordination with SMIIC and ICDT.

### **Agenda Item 5: Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation**

83. The Committee **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.

84. The Committee **encouraged** the Chambers of Commerce of the Member States to be actively involved in the ICCIA’s activities.

85. The Committee **took note** of the following activities to be organized by the ICCIA and **called upon** the private sector of the Member States to actively participate in the following activities:

- Workshop on Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities to be held in the second half of 2019,



- Chambers of Commerce Forum for OIC to be held in 2019,
- Specialized Workshops/Training Programmes to be held in 2019 on;
  - a. Entrepreneurship Development
  - b. Promotion of Cottage Industries through SMEs,
  - c. Scaling-up existing Enterprises through Skill Development and
  - d. Exploring destinations for Health Tourism.
- The 17<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member States/ Trade Exchange Forum to be held in 2019,
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Countries to be held in 2019.

86. The Committee **took note with appreciation of** the efforts of the ICD, which efficiently works towards financing private sector projects in the Member Countries.

87. The Committee **took note with appreciation** that ICD's cumulative approvals and disbursement in private sector financing reached, since its inception in 1999 until the end of 2018, US\$6.4 billion and US\$3.2 billion.

88. The Committee **requested** the ICD to regularly submit comprehensive reports regarding its efforts on financing private sector to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings under a separate sub-item titled "Financing Private Sector Development."

89. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC and Council of Foreign Ministers and the relevant decision of the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of General Assembly of the ICCIA regarding approval of the Statute of the Center, the Committee **welcomed** the progress in the operationalization of OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul affiliated to ICCIA and **requested** the Member Countries to encourage their Chambers to actively participate in the activities of the Arbitration Center.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Improving Transport and Communications**

90. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group held on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "Improving Transport Project Appraisals in OIC Member Countries", the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations:

- Designing a systematic framework for transport project appraisals, indicating the objectives, types and the utilized methodologies.

- Developing/ Improving manuals and guidelines for ensuring having effective and harmonized transport project appraisals as well as effectively implementing the existing ones.
- Applying transport project appraisals as a main part of a full project cycle and making use of quality data/information as well as the lessons generated from the implementation of the previous project(s).
- Encouraging the enhancement of Improving transport project appraisals capacity through a system of official certification of competences, exchange of experience, training programs, seminars, conferences and workshops etc.

*(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex VII.)*

91. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to actively participate in the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Risk Management in Transport Public-Private Partnership Projects in the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group.

92. The Committee **commended** the efforts of The Gambia, Iran and Jordan for the following projects implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Analysis of the Road Database Management Systems in the Selected OIC Countries” implemented by The Gambia in partnership with Senegal and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Feasibility Study of Iran- Caucasus Transport Corridor” implemented by Iran in partnership with Azerbaijan and Turkey,
- The Project titled “Feasibility Study for Reconstructing the Old Ottoman Hejaz Railway Line” implemented by Jordan in partnership with Iraq and Turkey.

93. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of The Gambia, Iran and Jordan for the following projects to be implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Improving Human and Institutional Capacity for Integrated Database Management System in the OIC Countries” to be

implemented by the Gambia in partnership with Senegal, Nigeria and Turkey.

- The Project titled “Increasing Seaborne Transport and Trade within the Framework of the TPS-OIC” implemented by Iran in partnership with Oman, Qatar, Pakistan and Turkey.
- The Project titled “Reconstructing the Old Ottoman Hejaz Railway Line – Phase 2” to be implemented by Jordan in partnership with other five Member States.

94. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the SESRIC in organizing the following capacity building activities in the field of transport and communications:

- Regional Workshop on “Electronic Postal Service Payments” held on 26-28 February 2019 in Tunis, Tunisia,
- Training on “Philately and International Reply Coupon” held on 16-18 April 2019 in Tunis, Tunisia.

95. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) to share its experience in the implementation of the TIR System with the interested Member States.

96. **Taking note of** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat and the IDB Group to operationalize the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor, the Committee **requested** the General Secretariat and IDB Group to regularly inform the concerned Member States about the progress in the realization of the Project in the relevant OIC fora.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Developing Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector**

97. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Sustainable Destination Management Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”, the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations:

- Improving community participation fair representation by offering human resources training, capacity building and certification programs, enhancing local value chain, integrating local production into procurement and minimize leakages, encouraging local entrepreneurship in tourism, conducting media campaigns as well as raising tourist awareness about tourism sustainability.
- Identifying KPIs for sustainable tourism development based on international standards and climate change agreement to monitor each

country's performance against a set of pre-determined indicators and to encourage remedial actions when targets are not met.

- Identifying current and potential tangible and intangible tourism resources by taking into consideration destinations carrying capacity, and their long term protection and survival while avoiding over tourism.
- The required mechanisms (e.g. voluntary contribution, tourist tax, environmental fees) might be introduced to fund the sustainability activities that aim to protect, preserve the local quality of life and minimize the costs associated with tourism.
- Ensuring effective destination planning and marketing in such a way that the supply and demand meet at the optimum level and diversified.

*(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex VIII.)*

98. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tourism Working Group to be held on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Developing Multi-destination Tourism Corridors in the OIC Countries”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

99. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum to be held in September 2019 in İstanbul, Turkey with the theme of "Prospects for Development of Health Tourism in the OIC Member States".

100. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mozambique and SESRIC for the following projects implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Strengthening the Resilience of Tourism Sector Against Crises through Communication” implemented by Burkina Faso in partnership with Niger and Côte d'Ivoire,
- The Project titled “Training on Crisis Communication in Tourism for Selected OIC Member Countries” implemented by Mali in partnership with four other Member Countries,
- The Project titled “Community-Based Tourism through the Promotion of Heritage Sites for Poverty Alleviation” implemented by Mozambique in partnership with four other Member Countries,

- The Project titled “Improving Islamic Tourism Ecosystem in OIC Member Countries: Destination and Industry Development” implemented by SESRIC in partnership with 13 Member Countries.

101. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Azerbaijan, The Gambia, Iran, Mali, Mozambique and ICDT for the following projects to be implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Destination Management Organization: Conceptual Framework for Azerbaijan, Cameroon and Iran” to be implemented by Azerbaijan in partnership with Cameroon and Iran,
- The Project titled “Training of Accommodation Providers in the OIC Member Countries on Muslim Friendly Tourism Standards and Quality Service Provision” to be implemented by The Gambia in partnership with Senegal and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Study on Effective Strategies to Establish Sustainable Muslim Friendly Tourism Parks in Selected OIC Member Countries” to be implemented by Iran in partnership with Turkey and Azerbaijan,
- The Project titled “Capacity Building on Destination Management Organizations of OIC Member Countries” to be implemented by Mali in partnership with other seven Member States,
- The Project titled “Improving Human Capacity on Muslim Friendly Tourism for Regulating Accommodation Establishments in the OIC Member Countries” to be implemented by Mozambique in partnership with four other Member States,
- The Project titled “Developing Muslim-Friendly Tourism in Guyana and Suriname” to be implemented by the ICDT in partnership with Suriname, Turkey, and Malaysia in cooperation with Guyana, SESRIC and SMIIC.

102. The Committee **took note with appreciation** of the efforts of the SESRIC for organizing training courses and seminars in tourism sector, particularly on halal tourism and tourism statistics within the framework of the OIC Capacity Building Programme (OIC-CaB).

103. The Committee **took note** with appreciation that ICDT and SESRIC would jointly organize a “Training Workshop for the benefit of parks and protected areas managers in West Africa” in Turkey during the last quarter of 2019.

104. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the ICCIA for setting-up a portal on tourism to create awareness of potential visitors in tourism attractions in the Member Countries.

105. The Committee **invited** the Member Countries to encourage their relevant institutions, tourism companies and tour operators etc. to further their efforts through, among others, organizing promotion campaigns and additional tours to Quds al-Sharif for supporting Palestinian residents of Al-Quds and to demonstrate solidarity with them.

**Agenda Item 8: Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security**

106. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Reviewing Agricultural Trade Policies to Promote Intra-OIC Agricultural Trade”, the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations;

- Promotion of Niche Agricultural Products and Halal Certification through product diversification, trademarking, marketing strategies and advertising campaigns.
- Promotion of Commercial Cooperation (e.g. enhancing agricultural investments, removal of business visas, etc) and Non-Commercial Cooperation (e.g. sharing best practices and technical expertise, developing safety standards, etc.) among the OIC Member Countries in the areas related to agricultural trade.
- Promotion of Tariff Reductions and Bilateral Arrangements in key products (e.g. sugar, meat, feeding stuff for animals, oil-seeds, live animals)
- Developing and implementing multilateral trade arrangements (e.g. TPS-OIC - Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC)) with a view to contributing to collaborative and sustainable agricultural trade development.
- Enhancing the capacity of the Member Countries in collection, management and dissemination of agricultural trade data with a view to designing sound and evidence-based agricultural trade policies.

*(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex IX.)*

107. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to actively participate in the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to be held on 11-12 September 2019 with the theme of “Increasing the Resilience of the Food Systems in Islamic Countries in Face of Future Food Crises” as the

preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session.

108. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Indonesia and Turkey for the following projects implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Developing Agricultural Market Information System for Horticulture Farmers” implemented by Indonesia in partnership with six other Member Countries,
- The Project titled “Improving Agricultural Irrigation Extension Services” implemented by Turkey in partnership with Palestine, Morocco and Tunisia.

109. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Egypt, Malaysia and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Enhancing Capacity and Raising Awareness on Food Waste Management in the OIC Countries” to be implemented by Egypt in partnership with four other Member States,
- The Project titled “Capacity Building on Warehousing and Storage Management” to be implemented by Malaysia in partnership Indonesia, Bangladesh and Turkey,
- The Project titled “Reduction of Food Loss and Waste in the OIC Countries” to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with seven other Member States.

110. The Committee **took note of** the SESRIC’s activities on agriculture including the Statistics Course titled “Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics” held on 11-12 April 2019 and Training Course titled “Design and Engineering of Cold Storages and Design and Engineering of Hydroponic Greenhouse” held on 22-26 April 2019.

111. The Committee **also took note of** the efforts of the IDB Group in agriculture sector including the launch of the Regional Rice Value Chain Development Program for the benefit of 10 OIC countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote D’Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Sudan) in Sub-Saharan Africa and the support for the Regional Soil Fertility Mapping Project of West Africa involving six OIC counties (Cote D’Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone) in West Africa with the aim of improving crop production and productivity in the targeted areas.

112. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in the last quarter of 2020 in İstanbul and **called upon** the Member States and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions including the COMCEC Secretariat to actively participate in this important event.

### **Agenda Item 9: Alleviating Poverty**

113. **Taking note with appreciation** the convening of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the theme of “Access to Health Services in the OIC Member Countries”, the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations:

- Developing a strategy/policy including a well-designed payment and health insurance schemes to achieve universal health coverage,
- Strengthening primary healthcare particularly in poorer areas through encouraging skilled health staff to work in rural and remote areas and enhancing integrated health promotion and prevention interventions,
- Promoting the engagement of private sector in the provision of safe and quality healthcare in close partnership with public authorities and with well-designed monitoring mechanisms,
- Encouraging development and upgrade of health information management systems through designing an online-integrated health information system, allocating required resources to health IT infrastructure and strengthening multi-sectoral coordination mechanism.

*(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex X.)*

114. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group, to actively participate in the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group to be held on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the theme of “Child and Maternal Mortality in the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

115. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of The Gambia and Indonesia for the following projects implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:



- The Project titled “Training on Entrepreneurship for Teachers in the Selected OIC Countries” implemented by The Gambia in partnership with Cameroon and Senegal,
- The Project titled “Improving the Single Window Service System for Social Protection and Poverty Reduction in the OIC Countries” implemented by Indonesia in partnership with Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

116. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of the Afghanistan, Nigeria, Suriname, Turkey and SESRIC for the following projects to be implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Improving the Quality of Education through Information and Communication Technologies in the OIC Countries” to be implemented by Afghanistan in partnership with Iran, Turkey and Palestine.
- The Project titled “Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education for Grassroots Empowerment in the OIC Countries” to be implemented by Nigeria in partnership with Turkey, The Gambia and Togo.
- The Project titled “Increasing the Capacity of Vocational Education Centers for the Disabled in the Selected OIC Countries” to be implemented by Suriname in partnership with Turkey and Guiana.
- The Project titled “Developing Guidelines on Social Safety Net Systems for the OIC Countries” to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with five other Member States.
- The Project titled “Digital Skills Development in OIC Countries” to be implemented by SESRIC in partnership with 21 Member States.

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

117. The Committee **reiterated its request** to the Member Countries which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and **requested** the IDB Group to report back to the 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session about the shortfalls in reaching the target capital of the ISFD.

118. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the recent COMCEC Sessions on the observations of the Member Countries for improving the performance of the ISFD in serving the purpose of poverty alleviation through, among others, augmenting the project base and outreach of the Fund by focusing on greater number of projects, especially grant based small/medium sized projects, the

Committee **reiterated its request** to the ISFD to take these observations into consideration during planning its future programmes and activities.

119. **Taking note of** the reports of the IDB on ISFD and SPDA, the Committee **acknowledged** the progress achieved in SPDA and **requested** IDB to prepare evaluation reports on SPDA, upon completion of its projects, providing details about the targets, partners, beneficiaries, outcomes, lessons, learned, etc. and submit them to the relevant OIC fora including forthcoming meetings of the COMCEC.

120. The Committee **requested** the ISFD to increase its efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including governmental, non-governmental resources and the private sector in the Member States.

121. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for mobilization of resources from different financing institutions for more effective implementation of the SPDA.

122. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the previous COMCEC Sessions regarding the capacity building project to be funded by the IDB Group and implemented by SESRIC for finalization of the OIC Cotton Programme, the Committee **requested** the SESRIC to re-submit a revised version of the capacity building project to the IDB Group and **called upon** the IDB Group to finalize the allocation of the funding to the project as well as the OIC General Secretariat, as the main coordinator of the Program, to take necessary steps for expediting the process towards the realization of the project.

*ii) OIC-VET Program*

123. The Committee **appreciated** the continuous efforts of SESRIC with a view to enhancing the capacities and quality of human resources in the member countries and **called upon** SESRIC to mobilize more financial resources towards the programme.

124. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to participate in and support the various capacity building programmes of SESRIC under the OIC-VET Programme.

125. The Committee **requested** the SESRIC to conduct more training programmes focusing on entrepreneurship including women entrepreneurship within the framework of the OIC-VET.

126. **Taking note of** the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025 submitted by SESRIC, the Committee **requested** SESRIC to circulate the document to the member countries to get their views and comments and submit the Road Map to the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

*iii) Implementation of the SDGs*

127. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to continue compiling the relevant OIC Institutions' activities aligned with the prioritized SDG areas and submit the list to the annual COMCEC Sessions.

128. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **requested** SESRIC to prepare an annual report on the progress at the OIC level towards achieving the prioritized SDGs to be submitted to the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

**Agenda Item 10: Deepening Financial Cooperation**

129. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of "Infrastructure Financing through Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries", the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing Legal and Regulatory Framework to Provide an Enabling Environment for Realizing Large Infrastructure Investments through Islamic Finance,
- Increasing the Number and Share of Islamic Nonbank Financial Institutions to Enhance the Contribution of Islamic Finance in Infrastructure Investments,
- Developing the Islamic Capital Markets Infrastructure to Facilitate the Issuance of Different Types of Project Sukuk and other Instruments as Appropriate for Infrastructure Projects,
- Encouraging Innovative Models to use Islamic Social Sector (i.e., Zakat, Waqf and Sadaqah) to Provide Social Infrastructure Services (such as Education and Health) provided that they are Shariah-compliant,
- Improving Capacity and human capital for increasing the use of Islamic Finance for infrastructure financing.

*(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex XI.)*

130. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group, to actively participate in its 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be held on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving Takaful Sector in the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.

131. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Nigeria and Turkey for the following projects implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Training and Guidelines on Sukuk Issuance” implemented by Nigeria in partnership with the Gambia and Togo,
- The Project titled “Improving Financial Consumer Protection in the OIC Countries” implemented by Turkey in partnership with 11 other Member Countries.

132. The Committee also **commended** the efforts of Mozambique, Nigeria and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Capacity Building on Islamic Finance in Mozambique, Gambia and Nigeria” to be implemented by Mozambique in partnership with the Gambia and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Islamic Liquidity Management Instruments for Sustainable Development of Islamic Financial Institutions” to be implemented by Nigeria in partnership with the Gambia and Malaysia,
- The Project titled “Assessment of COMCEC Real Estate Securities Markets and Regulatory Landscapes for Strengthening Capital Markets” to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with other ten Member States.

***i) OIC Exchanges Forum***

133. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts carried out by the OIC Exchanges Forum and its Task Forces and **invited** the Member States to actively participate in the activities organized under this Forum.

134. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Borsa Istanbul, as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, to host the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and “Certificate Training on Islamic Capital Markets”

on 27-28 September 2019 respectively in İstanbul and **requested** the Member States to actively participate in these important events.

135. The Committee **requested** the Borsa Istanbul, as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, in cooperation with IDB to continue to work towards the promotion of S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah 50 Index as well as development and launch of tradable products based on the Index.

136. The Committee **requested** the Member States to actively support the Forum's Task Force on Indices towards active promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah 50 Index to the investors and the finance community in their respective countries as well as publishing the Index on the official websites of their Exchanges.

137. **Taking note** of the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts towards establishing OIC Gold Exchange among the volunteering Member Countries, the Committee **requested** the Forum's Secretariat to advance the technical preparations for the establishment of the OIC Gold Exchange and report to the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

138. The Committee **invited** the interested member states to actively support Forum's Task Force on Precious Metals through, among others, by finding counterparts and designating focal points in their respective countries to lead the OIC Gold Exchange Project.

139. The Committee **also invited** all Exchanges (including stock, commodity, derivatives and precious metals) and other relevant parties of interested member states to actively support Forum's Task Force on Precious Metals, to engage in discussions and to help formulation of the business model for a well-functioning OIC Gold Market.

*ii) COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum*

140. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts carried out by the Task Forces of COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum namely Capacity Building, Market Development, Islamic Finance and Financial Literacy and **called upon** the Member States to support the efforts of the Forum through participating in its meetings and contributing to the accomplishment of the mandates of the Task Forces.

141. The Committee **also welcomed** the offer of the Capital Markets Board (CMB) of the Republic of Turkey, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in İstanbul and **requested** the Member States to actively participate in this important event.

142. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **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 the necessary legal, administrative and technological preparations for the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate Electronic Platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange before the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

143. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 34<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session, the Committee **called upon** the interested Member States to actively participate in the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange and **invited** them to identify their authorized bodies as well as notify them to the Forum's Secretariat by July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 for enhancing coordination.

144. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host “Workshop on Assessment of Market and Regulatory Aspects of the COMCEC Real Estate Securities Market”, which aims to contribute to the realization of the Real Estate Exchange among the interested member countries under the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding and **called upon** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

### *iii) OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum*

145. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of Central Bank of Turkey, as the Secretariat of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum, to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Forum on 22-24 September 2019 in Turkey and **requested** the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.

146. The Committee **commended** the training and capacity building programs organized by the SESRIC towards the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States and **requested** SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the relevant institutions of the Member States.

**Agenda Item 11: Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries”**

147. **Recalling** that the theme of the Exchange of Views Session of the 35th COMCEC Ministerial Session has been determined as “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries” by the 34th Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **invited** the Ministers of the Member Countries in charge of agriculture/food security affairs to participate in the 35th COMCEC Ministerial Session along with the Ministers in charge of COMCEC.

148. The Committee **encouraged** the Member States to prepare their country reports on the mentioned theme and convey them electronically to the CCO by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the latest.

*i) Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 36<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session*

149. The Committee **took note** of the following possible themes of the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC:

Theme 1: Facilitating Trade: Guidelines for Improving Border Management for OIC Member States

Theme 2: Standardization Efforts in Islamic Finance

Theme 3: Developing Livestock Production and Animal Husbandry to Foster Food Security

Theme 4: Enhancing and Sustaining Public Transport in the Rural Areas of the Islamic Countries

Theme 5: Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness

Theme 6: Housing for the Poor in the OIC Member Countries

150. The Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to circulate a questionnaire among the Member States to explore their views on the above-mentioned themes and report the outcomes to the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

**Agenda Item 12: Draft Agenda of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC (İstanbul, 25-28 November 2019)**

151. The Committee **prepared** and **decided** to submit the Draft Agenda to the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

*(A copy of the Draft Agenda of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex XII.)*

## **Closing Session**

152. At its Closing Session chaired by H.E. Ambassador Salih Mutlu ŞEN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC, the Committee adopted its Report together with its Annexes.

153. On behalf of all delegations, Head of Delegation of the State of Kuwait, SAAD AL-RASHIDI, Head of the OIC Affairs Division at the Ministry of Finance expressed his congratulations to the Republic of Turkey and the COMCEC Coordination Office for the warm hospitality extended to the Follow-up Committee Members and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

154. Mr. Naghi JABBAROV, from Economic Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat, also made a statement at the Closing. In his statement, Mr. JABBAROV expressed his special thanks and appreciations to the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality extended to the participants. He also expressed his sincere appreciations to all Heads of Delegations and other participants at this meeting for their contributions. He also thanked the COMCEC Coordination Office for the efforts exerted for the success of the Meeting. Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of the implementation of the vision documents particularly OIC-2025: Programme of Action and COMCEC Strategy.

155. In his closing statement, H.E. Salih Mutlu ŞEN, after thanking all the delegations for their contributions during the Meeting, emphasized that the Member Countries need to exert more efforts to implement the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations. In this respect, H.E. ŞEN underlined that the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism provides the Member Countries a practical tool to conduct joint projects and improve institutional and human capacity in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation in the Member Countries. Moreover, H.E. ŞEN highlighted the importance of replying the annual evaluation forms by the Member Countries to monitor the implementation of the Policy Recommendations.

156. H.E. ŞEN touched upon the importance and relevance of the “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries” as the theme of the Exchange of Views Session of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC



157. H.E. ŞEN reminded that the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Focal Points of the COMCEC will be held in July 2019 in Turkey. He mentioned that the Focal Point Meetings provide a great opportunity for the focal points to discuss ongoing efforts under the COMCEC.

158. H.E. ŞEN concluded his statement by expressing his thanks to the Members of the Follow-Up Committee, the OIC General Secretariat, Rapporteur, representatives of the OIC Institutions, the COMCEC Coordination Office, interpreters, translators and other staff taking part in organization of the Meeting for their efforts which helped rendering the meeting a success.

*(A copy of the text of the Closing Statement by H.E. Salih Mutlu ŞEN is attached as Annex XIII.)*

-----  
-----

# **A N N E X E S**

# **ANNEX**

## **I**

Original: English

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
OF THE THIRTY FIFTH MEETING  
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC  
(Ankara, 24-25 April 2019)**

**A. MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OIC**

**REPUBLIC OF GABON**

- H.E. Amb. JEAN BERNARD AVOUMA  
Ambassador, Embassy of Gabon in Ankara
- Mr. THIBAUT IFOUNGA  
Chief of Protocol, Embassy of Gabon in Ankara

**REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

- Mr. FLORENTINUS KRISTIARTONO  
Deputy Director, Ministry of National Development Planning
- Mr. ARIANTO HARTONO  
First Planner Staff, Ministry of National Development Planning of Indonesia
- Mr. HARYADI SATYA  
First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia

**THE STATE OF KUWAIT**

- Mr. SAAD ALRASHIDI  
Controller, Ministry of Finance
- Mr. ABDULAZIZ AL DALAH  
Second Secretary, Kuwait Embassy in Ankara

**MALAYSIA**

- H.E. ABD RAZAK BIN ABD WAHAB  
Ambassador, Embassy of Malaysia in Ankara
- Ms. LIM MEI YING  
Director, Ministry of International Trade and Industry
- Ms. ROSMIZAH MAT JUSOH  
Director of Trade, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**

- Mr. BILAL KHAN PASHA  
Consulate General, Consulate General of Pakistan in İstanbul
- Mr. IFRAH TARIQ  
Second Secretary, Pakistan Embassy in Ankara

**THE STATE OF PALESTINE**

- Mr. AZMI ABU-GHAZALEH  
Counsellor, Embassy of the State of Palestine Turkey

**STATE OF QATAR**

- Mr. HASSAN ABDULLA R.M. ALMOHANNADI  
Economic Specialist, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. MANSOOR HUMANID A R AL-NAEMI  
International Cooperation Expert, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. SHEIKH ABDULAZIZ AL-THANI  
Diplomat, Embassy of the State of Qatar in Ankara
- Mr. AGIEB HAMMAD  
Researcher, Embassy of the State of Qatar in Ankara

**KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

- Mr. FAWAZ SAAD ALGHAMDI  
Commercial Attaché, Saudi Arabia Commercial Office in İstanbul
- Mr. MUTLAQ ALHURAYR ALDOSARI  
Economic Researcher, Ministry of Commerce and Investment

**REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

- H.E. NACI AĞBAL  
President of Strategy and Budget of Presidency of Turkey, Presidency of Strategy and Budget
- H.E. SEZAI UÇARMAK  
Deputy Minister of Trade, Ministry of Trade
- H.E. Amb. SALİH MUTLU ŞEN  
Ambassador, OIC Permanent Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. AHU DOKTAŞ  
Manager, EXIM BANK
- Ms. NESLİHAN DİNİZ  
Manager, EXIM BANK
- Mr. ADEM BAŞAR  
Deputy General Manager, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Trade
- Mr. DENİZ YILMAZ  
Assistant General Manager, Ministry of Treasury and Finance
- Mr. ALİ BOZÇALIŞKAN  
Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. AYHAN BARAN  
Head of Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Ms. AYLİN BEBEKOĞLU  
Head of Department, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Trade
- Mr. SEYFULLAH SEMERCİ  
Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. EDA BURCU BULUT  
EU Expert, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
- Ms. TUĞÇENAZ UĞURLU CİHANGİR  
Counsellor, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
- Mr. ÖZGÜ EVİRGİN  
Expert, OIC COMCEC Central Bank Forum
- Mr. İBRAHİM KÜÇÜKİKİZ  
Assistant Expert, OIC COMCEC Central Bank Forum
- Mr. ADİL ALTAN  
Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

- Mr. MEHMET ALİ ÖZDEM  
Expert, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Mr. UFUK AYKAÇ  
Expert, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Trade
- Ms. ELİF ESRA ÖNAL  
International Relations Manager, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
- Mr. ŞEHLA ALİ HASAN  
Expert, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
- Mr. KUBİLAY ŞİMŞEK  
Expert, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
- Ms. BAŞAK YILMAZ  
Assistant Expert, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
- Mr. CANER KAR

## **B. THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

### **INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC TRADE FINANCE CORPORATION (ITFC)**

- Mr. HARUN CELİK  
Senior Marketing

## **OIC**

- Mr. NAGHI JABBAROV  
Head of Trade and Investment Division, Department of Economic Affairs OIC

## **C. THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS**

### **ISLAMIC CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)**

- Mr. MAMOUDU SALL  
Head of Studies and Department

### **STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)**

- H.E. NEBİL DABUR  
Director General
- Dr. ATİLLA KARAMAN  
Acting Director
- Mr. ONUR ÇAĞLAR  
Technical Cooperation Specialist

## **D. SPECIALIZED ORGANS OF THE OIC**

### **ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)**

- Mr. ALI IBN ABI TALIB MAHMOUD  
Specialist
- Mr. NAFAR NOSRATOLLAH  
Lead Economist

- Mr. MOHAMMAD ALI DIN MOHAMMADI  
Officer

#### **E. AFFILIATED ORGANS OF THE OIC**

##### **STANDARDS AND METROLOGY INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SMIIC)**

- Ms. EMEL GÖNÇ  
Executive Assistant

#### **F. OIC STANDING COMMITTEES**

##### **THE ISLAMIC CORPORATION FOR THE INSURANCE OF INVESTMENT AND EXPORT CREDIT (ICIEC)**

- Mr. DJAMEL GHRIB  
Senior Technical Assistant

#### **G. INVITED INSTITUTIONS**

##### **CAPITAL MARKETS BOARD of TURKEY**

- Ms. SEÇİL SAYIN KUTLUCA  
Senior Legal Expert
- Mr. BORA ORUÇ  
Vice President

##### **BORSA İSTANBUL**

- Dr. RECEP BİLDİK
- Manager, Secretariat of OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum

#### **H. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE**

- Mr. M. METİN EKER  
Director General
- Mr. ERTAN TOSUN  
Assistant Director General
- Mr. SELÇUK KOÇ  
Head of Department
- Mr. BURAK KARAGÖL  
Head of Department
- Mr. MEHMET ASLAN  
Head of Department
- Mr. FATİH ÜNLÜ  
Expert
- Mr. GÖKTEN DAMAR  
Expert
- Mr. DENİZ GÖLE  
Expert
- Ms. AYTEN AKMAN  
Expert
- Ms. AYLİN ŞENOL GÜN  
Expert
- Mr. ALİ ORUÇ  
Expert

- Mr. MUSTAFA ADİL SAYAR  
Expert
- Mr. OKAN POLAT  
Expert
- Mr. CAN AYGÜL  
Expert
- Mr. CEMAL CANER UYANIK  
Expert
- Mr. FATİH ARSLAN  
Expert
- Mr. HASAN YENİGÜL  
Expert
- Mr. NİHAT AKBALIK  
Expert
- Mr. ERHAN SIRT  
Expert
- Mr. UĞUR AKARSU  
Expert
- Ms. AYŞE ÖZGÜL YÜKSEL  
Coordinator

-----  
-----



# **ANNEX**

## **II**

Original: English

**OPENING STATEMENT BY H.E. NACİ AĞBAL,  
PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDENCY OF STRATEGY AND BUDGET  
OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
THIRTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE  
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC  
(Ankara, 24 April 2019)**

As-Selamu Alaikum,  
Bismillahirrahmanirrahim  
Esteemed Members of the Follow-up Committee,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my sincere pleasure for being with you on the occasion of the 35th Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC and welcome you all to Ankara.

The Follow-up Committee reviews and monitors the implementation of the programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC, takes precautions for overcoming the challenges in the implementation process and prepares the agenda of the COMCEC. This is a very important task indeed. We all know that adopting resolutions is not an easy task but implementing these resolutions and transforming them into concrete action is a much more challenging process.

I wish you all a fruitful meeting in advance in your important deliberations with my firm conviction that -as usual- you would formulate important recommendations in all cooperation areas especially for finding solutions in our way towards implementation.

Esteemed Participants,

We are passing through difficult times especially in our geography both in terms of political and economic issues. In this type of turbulent times, mutual understanding, dialogue, cooperation and solidarity is the most efficient way of overcoming setbacks and obstacles.

Before embarking on economic issues, I would like mention my sympathies and express my condolences for the victims of the treacherous terrorist attack in New Zealand and pray Allah the All Mighty to shower his blessings and mercy on the victims and their families. The picture we have seen after this

tragic incident demonstrates that if we confront the problems collectively in a spirit of mutual understanding, we can overcome them much more easily for the benefit of humanity.

Distinguished Delegates,

Our most urgent task today is to realize higher economic and commercial cooperation and collaboration among ourselves in order to stand stronger against the damaging economic and political developments in the world as well as in the OIC geography. In this respect, we have to enhance our cooperation in every sphere especially in the area of trade for reaching the 25 percent intra OIC trade target by 2025. With sincere efforts, I am confident that we can reach and even go beyond our targets.

At present, our import and export performance are far from the desired level. In 2012, the total OIC exports accounted for around 2.4 trillion US Dollars; this amount has decreased to 1.4 trillion US Dollars in 2016. Then, the total OIC exports recovered and reached 2 trillion US Dollars in 2018. While the total OIC imports were 1.8 trillion US Dollars in 2012, it has increased to 2.1 trillion US Dollars in 2018. Nonetheless, the total OIC trade volume is still below the level of the year 2012. The fluctuations in world demand, oil prices and international currencies, and the developments in the OIC Region in recent years are some of the basic factors affecting our trade performance negatively.

Furthermore, despite its high potential, intra-OIC trade is also below the desired level. The share of intra-OIC trade declined from 18.9 percent in 2017 to 18 percent in 2018<sup>1</sup>. Protectionist trade policies, high tariffs, non-tariff barriers, weak trade related logistics and infrastructure, underutilized trade financing and insurance mechanisms as well as the problems in payment and banking systems are some of the major challenges faced by the Member Countries concerning the intra-OIC trade.

Distinguished Delegates,

The global economic growth has declined in 2018 following a relatively strong growth in 2017. According to IMF, the global economic growth has decreased from 4 percent in 2017 to 3.6 percent in 2018. On the other hand, the OIC member countries, as a group, have recorded a slightly better performance than the world in the same period. In this vein, the OIC economic growth has increased from 3.8 percent in 2017 to 4.1 percent in 2018. According to IMF

---

<sup>1</sup> IMF Trade Statistics

forecasts, the global economic growth is expected to be 3.3 percent in 2019 and 3.6 percent in 2020. This economic growth will be underpinned by a limited number of developed and emerging markets. In this framework, the OIC member countries' share in the world output<sup>2</sup> will only be 15.4 percent in 2019.<sup>3</sup>

This picture clearly reminds us the necessity for economic restructuring towards enhancing our production base especially promoting use of technology, innovation, value addition, branding and product diversification in our countries. In this process, while benefiting from global case points and success stories, we need to develop our own genuine solutions with a strong local ownership for taking the needed steps. While external factors can contribute a lot to our endeavours, development is basically an internal process and dynamics should come from within.

Distinguished Guests,

Agriculture sector is a vital area for sustainable economic and social development. Recent history clearly shows us that the agriculture sector should not be ignored or underestimated even in the most technology intense societies and set-ups. Meanwhile agriculture sector should benefit vastly from technological developments for producing high value added products as well as for ensuring the sustainability of the system. Considering the importance of this issue, our ministers have determined the theme of the exchange of views session of the 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session as “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries”. Sharing our experiences and helping other brotherly member countries in this crucial issue would certainly deepen our cooperation efforts, strengthen our resilience and help us in developing sustainable food systems in our region. I am confident that the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group, in its 14th Meeting, will prepare an excellent technical ground for the Ministerial exchange of views.

Dear Friends,

While approximating our development agenda and policies, we should never omit the regional mega projects for realizing our economic and commercial potential. TPSOIC (Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States), the cornerstone project of the COMCEC, is a crucial case point in front of us. Early operationalization of the TPS-OIC is crucial for not only enhancing trade

---

<sup>2</sup> Based on PPP

<sup>3</sup> OIC Economic Outlook by SESRIC, IMF World Economic Outlook

among the OIC member countries but also for improving interactions among the private sector and providing cargo to well-functioning transport corridors in the OIC Region.

We have already reached the required number of member countries having submitted their concession lists recently. However, there are format problems and missing lines in some of the concession lists we have received. We are in an intense effort and working with the relevant departments for solving these minor issues so that we can announce the launch of the System this year during the 35th COMCEC Session.

We have no justification to postpone the operationalization of TPS-OIC anymore. Therefore, I would like to call upon all relevant member countries that we should exert utmost efforts to ensure the efficient implementation of the TPS-OIC. We must be aware of the opportunities we would be missing.

Dear Colleagues,

I would also like to inform you that with reference to the relevant resolutions of the previous COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, we are going to establish the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul soon. The necessary preparations are underway by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and TOBB. I sincerely believe that the OIC Arbitration Center will contribute to economic and commercial cooperation among the Islamic Countries through its efficient dispute settlement mechanism. Meanwhile, we have also been working towards establishing gold exchange and real estate exchange as significant sub-items of our financial cooperation.

Distinguished Participants,

COMCEC Strategy provides us ample opportunities for cooperation especially for sharing experiences and drawing lessons from others' experiences and good practices. Within the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, the Working Groups have successfully concluded 13 rounds of meetings in 6 cooperation areas since 2013 and deliberated on important issues and themes. We have now a significant volume of policy recommendations developed by the Working Groups that will provide the basis for concrete policy actions in our member countries.

Now, there is a heavy responsibility on our shoulders: That is the task of implementing these precious recommendations. I would like to make a critical suggestion: Each country may kindly conduct an internal study on how to

implement these recommendations at the national level in line with their needs and potentials and prepare simple roadmaps for putting the recommendations into concrete action. Then the COMCEC Coordination Office may regularly gather data on the progress and report them to the annual COMCEC Ministerial Sessions.

In this respect, COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism is a useful tool for implementing the policy recommendations. Within the Funding Mechanism, 61 projects have been successfully implemented by the Member countries and OIC Institutions in the last 5 years. For this year, 24 projects are being implemented with more than 40 beneficiary member countries.

I would like to highlight that efficiency of the COMCEC programs and projects and the success of our initiatives for economic and commercial cooperation depend on your sustained efforts and valuable contributions. Seizing the opportunity, I would like to invite once more all member countries to benefit more from these mechanisms of COMCEC, Working Groups and Project Funding Mechanism.

Dear Colleagues,

Effective follow-up are always essential for detecting and thereby overcoming the problems and setbacks we continuously face as Islamic Countries in our cooperation efforts. Therefore, as the members of the Follow-up Committee, your deliberations is of critical importance for the work of COMCEC. As I conclude my remarks, I sincerely wish you all the success in your endeavours during the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

Thank you very much.

*Esselamu Alaikum wa Rahmetullahi wa Barakatuhu.*

-----  
-----

# **ANNEX**

## **III**

Original: Arabic

**MESSAGE OF H.E. DR. YOUSEF BIN AHMAD AL-OTHAIMEEN  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION  
OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)**

**THIRTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP  
COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC  
(Republic of Turkey, Ankara, 24-25 April 2019)**

H.E. Mr. Naci Ağbal, President of the Presidency of  
Strategy and Budget of the Republic of Turkey,  
Your Excellencies, Ministers and Heads of Delegation  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

*Assalamu Aleykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakatihu.*

It is indeed a great pleasure, for me to address the 35<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Committee Meeting of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC). Allow me to, first and foremost, express my deepest appreciation to the Government and the friendly people of Republic of Turkey for the elaborate arrangements made for this meeting and for the warm reception and kind hospitality accorded all participants.

You would recall that in my message to the 34<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of COMCEC held in Istanbul on 28-29 November 2018, I gave an detailed account of the implementation of the various OIC resolutions in the economic domain, especially in the areas of trade and investment, tourism and financial sector development, agriculture, rural development and food security, labour and transportation, among others. I am glad to report that the General Secretariat and our various executive institutions have continued to sustain these efforts appreciably. In this regard, our economic cooperation profile has witnessed a slight increase in the various indices, compared to the figures earlier reported at this meeting. Our trade exchanges have risen from 18.69 in 2016 to 19.82 in 2017. Similarly, the recorded growth level in the agricultural sector in average OIC GDP saw a movement from 10.8% to 11.6% in recent times, while the entire trade financing activities witnessed an increase by 6.1% during the period under reference.



Going forward, the General Secretariat and the relevant OIC institutions have commenced action on the implementation of the recent resolutions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, which held its 46<sup>th</sup> session in Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019. These actions include the arrangements for the convening of the Eight Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development scheduled for Istanbul, Turkey later this year. The Conference is expected to review and validate the draft OIC Programme of Action for Strategic Commodities, comprising Wheat, Rice and Cassava. This programme will certainly draw from the gains realized during the implementation of the OIC Cotton Action Plan, which was the brainchild of COMCEC and which implementation has contributed to fruitful collaboration in the form of exchange of expertise and reverse linkage among OIC member states.

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Heads of Delegation

In addition to the current demarches on the establishment of an OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul, Turkey, the General Secretariat has also taken a step further in giving effect to the creation of a permanent mechanism for investment dispute mechanism under the extant OIC Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investment with a view to removing the current bottlenecks in the application of this Agreement. In this regard, a sensitization meeting was held in New York on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 with the participation of interested OIC member states to prepare the ground for an eventual elaboration of a protocol as a prelude to the establishment of a permanent mechanism in place of the existing ad-hoc structure.

On poverty alleviation, the last Council of Foreign Ministers renewed its call on OIC member states to redeem their pledges to the existing Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, which mobilised capital still constitutes only 27% of its target amount of US\$10 billion. This fund is very crucial to the financing of poverty alleviation programmes of importance to the vulnerable segments of OIC population. ISFD has intervened creditably in three principal sectors, including food security, micro-finance and vocational training. I should, at this juncture commend the efforts of the Government of Turkey for the various interventions carried out under the COMCEC Project Cycle Management, while congratulating those countries which have so far benefitted from this fund.

Closely related to this issue is the resolution of the 46<sup>th</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers, which called for OIC participation in the Transaqua project,

aimed at recharging the waters of Lake Chad, which had shrunk from 2500 sq.km in 1985 to 1500 sq.km recently. I am sure COMCEC would also be in a position to subscribe to this worthy venture in the interest of bettering the lives and livelihood of communities living in OIC countries along the Lake Chad.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Before concluding, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the leadership and members of the various OIC institutions, who have continued to collaborate with the General Secretariat for the execution of the various projects under the socio-economic agenda of OIC. I must also express my appreciation to members of this Committee for their invaluable support and cooperation, without which the modest achievements realized during the past year under the purview of COMCEC activities, would have been impossible. I look forward to the positive outcome of this meeting and our further collaboration for the realization of its decisions.

I thank you for your kind attention and I wish you all a successful deliberation at this meeting.

*Wassalamu Alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakatihu.*

-----  
-----

# **ANNEX**

## **IV**

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 34<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF  
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE  
(Ankara, 23 April 2019)**

1. The 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 in Ankara, on the sidelines of the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. M. Metin EKER, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), the following OIC Institutions attended the Meeting:

- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
- Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group
- International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)-IDB Group
- Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)- IDB Group
- Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)

3. The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items for discussion:

- Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy
  - The List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Aligned with the COMCEC Strategy and COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations
  - Utilizing COMCEC Project Funding for the implementation of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations
  - Establishing an e-platform to monitor the implementation of the planned activities of the OIC Institutions
- Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the SDGs in OIC Member States
  - Preparations for Annual Report on the Progress Towards Achieving the Prioritized SDGs at the OIC level
  - Activities of the OIC Institutions Serving to the Implementation of the SDGs
- Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action

- The Proposal on the “OIC Business Intelligence Center”
- Any Other Business

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

4. Emphasizing the significance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the realization of the COMCEC Strategy and the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, the Committee reviewed the completed and planned activities of the relevant OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy for the period of December 2018- November 2019 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation.

*(The list of activities organized and to be organized by the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy for the period of December 2018 - November 2019 is attached as Annex 1.)*

5. The Committee was informed by the CCO that 73 out of 156 activities of the OIC Institutions were completed activities since the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC. In terms of cooperation areas, 51 percent of the activities were implemented in trade domain followed by poverty alleviation (26%) and agriculture (7%). The Committee was also informed that with respect to types of the activities, the Institutions specially focused on trainings and technical assistance programs (19,2%), programmes and projects (17,9%) and workshops (15,4%).

6. The Committee underlined the importance of contributions of the OIC Institutions to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations. In this respect, it was highlighted that the activities aligned with the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations can be listed separately with a view to facilitate their reporting and follow-up.

7. For this purpose, the Committee requested the OIC Institutions to submit their list of activities in two groups. In the first group of activities (Group A), the OIC Institutions are expected to report their list of activities directly serving to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations. In the second group (Group B), the OIC Institutions are expected to report their list of activities serving to the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy.

8. The Committee agreed on the following criteria in reporting the Group A activities of the OIC Institutions:

- Listing the activities ***specifically designed*** towards the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations
- Serving to multilateral cooperation

- Enhancing the policy making and implementation capacity of the Member Countries
- Diversifying the type of activities
- Spreading the activities to all cooperation areas
- Avoiding to report routine activities

9. The Committee noted that OIC Institutions may also present, if they wish to do so, their major programmes/projects/activities which are not within the scope of the COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations, under a separate sub-agenda item during the Sessional Committee Meetings. In this framework, the attached template may be utilized by the relevant OIC Institutions.

*(Template for Brief Notes of the Major Programs/Activities of the OIC Institutions in Economic Domain is attached as Annex 2)*

10. The CCO informed the Committee about the sectoral themes to be supported by the COMCEC Coordination Office in the 7th Project Call to be made in September 2019, under the COMCEC Project Funding. In this regard, the Committee underlined the importance of the submission of the project proposals by the OIC Institutions through COMCEC Project Funding for the realization of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

11. Regarding the proposal for establishing an e-platform to monitor the implementation of the planned activities of the OIC Institutions, the Committee requested the ICIEC (IDB Group), SESRIC and CCO to hold consultations and study the feasibility of such a platform considering the existing e-platforms.

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

12. The Committee was informed by the SESRIC of preparations for the annual report on the progress at the OIC level towards achieving the prioritized SDGs as decided by Member States to be submitted to the 35<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Sessions of the COMCEC.

13. The Committee was informed by the CCO that in line with the relevant resolution of the 34th COMCEC Session, “the List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Related to the SDGs for the period of 2019 and 2020” would be compiled by the CCO and submitted to the 35th COMCEC Session.

14. The Committee requested the CCO, SESRIC and ICDT to discuss the possibility of organizing a joint side-event on SDGs performance of the OIC Member Countries, preferably in conjunction with the theme of the exchange of views session of the 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session.

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

15. The OIC General Secretariat informed the Committee about the recent developments towards the implementation of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action. The Committee highlighted the importance of effective cooperation and coordination among the OIC Institutions concerning realization of the goals defined by the OIC-2025: Programme of Action. Participants discussed the ways and means of enhancing intra-OIC trade and reaching 25% target.

### **The Proposal on the “OIC Business Intelligence Center”**

16. The Committee took note with appreciation the report submitted by the ICIEC (IDB Group) and SESRIC on “the OIC Business Intelligence Center” initiative. The Committee requested ICIEC to improve the report through conducting benchmarking study, SWOT and stakeholders’ expectations analysis and preparing a strategic plan.

### **Any Other Business**

17. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the previous COMCEC Sessions, the CCO raised the issue of delay in the finalization of the OIC Cotton Programme through the combined technical cooperation project of SESRIC which has already been submitted to the IDB Group for funding. The Committee highlighted the importance of effective coordination among the relevant OIC Institutions on this pending issue. Accordingly, the Committee requested the SESRIC to re-submit a revised version of the capacity building project to the IDB Group. The Committee called upon the IDB Group to finalize the allocation of the funding to the abovementioned project and the OIC General Secretariat, as the main coordinator of the Program, to take necessary steps for expediting the process towards the realization of the project.

18. In line with the decision of the previous Sessional Committee, the CCO informed the Committee regarding the consultations on harmonizing trade related statistic. The Committee highlighted that the same source of data can be utilized by the OIC Institutions to avoid any discrepancies.

-----

-----

# **ANNEX**

## **V**



Original: English



**AGENDA OF THE 35<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE  
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC**

**(Ankara, 24-25 April 2019)**

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. Intra-OIC Trade
5. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
6. Improving Transport and Communications
7. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
8. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
9. Alleviating Poverty
10. Deepening Financial Cooperation
11. Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries”
12. Draft Agenda of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC
13. Any Other Business
14. Adoption of the Report

-----  
-----

# **ANNEX**

## **VI**

Original : English

## **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE 13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE TRADE WORKING GROUP**

The COMCEC Trade Working Group (TWG) has successfully held its 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Enhancing Public Availability of Customs Information in the OIC Member States.” During the Meeting, Trade Working Group, made deliberations for policy approximation among the Member Countries regarding enhancing public availability of customs information. The room document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the research report conducted specifically for the 13th Meeting of the TWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions sent to the TWG focal points by the COMCEC Coordination Office before the Meeting. During the Meeting, the participants agreed on the policy recommendations included in the Room Document. The existing document includes these policy recommendations highlighted during the Meeting.

### **Policy Advice 1: Encouraging the establishment of a formal consultation mechanism between regulatory authorities and trade community towards ensuring an efficient trade environment for the interest of various stakeholders at the national level.**

An effective, efficient, and permanent consultation and feedback mechanism not only ensures the success of any trade facilitation initiative but also enhance the predictability of the trade-related regulatory environment.

Developing effective consultation mechanisms with private sector (when new laws and regulations that have the potential to affect trade flows are being prepared and before their entry into force) is crucial to allow the private sector to provide their inputs, comments or suggestions prior to implementation and enforcement.

Providing advance notice about legislation submitted for public consultation can pave the way for enhanced capacity of stakeholders to react promptly and efficiently. National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) can also be utilized as an efficient consultation mechanism.

**Policy Advice 2: Utilizing Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) effectively for the dissemination of trade, especially customs related information.**

The supply of the trade and customs related information and the access to this information through ICT can play a vital role in trade facilitation as well as an important stepping-stone for other more ambitious trade facilitation reforms. Through the digitalization of the information flows, customs and trade-related data can be disseminated to all the relevant actors easily, continuously and expeditiously. This technology also allows the regulatory bodies to provide up-to-date information timely with low-costs. This information flow can be more easily done by utilizing the internet or other ICT tools. Development of a user-friendly ICT is the key factor of the expected utilization and benefit from such an investment.

Through using ICT tools, such as virtual Single Window Systems, all rules and regulations can easily be accessed, forms can be downloaded and filled in, and necessary paperwork can be filed electronically. Some level of digital infrastructure is required before such a system can become reality, both in terms of user access to ICTs and the necessary legal framework covering the use of electronic documents and digital signatures.

**Policy Advice 3: Encouraging the development of an effective Advance Ruling System in order to enhance the certainty and predictability of customs operations**

Advance ruling system is a proven trade facilitation tool for both traders and customs administrations that enhance the certainty and predictability of customs operations.

An advance ruling is binding official advice prior to importation or exportation, issued by a competent customs authority in writing, which provides the applicant with a time-bound ruling on the goods to be imported or exported. This ruling enables traders to obtain precise and binding information in advance of the actual transaction and for analogous ones during a specified period in future, and processes are often quicker and delays reduced at the time of clearance of the good in question. Moreover, disputes with the customs authority on tariff, valuation and origin issues are reduced because the process of deliberation among officials has taken place before the issuance of the advance ruling. For an effective advance ruling system clear and robust regulations, and procedures should be in place along with a strong commitment by the customs administrations. Creating public awareness and knowledge of the program also enhances the effectiveness of the system.

**Policy Advice 4: Promoting integrated Single Windows (SW) Systems and Trade Information Portals for combining the transaction processing functions of SW Systems with a comprehensive repository of trade-related laws, regulations, rules and procedures.**

An important principle in the publication of information is its consolidation in one location or as few locations as possible. Trade Information Portals in this regard serve as a single platform utilized for aggregating and disseminating all trade-related information of various agencies. On the other hand, Single Window Systems enable traders to make all trade and customs-related procedures through a single facility. The responsible body for operating SW systems varies across the Member Countries. While customs authorities are in charge of operating SW Systems in many member countries, in some cases Ministry of Economy/ Trade or other national authorities fulfil this task.

In the post-TFA environment, many developing countries work simultaneously on Single Windows—preferably virtual—and Trade Information Portals. There is a strong argument for combining these efforts to produce a single online interface that combines the transaction processing power of a Single Window with a comprehensive repository of trade-related laws, regulations, rules, procedures, and documents, as is commonly associated with a TIP. The synergy between PortNet and TradeSense in Morocco is an example of this process in action. As a second best, piecemeal online sources can link to other relevant material, so that navigation is simplified for the trade community.

**Policy Advice 5: Leveraging international and regional cooperation and making use of successful country experiences for promoting trade information availability.**

There are examples of OIC member countries using regional agreements as an "anchor" to support upgrading their trading environment, including chapters on transparency in trade agreements, as well as extending regional initiatives, where applicable, for Single Windows to cover TIPs. Given the trade links and other connections among the OIC member countries, there is a scope for the member countries to make use of successful experiences elsewhere to develop home-grown initiatives to improve the public availability of trade-related information. Knowledge transfer from high performing OIC countries can help other members improve information availability, and ultimately promote trade within the group. On the other hand, it should be noted that trade facilitation is an ongoing worldwide effort and not limited to the OIC or developing countries. The world is also the witness of the continuous review and renewal of trade facilitation programs by the developed countries. Therefore, the best practices and lessons learned in trade facilitation outside the OIC countries

should also be seen an opportunity, and knowledge transfer can be even achieved through administrative arrangements such as MOU, internship, exchange of experts, workshops.

**Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:**

- **COMCEC Trade Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

- **COMCEC Project Funding:** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for project proposals each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above-mentioned policy areas and their sub-areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects. The projects may include seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

-----  
-----

# **ANNEX**

## **VII**

Original: English

## **THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS HIGHLIGHTED BY 13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMCEC TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP**

The COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) successfully held its 13th Meeting on March 21st, 2019 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Improving Transport Project Appraisals in the OIC Member Countries”. During the Meeting, TCWG made deliberations on the policy recommendations related to the transport project appraisals. The policy recommendations were formulated by taking into consideration the research report titled “Improving Transport Project Appraisals in the Islamic Countries” and the responses of the Member States to the policy questions sent by the COMCEC Coordination Office. The policy recommendations are as followings:

**Policy Recommendation I: Designing a systematic framework for transport project appraisals, indicating the objectives, types and the utilized methodologies.**

### **Rationale:**

A consistent framework for identifying, coordinating, evaluating and implementing public investments is quite important for having better outputs of the project(s) implemented. As a long and multifaceted process, project appraisal for public investments would be embedded into a wider framework for decision-making. The transport project appraisal framework must indicate:

- For what types of project appraisal should be carried out and when;
- What is the objective of the appraisal and how the appraisal is expected to facilitate the decision-making process;
- What type of analysis and methodologies are applied (Cost-Benefit Analysis, Multi-Criteria Analysis, Cost Effectiveness Analysis).

Furthermore, one of the main aims of project appraisal is to define the social benefits of a project. Cost-Benefit Analysis is a commonly preferred methodology for this purpose, especially for large transport projects. This methodology is also useful in case of PPP funding, where it can complement the financial evaluation.



**Policy Recommendation II: Developing/Improving manuals and guidelines for having effective and harmonized transport project appraisals as well as effectively implementing the existing ones.**

**Rationale:**

Providing clear guidelines is significant in terms of how to carry out project appraisals. Development of mode-specific appraisal manuals facilitates whole project appraisals processes. International guidelines and manual can be taken into consideration for the general principles and rationale, while country-specific parameters and procedures can be developed to better reflect the national context. The manuals are expected to provide clear guidance on how project appraisal is to be carried out, including:

- A description of the appraisal process, with clearly defined steps, including project identification, demand analysis, options analysis, options for financial sustainability, return on the project and on private capital, economic analysis and risk analysis.
- Methodological standards, such as typical costs and benefits to be included, techniques to deal with the monetization of benefits, etc.
- Standard input parameters, such as project duration, discount rate, values of time, the value of statistical life, etc. can be periodically reviewed.

The standardization and harmonization in transport project appraisals contribute to the credibility of the results. Furthermore, it contributes to the ability to compare appraisal results, which may be beneficial for the prioritization of projects.

**Policy Recommendation III: Applying transport project appraisals as main part of a project cycle and making use of quality data/information as well as the lessons generated from the implementation of the previous project(s).**

**Rationale:**

While project appraisal is a wider process, it is commonly used as an ex-ante evaluation of a project for justifying an investment decision. Far from being confined to an ex-ante dimension in the pre-feasibility stage, project appraisal should also be performed in-itinere and ex-post phases. Furthermore, project appraisals necessarily rely on appropriate data and information. In order to improve the quality of the appraisals, project data and information should be collected and made available to the relevant national authorities for monitoring purposes and next project generation as benchmark studies.

In addition, monitoring the implementation process of a project and carrying out a systematic ex-post evaluation of a project is critically important to compare planning and implementation. This will allow benchmarking the performance achieved during the implementation of the project and providing lessons learned for the next project appraisals.

**Policy Recommendation IV: Encouraging the enhancement of transport project appraisals capacity through a system of official certification of competences, exchange of experience, training programs, seminars, conferences and workshops etc.**

**Rationale:**

Adequate institutional and human capacity is of utmost importance for underpinning the better transport project appraisals. It is also essential for having above-mentioned wider appraisal framework and facilitating the decision-making process. The capacity in transport project appraisals can be strengthened, among others, by:

- Developing and implementing training programs, seminars, conferences and workshops for public officials and private sector representatives.
- Consolidating project appraisal knowledge and experience in expertise centers. Bundling knowledge and expertise will enhance the ability to mainstream project appraisal in the investment decision-making process.
- Encouraging the exchange of good practices among the agencies and bodies involved in transport project appraisal.
- Encouraging a system of official certification of competences at the national level, both for public officials and external experts.

***Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:***

**COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

**COMCEC Project Funding:** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above-mentioned policy areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organizing seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents.

**ANNEX**

**VIII**

Original: English

## **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMCEC TOURISM WORKING GROUP**

The COMCEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) has successfully held its 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Sustainable Destination Management Strategies in the OIC Member Countries.” During the Meeting, Tourism Working Group, made deliberations on sustainable destination management strategies in the OIC Member Countries in tourism sector. Accordingly, the participants has come up with some policy recommendations.

***Policy Advice 1. Improving community participation fair representation by offering human resources training, capacity building and certification programs, enhancing local value chain, integrating local production into procurement and minimize leakages, encouraging local entrepreneurship in tourism, conducting media campaigns as well as raising tourist awareness about tourism sustainability.***

### ***Rationale:***

When a tourism culture is established in the destination, locals are likely to participate more in decision-making processes and because they are the real owners of the destination, they are more likely to protect it. When for example, tourism investments are taken over by foreigners, who employ outsiders and import the inputs and raw materials, locals would be alienated with the destination and the resources. Thus, the local involvement at every possible channel should be encouraged and facilitated while continuously improving tourism’s direct and indirect benefits and value chain for locals. Such tools include percentage of local employment rules, incubation, credit facilities and support for potential local entrepreneurs, integrating local products to tourism’s supply chain and promoting a sustainable tourism culture while minimizing leakages from the local economy.

***Policy Advice 2. Identifying KPIs for sustainable tourism development based on international standards and climate change agreement to monitor each country’s performance against a set of pre-determined indicators and to encourage remedial actions when targets are not met.***

### ***Rationale:***

One of the most important factors for achieving sustainable outcomes at the destination level is effective and independent monitoring of current practices

on site. Since destinations will vary considerably, it is important that monitoring protocols are developed in context-specific and locally meaningful ways. Each member country needs to determine its position regarding its overall tourism climate, based on where it sits in destination life cycle models, what its tourism resources are, and what its total tourism budget is based on the suggested list of KPIs. This involves an on-going process of acquiring valid and reliable data across these sectors in ways that, ideally, lead to cross-country comparisons.

***Policy advice 3. Identifying current and potential tangible and intangible tourism resources by taking into consideration destinations carrying capacity, and their long term protection and survival while avoiding over tourism.***

***Rationale:***

Destinations have different natural and cultural attractions that have different levels of vulnerability to different types and volumes of touristic activity. The current and potential resources of destinations should be identified, threats should be eliminated, and their exposure to tourism activity should be managed. Their allocation needs to be limited with their capacity to handle tourist volume. This not only applies to natural resources and species but also cultural resources such as locals' way of life. Over tourism is important challenge for many tourism destinations. There are concerns about the energy consumption, resource depletion, waste management, impacts of tourism on wildlife and global warming. In this respect, carrying capacities, green certification and legislations would be tackled in the OIC region to create a more environmentally responsible tourism.

***Policy advice 4. The required mechanisms (e.g. voluntary contribution, tourist tax, environmental fees) might be introduced to fund the sustainability activities that aim to protect, preserve the local quality of life and minimize the costs associated with tourism.***

***Rationale:***

The negative side effects of tourism should be compensated by the actors who are responsible or benefiting from it. Because different tourism activities create pressures on local quality of life, the deterioration and use of resources that normally belong to locals should be paid for while the benefits of tourism towards locals should be enhanced. Tourist taxes, landing fees, entrance fees to the sites, waste taxes and so on can be introduced to create the finances needed to invest on sustainability and correct negative consequences.

***Policy advice 5. Ensuring effective destination planning and marketing in such a way that the supply and demand meet at the optimum level and diversified.***

***Rationale:***

Mass tourism involves huge numbers of tourists with relatively low spending capacity. According to Tourism Statistics, though the number of tourists is increasing, their spending has not increased as desired. Current spending in the OIC is around 750 USD per tourist which is well below the global average. Therefore, the product development and marketing activities need to target less price sensitive markets. The OIC have various potential tourism products that can attract diverse markets through an effective planning and marketing.

***Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:***

- **COMCEC Tourism Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.
- **COMCEC Project Funding:** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above-mentioned policy areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organizing seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents.
- **OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum:** In its meetings, the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas and the sub-areas from the private sector perspective.

-----  
-----

**ANNEX**

**IX**

Original: English

## **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP**

The COMCEC Agriculture Working Group (AWG) has successfully held its 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “*Reviewing Agricultural Trade Policies to Promote Intra-OIC Agricultural Trade.*”

During the Meeting, AWG made deliberations on sound agricultural trade policies to promote intra-OIC agricultural trade. Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the research report conducted specifically for the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of AWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions were the main input for the discussions. During the Meeting, the participants agreed on the policy recommendations included in the Room Document. The existing document includes these policy recommendations highlighted during the Meeting.

### **Policy Recommendations I: Promotion of Niche Agricultural Products and Halal Certification through product diversification, trademarking, marketing strategies and advertising campaigns.**

#### **Rationale:**

The OIC Member Countries face competition from each other in certain agricultural products and in certain markets around the globe. This makes the promotion of intra-OIC agricultural trade a particularly challenging issue. Trade facilitation policies, which range from product diversification and trademarking to marketing strategies and advertising campaigns, need to be designed and implemented in the member countries. More specifically, the OIC Member Countries need to promote the niche agricultural products of their fellow OIC countries under a reciprocal understanding of benefits.

There exist key product groups that can be critical in promoting intra-OIC agricultural trade, but are not subject to high tariff protection. For these products, standardization and certification issues are of prime importance for the policy makers. As such, the process of establishing Halal certification for meat products, across the OIC region is a critical policy dimension that could be used effectively to promote intra-OIC agricultural trade in meat products. Halal certification issue also needs to be tackled within a broader perspective of labelling, advertisement and standardization. In this respect, OIC Member Countries need to think of efficient marketing and promotion strategies for niche and halal agricultural products since producing these products requires special effort.



**Policy Recommendations II: Promotion of Commercial Cooperation (e.g. enhancing agricultural investments, removal of business visas, etc) and Non-Commercial Cooperation (e.g. sharing best practices and technical expertise, developing safety standards, etc.) among the OIC Member Countries in the areas related to agricultural trade.**

**Rationale:**

The OIC member countries differ in relative abundance of land and natural resources and of financial resources. This type of diversity is a source of complementarity and opens a window of opportunity in commercial cooperation. There already exist some joint ventures among the OIC countries. Policies should be designed and implemented to incentivize commercial cooperation among the OIC member countries in the field of agricultural investment as it directly increases trade among at least two OIC member countries. Removal of business visas, for instance, may be a concrete policy action that could contribute to commercial cooperation.

Non-commercial cooperation among the OIC member countries in terms of technical expertise, skills, and safety standards would also facilitate intra-OIC trade in agricultural products. Naturally, the OIC member countries have a diverse set of safety standards, market information systems, market institutions and human capital stocks. For this reason, the OIC member countries should pay particular attention to policies that would support the effective sharing of best-practice cases in agriculture and agricultural trade.

Moreover, this topic is in line with the rules in the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA-WTO). Therefore, all OIC member countries who are also members of the WTO need to pay attention to the aspects of Commercial and Non Commercial Cooperation.

**Policy Recommendations III: Promotion of Tariff Reductions and Bilateral Arrangements in key products (e.g. sugar, meat, feeding stuff for animals, oil-seeds, live animals)**

**Rationale:**

In accordance with the WTO agreement, tariff reduction is a necessity for multilateral, regional and bilateral trade. With a view to achieving a more conducive trading system, OIC member countries need to comply with the global rules of trade.

High tariff protection is observed within the OIC for the key product divisions and products (identified in the research report as sugar, meat, feeding stuff for animals, oil-seeds, live animals) that would otherwise be highly effective in boosting intra-OIC agricultural trade. The OIC member countries would benefit from tariff reductions, particularly in key product divisions and products

identified based on both the growth of the intra-regional demand and the existing low intra-regional trade share.

In the research report, it is pointed out that a large fraction of exporter-importer country pairs matched as potential partners for mutually beneficial trade does not have trade agreements with each other yet. There is therefore significant room for improvement in trade performance of, and associated benefits for member countries through bilateral agreements to be initiated to cover the products (live animals, meat, sugars, feeding stuff for animals and oil-seeds) identified in the analysis.

**Policy Recommendations IV: Developing and implementing multilateral trade arrangements (e.g. TPS-OIC - Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC)) with a view to contributing to collaborative and sustainable agricultural trade development.**

**Rationale:**

Developing and implementing preferential market access schemes, as well as to concluding more intra- and cross-regional trade agreements/arrangements can help member countries benefit from the strong intra-regional dynamics of agricultural trade by collaborating with regional partners to liberalize agricultural trade on a preferential basis while reducing the potential for trade diversion costs that can arise from the use of preferences or regional agreements. In this regard, Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC) gives an important opportunity to initiate such a basis for liberalizing agricultural trade among the OIC Member States.

**Policy Recommendations V: Enhancing the capacity of the Member Countries in collection, management and dissemination of agricultural trade data with a view to designing sound and evidence-based agricultural trade policies.**

**Rationale:**

Limited availability of timely, reliable and consistent data on agricultural trade hampers evidence-based decision making by both public and private sector actors in the Member Countries. There are some important initiatives under the OIC umbrella such as the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) and ICDT's web portal called "OIC Trade Map." Besides utilizing more effectively from the existing instruments, new projects may be designed and conducted to identify the data availability and reliability problems in agricultural trade policy measures all across the OIC.

**Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:**

**COMCEC Agriculture Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner. COMCEC Agriculture and Trade Working Groups may conduct joint meetings/ research on agricultural trade policies.

**COMCEC Project Funding:** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the member countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above- mentioned policy areas, the member countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

**SMIIC and SESRIC:** The facilities of SMIIC and SESRIC (e.g. OIC Statistical Commission, Technical Committees of the SMIIC, etc.) can be utilized.

-----  
-----

**ANNEX**

**X**

Original: English

**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE  
13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMCEC  
POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP**

A policy debate session was held during the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group (PAWG). The Working Group came up with some concrete policy recommendations for improving access to health services, especially for the poor, in the OIC and approximating policies among the member countries in this important issue. The policy advices presented below have been identified in light of the main findings of the research report titled “Access to Health Services in the Islamic Countries” and the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questionnaire which was sent by the COMCEC Coordination Office.

***Policy Advice 1: Developing a strategy/policy including a well-designed payment and health insurance schemes to achieve universal health coverage.***

**Rationale:**

Access to health services is critical for human beings. However, access to health without having financial risks is even more challenging. In this respect, universal health coverage is an important asset enabling people's, particularly the poor, access to health services without having a risk of facing any financial hardship. To ensure that all people access to quality health services they need, universal health coverage involves services in promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services.

For a detailed analysis and to understand the dimensions of universal health coverage, widely monitored indicators such as life expectancy, maternal mortality and under-5 mortality rate need to be carefully examined. As a key indicator, life expectancy at birth signifies how well a country's health system is working in the provision of preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care. Life expectancy at birth has steadily increased for OIC countries over the period. However, the OIC average is still behind the global average. The same situation is observed in maternal mortality and under-5 mortality rates. In all these indicators, the OIC member countries are quite behind the world average. Moreover, the life expectancy achievements vary remarkably across the member countries.

In this context, there is a strong correlation between access to health services and the welfare of citizens. Universal health coverage, by ensuring that all have access to health, is one of the critical components in achieving Sustainable Development Goals and eradicating poverty. As a way of pooling risks and

expanding health service coverage, health insurance schemes are needed to be designed carefully.

***Policy Advice 2: Strengthening primary healthcare particularly in poorer areas through encouraging skilled health staff to work in rural and remote areas and enhancing integrated health promotion and prevention interventions.***

**Rationale:**

As the cornerstone of health systems worldwide, primary healthcare is fundamental for the physical, psychological and social well-being of the people. Strengthening primary healthcare mechanisms increasingly comes to governments' agenda as global experience proves them successful. However, there are ongoing challenges that affect negatively the health status of communities. Non-communicable diseases are on the rise globally. Ensuring sustainable mechanisms for maternal and child health are still challenging for many countries.

Access to primary health care services is a serious challenge in many OIC countries due to inadequate health infrastructure, physical inaccessibility accompanied by the high out-of-pocket spending and/or inadequate health workforce. In this context, interventions that will ensure cost-effective healthcare service are needed to be considered including encouraging skilled health personnel to provide services in rural and remote areas and enhancing community awareness and integrated primary healthcare (promotive and preventive) mechanisms. Moreover, as the key component of primary healthcare, regular screenings need to be performed.

***Policy Advice 3: Promoting the engagement of private sector in the provision of safe and quality healthcare in close partnership with public authorities and with well-designed monitoring mechanisms.***

**Rationale:**

Public financing is crucial to achieve universal health coverage sustainably. In order to ensure financial protection for all people and equitable access to quality health services, the allocation of considerable share in government budget is essential without prejudice to other national plans or priorities. However, considering the budget constraints in many countries, additional domestic resources are needed to be mobilized to achieve universal health coverage. In this manner, private initiatives can play a significant role to complement the public efforts. For example, in order to fill the gaps and shortcomings in public health service delivery (e.g. inadequate human resources and physical infrastructure), the government of Indonesia has started to actively encourage the private sector to contribute to health service delivery.

In his framework, the private healthcare providers currently cover up to 60 per cent of health care in Indonesia (in particular hospital care).

On the other hand, there is a need for a well-designed monitoring mechanism. Outdated legislation, lack of enforcement of public health regulations and a widely unregulated private sector may leave consumers unprotected. Therefore, governments would need to put forward effective regulatory schemes to guide private sector and avoid the market failure in order to (i) assess whether private health care services are safe, effective and of good quality, (ii) examine to what extent patients from different socio-economic and socio-cultural backgrounds can access these services and how barriers could be reduced, and (iii) investigate how private health providers affect the larger health system, e.g. with respect to availability of trained health workforce, the extent to which private providers work with relevant public authorities, and how positive links can be strengthened as well as negative impacts can be mitigated.

***Policy Advice 4: Encouraging development and upgrade of health information management systems through designing an online-integrated health information system, allocating required resources to health IT infrastructure and strengthening multi-sectoral coordination mechanism.***

**Rationale:**

Monitoring key health data is crucial to identify challenges and priorities in providing quality health services. Strengthening health information systems facilitates planning and allocation of resources as well as contributes to accountable and transparent public health management. Integrated health information systems would enable government officials give sound and timely decisions based on reliable data towards enhancing access to health services.

Many OIC Member Countries face challenges regarding health information management such as reporting quality and timeliness, duplication and fragmentation of data collection as well as lack of rigorous validation within different programmes. Some member countries do not have sufficient registration of births and deaths as well as reporting complete and accurate causes of death is lacking. Therefore, allocating required resources to IT infrastructure to enhance a well-designed health information management system with a special emphasis on the poor is needed to be taken into consideration. In this respect, data analysis, which is made at sub-national level to address pockets of poverty, should be ensured. Moreover, in order to ensure uniformity in aggregating data, collaborating with different stakeholders such as statistical departments, relevant ministries and organizations is crucial to achieve a strong multi-sectoral coordination mechanism.

**Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:**

**COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

**COMCEC Project Funding:** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office issues calls for project proposals each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the member countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For realizing above-mentioned policy recommendations, the member countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding facility. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparation of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

-----  
-----



**ANNEX**

**XI**

Original: English

## **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMCEC FINANCIAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP**

The COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group (FCWG) has successfully held its 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “*Infrastructure Financing through Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries*”. During the Meeting, FCWG made deliberations on infrastructure financing through islamic finance in the member countries. Accordingly, the participants have come up with some policy recommendations.

***Policy Recommendation 1: Developing Legal and Regulatory Framework to Provide an Enabling Environment for Realizing Large Infrastructure Investments through Islamic Finance.***

***Rationale:*** Infrastructure projects are large and complex with long maturity periods. There is a need to mitigate the legal and regulatory risks arising from investments in these projects for encouraging the financial sector to invest in the infrastructure sector. This can be done by providing a sound PPP legal framework that would outline the key principles on how the infrastructure projects are procured and implemented. Given the uniqueness of various infrastructure sectors, sector-specific laws (e.g., energy, airports, railways, etc.) may be needed to cater to their individual features. Furthermore, financial laws and regulations for different islamic financial sectors (i.e., banking, non-banking, and capital markets) are needed to provide an enabling environment for islamic finance to grow and contribute to infrastructure development. Finally, the tax laws need to be adjusted to level the playing field of islamic finance and conventional finance, where appropriate.

***Policy Recommendation 2: Increasing the Number and Share of Islamic Nonbank Financial Institutions to Enhance the Contribution of Islamic Finance in Infrastructure Investments.***

***Rationale:*** The balance sheet features of nonbank financial institutions (constituting takaful operators, investment banks, pension funds, etc.) are more suitable for financing long-term infrastructure projects. However, islamic nonbank financial institutions are relatively small and not contributing much to the investments in the infrastructure sector. There is a need to establish more islamic nonbank financial institutions and increase their share in the overall nonbanking sector. In particular, enhancing the shares of Shariah compliant

pension funds and sovereign wealth funds has the potential of increasing the size of contribution of infrastructure financing by the islamic financial sector.

***Policy Recommendation 3: Developing the Islamic Capital Markets Infrastructure to Facilitate the Issuance of Different Types of Project Sukuk and other Instruments as Appropriate for Infrastructure Projects.***

***Rationale:*** Capital markets facilitate raising funds for infrastructure projects from various types of investors. The investors can range from large institutional investors, to nonbank financial institutions and retail investors. Furthermore, financial institutions, such as islamic banks, prefer to invest in tradable project sukuk rather than financing in infrastructure projects directly since they are illiquid. To encourage the development of islamic capital markets and increase its role in infrastructure development would require a sound and enabling legal and regulatory framework for sukuk issuance. In addition, since project sukuk structures are complex, provision of templates for various types of sukuk can further increase their issuances.

***Policy Recommendation 4: Encouraging Innovative Models to use Islamic Social Sector (i.e., Zakat, Waqf and Sadaqah) to Provide Social Infrastructure Services (such as Education and Health) provided that they are Shariah-compliant.***

***Rationale:*** A key untapped source that has potential to provide social infrastructure services is the islamic social sector such as Zakat, Waqf and Sadaqah. In some countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia innovative models of these institutions have been used to provide certain social infrastructure services to the poorer segments of the population. Since the size of zakat, waqf and Sadaqah is potentially large and many member countries face financing constraints to fund infrastructure projects, the islamic social finance can be mobilized to provide some of the social infrastructure services such as education and health, provided that they are Shariah-compliant.

***Policy Recommendation 5: Improving Capacity and human capital for increasing the use of Islamic Finance for infrastructure financing***

***Rationale:*** One of the key issues of involving islamic finance in infrastructure projects is having appropriate Shariah-compliant products. Since the projects are large and involve complex contractual arrangements, there are many intricacies that need to be resolved from a Shariah point of view. However, there are a limited number of islamic financial institutions that understand the complexities of project financing and Shariah advisory services on these can also be scant and costly. There is, thus, a need to reduce the knowledge gap and

build capacity on the use of islamic finance for PPP projects and enhance the awareness among stakeholders to increase the use of islamic finance for infrastructure projects.

**Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:**

**COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

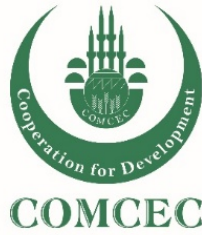
**COMCEC Project Funding:** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office issues calls for project proposals each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the member countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For realizing above-mentioned policy recommendations, the member countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding facility. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparation of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

-----  
-----

**ANNEX**

**XII**

Original: English



**DRAFT AGENDA  
OF THE 35<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMCEC  
(İstanbul, 25-28 November 2019)**

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 “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries”
13. Date of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Resolutions

-----

**ANNEX**

**XIII**

Original : English

**CLOSING SPEECH BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SALİH MUTLU ŞEN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY TO THE OIC  
THIRTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE  
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC  
(Ankara, 25 April 2019)**

Distinguished Members of the Follow-up Committee,

Esteemed Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all delegations for their active participation and valuable contributions to the deliberations. After intensive deliberations, we have successfully concluded the 35<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC. We have reviewed various cooperation issues taken up by COMCEC and drawn up its agenda for the 35<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session.

Esteemed Guests,

COMCEC, as the highest economic and commercial cooperation platform of the OIC, has been exerting intense efforts to further economic cooperation among the Member Countries since its inception. By providing a new paradigm and new set of tools for our cooperation, COMCEC Strategy is being implemented successfully through its implementation mechanisms namely Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding.

Within 6 years, COMCEC Working Groups successfully held 77 expert level meetings on different technical themes under six main cooperation areas. During the meetings, key policy recommendations were developed in the light of evidence based discussions with a view to approximating policies among our countries as well as coming up with collective solutions to our common challenges.

Implementation of the policy recommendations is as important and valuable as the policies themselves. I am pleased to observe the valuable efforts of the Member Countries as well as the OIC Institutions towards the realization of the policy recommendations developed in the COMCEC Working Groups and adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. However, we need to intensify our efforts. In this respect, I am pleased with the readiness of the SESRIC to contribute to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy



Recommendations through organizing capacity building and training programmes in the cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy.

Seizing the opportunity, I would like to call on the member countries to kindly exert every effort to implement these recommendations at the national level to the extent possible and reply on time the Annual Evaluation Forms circulated by the COMCEC Coordination Office to determine the progress in the member countries.

In this respect, COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism provides our member countries a practical tool to conduct joint projects and improve our institutional and human capacity in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation.

We are also pleased to learn that 61 projects were successfully implemented during the last five-year-period and 24 projects are being implemented this year. Since the projects are required to have at least 2 member countries in addition to the project owner country for implementation; only this year around 40 member countries are involved in the projects directly either as project owners or project partners.

Esteemed Delegates,

During our Meeting, we have discussed various critical issues for our cooperation in trade, transport, agriculture, poverty alleviation, tourism and financial cooperation. As we have already spent sufficient time on all these matters, I will just highlight a few issues for your kind information and perusal.

As you all know, a sustainable food system lies at the heart of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Adopted in 2015, the SDGs call for major transformations in agriculture and food systems in order to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition by 2030. To realize the SDGs, the global food system needs to be reviewed to be more productive, more inclusive of poor and marginalized populations, environmentally sustainable and resilient, and able to deliver healthy and nutritious diets to all. According to the FAO Food Security Indicators, there are 803.1 millions undernourished people in the world and 223.4 millions of these deprived group are in the OIC geography.

These are the complex and systemic challenges that require the combination of interconnected actions at the local, national, regional and global levels. In this respect, I believe that the selection of "Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries" as the theme of the Exchange of Views Session of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC is extremely relevant. The outcomes of the exchange

of views session will provide us with strong insights and indications with regards to enhancing our cooperation in this critical area.

Esteemed Delegates,

TPSOIC, as the cornerstone project of the COMCEC, is a crucial tool for furthering our economic and commercial relations based on trade concessions on the basis of mutual benefit. We have already reached the required number of member countries having submitted their concession lists recently. However, there are minor modification needs in terms of format of the concession lists. Hopefully, the concession lists will be harmonized soon and we would be able to announce the launch of the System this year during the 35th COMCEC Session.

Necessary preparations for establishment of OIC Arbitration Center are underway by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and TOBB. I hope that this crucial Center will be operationalized this year soon.

Distinguished Guests,

I would like to remind you that the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Focal Points of the COMCEC will be held in July 2019 in Ankara. This Meeting provides a good opportunity for our focal points to discuss ongoing efforts under the COMCEC and the implementation of the outcomes of the Working Group Meetings and COMCEC Project Funding. Furthermore, our focal points will have the chance of designing our future works and plans. I would like to call upon all the member countries to actively participate in this important meeting.

Esteemed Guests,

Before concluding, I would like to thank all the Members of the Follow-Up Committee, the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, the IDB Group, ICDT, ICCIA and SMIIC for their participation and valuable contributions to the meeting. I would also like to thank our colleagues in the COMCEC Coordination Office, the staff on duty in this organization, interpreters, revisers and translators for their untiring efforts which helped rendering this meeting a success.

I wish you all a safe trip back home.

Thank you.

-----

-----

**ANNEX**

**XIV**

Original: English

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED  
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE THIRTY FIFTH MEETING OF  
THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC  
(Ankara, 24-25 April 2019)**

1.	Report on the Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy - Progress Report.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(1)-CCO</i>
2.	Report of the OIC General Secretariat on the Implementation of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(2)-OIC</i>
3.	Brief on Trade/TPS-OIC.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(3)-CCO</i>
4.	Proceedings of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(4)-CCO</i>
5.	Policy Recommendations of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Trade Working Group to be submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 35 <sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(5)-CCO</i>
6.	List of TPS-OIC Signatory and Ratifying Countries.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(6)-CCO</i>
7.	Reports of ICDT on the OIC Fairs and Exhibitions.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(7)-ICDT</i>
8.	Executive Summary - Annual Report on Intra-OIC Trade .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(8)-ICDT</i>
9.	Report on IDB's WTO-Related Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(9)-IDB</i>
10.	Report on the Issues Relating to the Activities of the World Trade Organization .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(10)- ICDT</i>
11.	ITFC Progress Report on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(11)- ITFC</i>
12.	ICIEC's Brief Performance 2018.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(12)- ICIEC</i>
13.	Brief Note on OIC Business Intelligence Center .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(13)-IDB- ICIEC</i>
14.	Report of SMIIC.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(14)- SMIIC</i>
15.	Report on the Activities of ICCIA.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(15)- ICCIA</i>
16.	ICD's 2018 Achievements to Promote the Private Sector in the OIC Member Countries.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(36)-IDB</i>
17.	Brief on Transport and Communications.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(17)-CCO</i>
18.	Proceedings of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(18)-CCO</i>

19.	Policy Recommendations of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group to be submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 35 <sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(19)-CCO</i>
20.	Brief on Tourism .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(20)-CCO</i>
21.	Proceedings of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(21)-CCO</i>
22.	Policy Recommendations of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tourism Working Group to be submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 35 <sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(22)-CCO</i>
23.	Brief on Agricultural Cooperation.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(23)-CCO</i>
24.	Proceedings of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(24)-CCO</i>
25.	Policy Recommendations of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group to be submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 35 <sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(25)-CCO</i>
26.	Brief on Poverty Alleviation .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(26)-CCO</i>
27.	Proceedings of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group..	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(27)-CCO</i>
28.	Policy Recommendations of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group to be submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 35 <sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(28)-CCO</i>
29.	Report on the Activities of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(29)-IDB-ISFD</i>
30.	OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(31)-SESRIC</i>
31.	Brief on Financial Cooperation .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(32)-CCO</i>
32.	Proceedings of the 12 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(33)-CCO</i>
33.	Policy Recommendations of the 12 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group to be submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 35 <sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(34)-CCO</i>
34.	SESRIC Activity Report .....	<i>OIC/COMCEC-FC/35-19/D(35)-SESRIC</i>

Reports are available on the COMCEC website. ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org))