

Original: English

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE 34th MEETING OF
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(Ankara, April 23rd, 2019)**

1. The 34th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on April 23rd, 2019 in Ankara, on the sidelines of the 35th 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 34th 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 35th 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 35th 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.
