

Original: English

**RESOLUTION
OF THE THIRTY FIFTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(İstanbul, 25-28 November 2019)

The Thirty-fifth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 25-28 November 2019 in İstanbul, Turkey;

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 14th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019, which commended the role of the COMCEC under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey, in contributing to the realization of OIC objectives in the economic domain and highly commended the successful implementation of the COMCEC revised Statute and the Strategy adopted at the Fourth Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the 34th Session of the COMCEC;

Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the OIC-2025: Programme of Action adopted at the 13th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 April 2016 in İstanbul, Turkey and to the COMCEC Strategy adopted by the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 August 2012 in Makkah Al-Mukarramah;

Celebrating the golden jubilee of OIC in the year 2019 in commemoration of Fiftieth Anniversary of its establishment and highlighting the noble objectives of OIC enshrined in its Charter towards enhancing political, economic, commercial, social, cultural and scientific cooperation and solidarity among its Member Countries.

Recalling the objectives and mandate of the COMCEC in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Islamic Summit and the COMCEC Statute including to serve as the central forum for the Member States to discuss international economic and commercial issues.

Taking note of the submission of the progress reports, working papers and studies on the different agenda items submitted by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC);

Expressing its appreciation to the Member Countries for hosting Ministerial Conferences, Meetings, workshops, fairs and other activities in the cooperation areas;

Commending the efforts made by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office and the OIC institutions working in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, namely SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIIC.

Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation (Agenda Item: 2)

1- **Welcomes** the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy; **commends** the Member Countries and the OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to its implementation and **requests** the Member States and the OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

2- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to regularly report the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Sessions, the Follow-up Committee Meetings and other relevant OIC fora.

3- **Welcomes** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 34th Session of the COMCEC and **also welcomes** the research studies and sectoral outlooks conducted and prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for enriching the discussions in each COMCEC Working Group Meeting.

4- **Commends** the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their fields of competence and **welcomes** the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in February-April and September-November 2019.

5- **Calls upon** the relevant Member States to utilize COMCEC Policy Follow-up System, which has been established by the COMCEC Coordination Office for the effective follow-up of the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

6- **Commending** the efforts of the Member States and the OIC Institutions for the realization of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, **invites** all the Member States to exert every effort, to the extent possible, to implement the Policy Recommendations and **requests** the OIC Institutions to support the Member States to this end through implementing capacity development and training programmes for implementation of policy recommendations.

7- **Expresses its appreciations** to the SESRIC for the activities, particularly capacity building and training programmes, contributing to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations in the six cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy.

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

9- **Welcomes** the finalization of seventeen projects funded under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2018 and twenty two new projects implemented under the sixth project call in 2019 and **also welcomes** the seventh project call made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in September 2019.

10- **Calls on** the COMCEC National and Working Group Focal points to work more closely with the COMCEC Coordination Office for effective coordination and communication.

11- **Invites** the Member States 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.

12- **Encourages** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Working Groups to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the relevant Working Groups.

13- **Noting with appreciation** that the number of Member States having registered to at least one COMCEC Working Group has reached 50, **requests** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Working Groups and actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the Working Groups.

14- **Welcomes** the holding of the Seventh Annual Coordination Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office on 15-17 July 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey.

15- **Takes 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 **encourages** the other Member States to set up similar coordination mechanisms for these purposes.

16- **Calls upon** the working group focal points to be actively involved in the knowledge production efforts of the COMCEC through, among others, assisting in collection and verification of country specific data and providing feedbacks to research studies.

17- **Expresses** its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, and SMIIC for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

18- **Reiterates** the relevant resolutions of the 34th COMCEC Session, **which emphasize** the role of COMCEC in ensuring the overall coordination of the activities of the OIC relating to economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States, in accordance with its mandate and **also emphasizes** the role of COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) in undertaking activities with the Member States, the OIC Institutions and other international organizations in order to realize to objectives of the COMCEC as outlined in its Statute.

19- **Also reiterates** its request to the OIC Institutions working in the economic and commercial fields to continue coordination with the COMCEC Coordination Office, including through the Sessional Committee, in order to ensure progress and complementarity in the implementation both of the COMCEC Strategy and the OIC 2025: Program of Action, especially in the areas of trade and investment.

20- **Adopts** the recommendations of the 35th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC held on 24-25 April 2019 in Ankara, Turkey.

21- **Requests** 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 **calls upon** these institutions to send invitations to the Member States sufficiently in advance of the meetings so as to ensure their participation.

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

22- **Takes 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.

23- **Underlining** the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action by the COMCEC, **requests** the OIC General Secretariat to regularly submit comprehensive progress reports on the implementation of the Programme to the COMCEC Sessions and the Follow-up Meetings.

24- **Commends** 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.

25- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, **requests** the Member States to sign and ratify the agreements in the economic domain for furthering economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.

World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 4)

26- **Takes note** of the findings highlighted in the SESRIC's report titled "OIC Economic Outlook 2019: Mobilizing Financial Resources for Development", and acknowledges valuable contribution of its special section in identifying policies pertinent to financing economic development and prosperity in the Member States. Considering that growing development needs of Member States are seldom accompanied by the financial resources that are necessary to meet them:

- **Invites** Member States to take into consideration the set of proposals contained in the report that can ensure more effective mobilization of domestic and external financial resources, including Islamic finance, which offers a significant potential in mitigating the annual investment gap in major socio-economic sectors.
- **Recommends** to Member States to better utilize Sukuk (Islamic bonds) as a relevant instrument for financing largescale infrastructure investments in the areas such as water and sanitation, sustainable and affordable energy and transportation.
- **Encourages** Member States to improve the governance, administration, regulations and effective and transparent distribution of Islamic Social funds - zakat, sadaqa, qard al-hassan and awqaf – from which tremendous gains can be achieved in supporting socio-economic empowerment and development.
- **Calls upon** Member States to improve the coordination between various national actors dealing with financing for sustainable development, and ensure that available financial resources are better linked with country development strategies. In this regard, developing the Integrated National Financing Frameworks and focusing on channeling financial resources to productive sectors and to poverty eradication would be essential.

27- **Entrusts** the SESRIC to continue monitoring world economic developments and their implications on the Member States and **also entrusts** SESRIC to continue to report thereon to the annual sessions of the COMCEC.

Intra-OIC Trade (Agenda Item: 5)

28- **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 13th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on March 7th, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Enhancing Public Availability of Customs Information in the OIC Member States”, welcomes 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.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

29- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 14th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on October 24th, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving Customs Transit Systems in the OIC Member States”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Designing an appropriate legal and procedural framework for national customs administrations through, among others, utilizing international conventions on customs transit regimes,
- Establishing/Developing an efficient electronic exchange of information system among all relevant agencies, particularly among neighboring countries
- Developing an efficient guarantee management and monitoring system for Customs Transit Regimes
- Simplifying the formalities and documentary requirements for facilitating transit operations
- Developing integrated risk management systems to manage and facilitate transit customs procedures
- Ensuring a well-coordinated border management through enhancing cooperation among different border control agencies and with the neighboring countries as well as assigning a national transit coordinator.
- Developing necessary mechanisms (i.e. a Customs-Business Partnership programme) for promoting partnership with private sector while designing policies and procedures related to transit.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

30- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to attend the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be held on April 2nd, 2020 in Ankara with the theme of “Guidelines for Effective National Trade Facilitation Committees in Islamic Countries ” and the 16th Meeting to be organized with the theme of “Facilitating Trade: Guidelines for Improving Internal Border Management for OIC Member States” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Trade Working Group.

31- **Commends** the efforts of Indonesia, Lebanon, Palestine and SMIIC for the following projects successfully 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” implemented by Indonesia in partnership with five other Member States,
- The Project titled “Supporting Cooperatives to Enhance Their Access to OIC Markets” implemented by Lebanon in partnership with Turkey and Jordan,
- The Project titled “Introduction of Palestinian Export Products to Selected OIC countries” implemented by Palestine in partnership with Jordan and Indonesia,
- The Project titled “Increasing Public Halal Awareness in OIC Countries” implemented by SMIIC in partnership with Turkey and Malaysia.

32- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 14th Islamic Summit Conference, **calls on** Member States to take the necessary measures that would exempt Palestinian goods and commodities from customs duties, duties and taxes of similar effect, without quantitative or qualitative restrictions, which would have a positive effect on strengthening the steadfastness of the Palestinian people on their own territory and supporting the efforts of the State of Palestine to put an end to the Israeli occupation.

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

34- **Welcomes** the offers of Benin, Mali and Tunisia to host and ICDT to organize a Workshop on “Online Marketing for Businesswomen” in 2020.

35- **Welcomes** the offer of Gabon to host, and ICDT and ITFC, to organize Buyers/Sellers Meeting on Wood Industry in Libreville in 2020 under Arab Africa Trade Bridge Programme (AATB) of the ITFC.

36- **Welcomes** the offer of the State of Kuwait to organize the workshop on “Online Marketing for Businesswomen” and Forum for OIC Women Entrepreneurs on 19-22 December 2019 in Kuwait-City.

37- **Calls upon** the relevant OIC Institutions to organize capacity building and training activities etc. for the Member States in trade facilitation domain and encourages member states and relevant OIC institutions to support the realization of projects regarding the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

38- **Appreciating** experience sharing by various member countries during the Session particularly in trade, single window applications, customs risk management etc., **calls upon**

the volunteering member countries to extend technical assistance to the member countries in need in these fields.

i) TPS-OIC

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

40- **Welcomes** the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, the 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.

41- **Requests** the concerned Member States to expedite their efforts for the submission of the concession lists to the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Secretariat in the standard format circulated by the TNC Secretariat for the operationalization of the TPS-OIC at the earliest.

42- **Requests** the participating Member States, who have not done so yet, to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience.

43- **Commends** 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 also commends the Republic of Turkey for hosting and the COMCEC Coordination Office for organizing the TPS-OIC Training Seminar for the relevant authorities of Cameroon, the Gambia, and Somalia on July 18th, 2019 in İstanbul, Turkey.

44- **Requests** the ICDT, COMCEC Coordination Office, IDB and other relevant OIC Institutions to continue organizing awareness-raising and capacity-building activities with regard to the TPS-OIC.

ii) Islamic Trade Fairs

45- **Expresses** 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 “6th OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 29 November-2 December 2018,

- The Republic of Cote d’Ivoire for hosting the “4th OIC Health Expo” and “Medical Expo Cote d’Ivoire” concurrently in Abidjan on 7-9 December 2018,
- The Republic of Iraq for hosting the “16th 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;

46- **Takes note** that World Expo “EXPO 2020 Dubai” will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates, in Dubai, from November 2020 to April 2021 and **invites** the OIC Institutions to actively participate in the event.

47- **Welcomes** the offer of the following Member States to host Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT in 2019-2020 and **requests** all Member States to encourage active participation of their private sector and relevant institutions in these events:

- The Republic of Turkey to host the “7th OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul from November 28 to December 1st, 2019 and “8th OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 26-29 November 2020 in Istanbul in coordination with SMIIC,
- The State of Kuwait to host “Exceptional Edition of the Tourism, Handicrafts and Interior Decoration Exhibition of the OIC Member States” in Kuwait-City on 18-23 December 2019,
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 11th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC member States in Jeddah on March/April 2020,
- The Republic of Senegal to host 5th OIC Health Expo in Dakar on 18-20 June 2020 and to host “17th OIC Trade Fair” in 2020,
- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host “18th OIC Trade Fair” in 2022.

48- **Requests** ICDT to circulate the calendar of activities well in advance through utilizing all channels efficiently in order to ensure larger and active participation of the private sector from the member countries.

49- **Reiterates** its request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

50- **Also reiterates** 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.

51- **Takes note with appreciation** for the invitation of Malaysia to the 17th Malaysia International Halal Showcase (MIHAS) to be held on 1-4 April 2020 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

iii) WTO Related Technical Assistance

52- **Expresses** 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.

53- **Calls 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 **requests** IDB and ICDT 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.

54- **Calls upon** the WTO members of the OIC to assist non-WTO Members of the OIC in their accession process to WTO.

55- **Also calls 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.

56- **Expresses its appreciation** to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and ICDT and the IDB Group for organizing a Workshop on Post-WTO Eleventh Ministerial Conference (MC11) in Casablanca on 26-27 June 2019.

iv) Trade Financing Activities

57- **Appreciates** 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.

58- **Takes note with appreciation** that ITFC's cumulative approvals and disbursement in trade finance reached, since its inception until now, USD 49.4 billion and USD 39.8 billion respectively, and its total approvals and disbursement in 2018 reached USD 5.2 billion and USD 4.6 billion respectively.

59- **Commends** the efforts of ITFC in financing SMEs and the Least Developed Member Countries and intra-OIC trade and **takes 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.

60- **Calls 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.

61- **Takes 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), Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program (AATB), Trade Development Fund and West Africa SMEs Program.

62- **Takes 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 Afflatoxin Mitigation Programme, and various programmes for Tunisia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, CIS Countries, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Comoros and Djibouti.

63- **Also takes 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.

64- **Congratulates** ITFC for the reconfirmation of the Assignment of Credit Rating by Moody's long-term issuer rating of A1 reflecting the ITFC's strong capital position, moderate leveraging scenarios and adequate liquidity management policies and **also congratulates** ICIEC for its 12th consecutive years for having maintained its Aa3 standalone Rating by Moody's, which confirms ICIEC's financial sustainability of its operations.

65- **Takes note** of the ITFC's high level Capacity Building Program provided to CIS countries and Afghanistan on Islamic Finance, as part of its trade-related Technical Assistance Programs provided to Member Countries and **calls upon** the relevant OIC Institutions to join and support these efforts.

66- **Takes 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.

67- **Congratulating** the ICIEC for its 25th Anniversary as a unique Multilateral Company providing Takaful credit and investment insurance services among the OIC Member Countries, **acknowledges** 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.

68- **Commends** 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.

69- **Takes note** of the launching of new edition of the Annual Development Effectiveness Report (ADER) which encompass the ICIEC performance throughout the last 25 years.

70- **Welcomes** 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.

71- **Takes note** of the Report prepared by ICIEC on OIC Business Intelligence Programme and **requests** the ICIEC and SESRIC to complete the technical preparations for launching the Programme at the earliest.

72- **Also requests** ICIEC in cooperation with SESRIC to conduct a survey for assessing the commercial data and credit information sharing systems of the Member Countries in order to ensure the operationalization of the Programme in line with the priorities and regulations of the Member Countries.

v) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

73- **Welcomes** 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 projects for the Member States.

74- **Invites** the Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Councils.

75- **Welcomes** the Republic of Indonesia and State of Kuwait as the new members of and Russian Federation as observer to SMIIC, which has increased the number of SMIIC Member States to 39 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.

76- **Expresses its appreciation** to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence and **invites** 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.

77- **Invites** the Member States to adopt and use the OIC/SMIIC Standards as their national standards with a view to contributing to the harmonization of standards and alleviating technical barriers to trade among the Member States and **calls upon** the relevant Member States, which use OIC/SMIIC Standards, to officially adopt the standards according to SMIIC adoption guidelines.

78- **Expresses its appreciation** to the Republic of Turkey for hosting and SMIIC for coordinating the organization of the World Halal Summit (WHS) on 29 November-02 December 2018 in Istanbul, with the theme of “Halal and Healthy Life: Awareness and Sustainability” in coordination with the ICDT and **calls upon** the Member States to participate in the 5th World Halal Summit to be held on 28 November – 01 December 2019 under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey.

79- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 46th Meeting of the CFM, **welcomes** the efforts of SMIIC Metrology Council for the establishment of an Excellence Metrology Center for Islamic Countries.

Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation (Agenda Item:6)

80- **Takes 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.

81- **Encourages** the Chambers of Commerce of the Member States to be actively involved in the ICCIA’s activities.

82- **Takes note of** the following activities to be organized by the ICCIA and **calls 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” in Karachi, Pakistan on December 2-4, 2019,

- Workshop on spreading the Model of Family Bank in G-5 Sahel Countries, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – 19th – 20th January 2020,
- The 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Countries to be held in the United Arab Emirates in 2020,
- Specialized Workshops/Training Programs to be held in 2020 on Promotion of Cottage Industries through SMEs; scaling-up existing Enterprises through Skill Development and exploring destinations for Health Tourism, Workshops on Strategic Commodities, Training Program on Digital Transformation in 2020.
- Forum on “Invest in Digital Economy”, Amman, Jordan, 5-6 April 2020,
- Forum on Traditional Handicraft, Kingdom of Morocco, 2020
- Forum on Entrepreneurship and Start-ups, 2020

83- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC and Council of Foreign Ministers and the relevant decision of the 35th Meeting of General Assembly of the ICCIA regarding approval of the Statute of the OIC Arbitration Center, **welcomes** the progress in the operationalization of the Center in Istanbul affiliated to ICCIA and **requests** the Member Countries to encourage their Chambers to actively participate in the activities of the Arbitration Center.

84- **Welcomes** the “OIC High-Level Public and Private Investment Conference” to be hosted by the Republic of Turkey on 8-9 December 2019 in İstanbul, in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat and IDB Group and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in this important event.

85- **Welcomes and applauds** the establishment of the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul with the Signing of the Host Country Agreement of the Center between the Republic of Turkey and ICCIA after the intensive efforts of ICCIA and TOBB under the umbrella of the COMCEC.

Financing Private Sector Development

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

87- **Takes 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- **Requests** 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.”

Improving Transport and Communications (Agenda Item: 7)

89- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 13th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group held on March 21st, 2019 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Improving Transport Project Appraisals in OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** 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.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

90- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 14th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on October 3rd, 2019 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Risk management in Transport PPP projects in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its policy recommendations:

- Encouraging to develop/improve the legal framework through adopting a PPP tailored legislation.
- Allocating clear responsibilities for the management of PPPs over the course of their life-cycle and establishing/strengthening a unit/department within the government to that end.
- Supporting the use of appropriate technical tools, analyses etc., and development of strong database and competences for minimizing risks during the implementation of the PPP projects.

- Developing/Improving risk management guidelines and checklists for the betterment of the implementation of the PPP projects.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

91- **Calls upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group, to actively participate in the 15th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group to be held on March 5th, 2020 with the theme of “The Pricing of Transport Infrastructure in the OIC Member Countries”, as well as its 16th Meeting to be with the theme of “The Economic and Social Impacts of Transport Infrastructure: An overview of the OIC Member Countries” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group.

92- **Commends** the efforts of the Gambia, Iran and Jordan for the following projects successfully 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” 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” implemented by Jordan in partnership with Egypt and Turkey.

93- **Commends** 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.

94- **Taking note of** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat and the IDB Group to operationalize the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor, **requests** 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.

95- **Emphasizing** the importance of transport infrastructure projects for developing regional integration among the Member Countries, **calls upon** the relevant OIC Institutions to organize capacity building and training activities in the field of transport, specifically transport infrastructure.

96- **Takes notes** with appreciation the IDB's efforts to promote regional cooperation and integration, in particular its planned launch of the Regional Cooperation and Integration Policy and Strategy (RCI); and therefore **calls on** IDB to organize workshops to sensitize the Member States on the RCI Strategy and its possible positive effects.

97- **Also calls on** IDB, within the RCI, to give due attention to transborder infrastructure as well as other connectivity projects in a way to enhance intra-OIC trade and economic interactions among the Member Countries.

Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector (Agenda Item: 8)

98- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 13th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on February 15th, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of "Sustainable Destination Management Strategies in the OIC Member Countries", **welcomes** 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.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

99- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 14th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on October 31st, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Developing Multi-Destination Tourism Corridors in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Planning corridors based on thorough SWOT analysis, infrastructure assessment, and social value analysis and identifying assets through expert-led research,
- Making use of public-private partnership models for the effective planning and management of Tourism Corridors and encouraging the participation of and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders,
- Identifying a comprehensive set of indicators, promoting harmonized tourism related data collection as well as analysis for monitoring the corridor performance effectively and feedback into the corridor strategy to create synergies,
- Improving branding and marketing of the tourism corridors in the OIC Region through among others, joint interactive marketing platforms and user-generated content (storytelling) in ICT platforms to create unique brands,
- Creating and Diversifying funding sources of tourism corridors with a view to ensure the sustainability of their management and marketing.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

100- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the 15th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group to be held on April 9th, 2020, in Ankara, with theme of “Health Tourism: Developing Medical Tourism in the OIC Member Countries” and its 16th Meeting to be held with the theme of “Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

101- **Commended** the efforts of Azerbaijan, the Gambia, Mali, Mozambique and ICDT for the following projects successfully implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Establishing a Destination Management Organization: Conceptual Framework for Azerbaijan, Cameroon and Iran” 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” implemented by the Gambia in partnership with Senegal, Nigeria and Malaysia,

- The Project titled “Capacity Building on Destination Management Organizations of OIC Member Countries” 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” 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- **Takes note** of the report of the 7th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held on September 5th, 2018 in İstanbul, with the theme of “Prospects for the Development of Health Tourism in the OIC Member Countries” and **calls upon** the Member States to participate in the 8th Meeting of the Forum to be held with the theme of “Al Quds as a Special Destination” in the last quarter of 2020 in İstanbul, Turkey.

103- **Takes 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).

104- **Commends** 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- **Expresses its appreciation** to Turkey for hosting and ICDT and SESRIC for organizing the Training Workshop for the Managers of West African Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas on 5-7 November 2019 in Ankara/Turkey.

106- **Considering** the low level of tourist arrivals to Quds al-Sharif from the OIC Member Countries, **invites** 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 demonstrating solidarity with them.

107- **Takes note with appreciation** for the invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the following tourism-related events to be held in 2020 and calls upon member states and relevant OIC institutions to actively participate in the following events:

- 13th International Exhibition of Tourism and related Industries in February
- 3rd Tourism Fair of OIC Member States
- 5th Health Tourism Conference of the Islamic Countries

108- **Invites** the Islamic Republic of Iran to further enhance collaboration with relevant OIC institutions to conduct these events successfully.

109- **Encourages** the member states to focus on sustainable tourism and eco-tourism and to develop projects to that effect.

110- **Also encourages** the member countries to organize capacity building events for the promotion of tourism in the member countries with low volume of tourist arrivals.

Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security (Agenda Item: 9)

111- **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 13th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group on February 21st, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Reviewing Agricultural Trade Policies to Promote Intra-OIC Agricultural Trade”, **welcomes** 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.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

112- **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 14th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group, which also serves as a preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session, held on 9-10 October, 2019 with the theme of “Increasing the Resilience of the Food Systems in the OIC Member Countries in Face of

Future Food Crises”, **welcomes** its policy recommendations submitted under the following headings;

- Legal and regulatory framework
- Improving agro-production and agricultural productivity
- Development of Infrastructure
- Financing and Investment
- Market performance and market access
- Promotion of intra-OIC agricultural trade/ Reducing barriers to trade
- Human and institutional capacity
- Monitoring and evaluation of food security
- Adaptation and mitigation strategies for reducing the adverse effects of climate change, man-made disasters, etc.
- International and regional cooperation

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

113- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in the 15th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group to be held on March 19th, 2020 in Ankara with theme of “Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Member Countries” and its 16th Meeting to be held with the theme of “Developing Livestock Production and Animal Husbandry to Foster Food Security” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group.

114- The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Malaysia and Turkey for the following projects successfully implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Capacity Building on Warehousing and Storage Management” implemented by Malaysia in partnership Indonesia, Bangladesh and Turkey,
- The Project titled “Reduction of Food Loss and Waste in the OIC Countries” implemented by Turkey in partnership with five other Member States.

115- 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.

116- 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.

117- **Welcomes** the renewed offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development and concurrently the next General Assembly of Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) in 2020 and **calls upon** the Member States and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions including the COMCEC Secretariat to actively participate in this important event.

Alleviating Poverty (Agenda Item: 10)

118- **Taking note with appreciation** the convening of the 13th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group on April 4th, 2019 with the theme of “Access to Health Services in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** 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.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

119- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 14th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group held on November 6th, 2019 in Ankara, with the theme of “Child and Maternal Mortality in Islamic Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy

recommendations:

- Developing a strategy/policy to improve access to maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) care, and to provide equitable distribution of health providers,
- Improving health system functioning and quality of MNCH care through training and practice of recommended standard of care protocols, and regular monitoring of standards,
- Improving continuum of maternal, neonatal and child health care for assuring uninterrupted services before and during pregnancy, delivery and postpartum period through among others developing specific conditional cash transfer programs,
- Developing/Improving integrated health information management systems for monitoring MNCH care level and reporting births and deaths, including maternal deaths, nationally and locally,
- Developing sustainable educational programs on women and child health care delivered to community with a view to eliminating the inequities linked to low education levels.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

120- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to actively participate in the 15th Meeting of the Working Group to be held in March 26th, 2020 in Ankara with the theme of “Eradicating Urban Poverty in the OIC Member Countries”, as well as its 16th Meeting to be held with the theme of “Decent Housing for the Poor in the OIC Member Countries” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

121- **Commends** the efforts of the Afghanistan, Nigeria, Suriname, Turkey and SESRIC for the following projects successfully 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” 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” implemented by Nigeria in partnership with Turkey and The Gambia.
- The Project titled “Increasing the Capacity of Vocational Education Centers for the Disabled in the Selected OIC Countries” implemented by Suriname in partnership

with Turkey and Guyana.

- The Project titled “Developing Guidelines on Social Safety Net Systems for the OIC Countries” implemented by Turkey in partnership with five other Member States.
- The Project titled “Digital Skills Development in OIC Countries” implemented by SESRIC in partnership with 16 Member States.

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

122- **Reiterates its request** to the Member Countries which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and requests the IDB Group to report back to the 36th COMCEC Session about the shortfalls in reaching the target capital of the ISFD.

123- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the recent COMCEC Sessions on the observations of the Member Countries for improving the performance of the ISFD, **requests** the ISFD to focus on the areas directly related to poverty and improving the lives of the disadvantaged segments of the society to generate a direct impact on poverty reduction, especially through grant based small/medium sized projects.

124- **Taking note of** the reports of the IDB on ISFD and SPDA, **acknowledges** the progress achieved in SPDA and **requests** the 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.

125- **Requests** the ISFD to intensify its efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including governmental, non-governmental resources and the private sector in the Member States.

126- **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, **welcomes** the announcement of the IDB Group that the allocation of funding to the capacity building project of SESRIC will be finalized soon within the scope of “IDB Reverse Linkage Cotton Capacity and Technology Transfer Programme.”

ii) OIC-VET Program

127- **Appreciates** the continuous efforts of SESRIC with a view to enhancing the capacities and quality of human resources in the member countries and **calls upon** SESRIC to mobilize more financial resources towards the OIC-VET Programme.

128- **Expresses its appreciation** to SESRIC and ISESCO for the preparation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025 in cooperation with the Member States, and **welcomes** cooperation and priority areas contained in the Roadmap developed to improve the quality of implementing technical and vocational education and training programs in the Member States.

129- **Invites** Member States to exert efforts in the implementation of the Roadmap in order to ensure a common framework that will support cooperation between the relevant institutions in establishing and maintaining sustainable TVET policies and programs.

130- **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, ISESCO, IDB Group and other relevant OIC institutions to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on TVET related issues, and **also requests** SESRIC to monitor the implementation of the Roadmap within the framework of its Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET) and submit the progress report to the COMCEC Sessions and to the Follow-up Meetings.

iii) Implementation of the SDGs

131- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 34th Session of the COMCEC, **takes note of** the list of SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC Institutions compiled by the COMCEC Coordination Office towards the implementation of the SDGs in the Member Countries and **calls upon** the Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions to actively participate in these activities.

132- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to compile the SDG-related activities of the relevant OIC institutions in the prioritized SDG areas of poverty, health, hunger, education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure and climate change.

133- **Takes note with appreciation** of the report presented by SESRIC titled “Towards the Achievement of Prioritized Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries”, **requests** SESRIC to prepare annual reports on the progress towards achievement of the prioritized SDGs in the OIC Member Countries and submit to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and **also requests** SESRIC to continue to carry out statistical training activities with a focus on prioritised SDGs for the benefit of National Statistical Offices of the Member States within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.”

Deepening Financial Cooperation (Agenda Item: 11)

134- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 12th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on March 28th, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Infrastructure Financing through Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** 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.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

135- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 13th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on October 17th, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving the Takaful Sector in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Developing a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for the Takaful industry to facilitate the operations, transparency, and governance in this sector,
- Promoting product customization in Takaful Sector and introducing new products in accordance with the changing needs of the market,
- Encouraging the talent development through training and professional certification programs and increasing the awareness of stakeholders in Takaful sector,
- To provide incentives to the Takaful industry to enhance its competitiveness and business sustainability, thereby creating the level-playing field for the industry.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

136- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively participate in the 14th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group to be held on March 12th, 2020, in Ankara, with the theme of “Improving Shariah Governance Framework in Islamic Finance”, as well as its 15th Meeting to be held with the theme of “Standardization Efforts in Islamic Finance” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.

137- **Commends** the efforts of Mozambique, Nigeria and Turkey for the following projects 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” implemented by Mozambique in partnership with the Gambia and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Islamic Liquidity Management Instruments for Sustainable Development of Islamic Financial Institutions” implemented by Nigeria in partnership with the Gambia, Togo and Malaysia,
- The Project titled “Assessment of COMCEC Real Estate Securities Markets and Regulatory Landscapes for Strengthening Capital Markets” implemented by Turkey in partnership with ten other Member States.

i) OIC Exchanges Forum

138- **Welcomes** the report of the 13th Meeting of the OIC Exchanges Forum, which has been hosted by Borsa İstanbul on September 26th, 2019 in İstanbul and **welcomes** the organization of “Certificate Training on Islamic Capital Markets and Sukuk” on 27-28 September 2019.

139- **Takes note** of the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts of the Forum’s Task Force on Precious Metals for the realization of the OIC Gold Exchange Project and **requests** the Forum’s Secretariat to finalize the necessary preparations for the establishment of the OIC Gold Exchange.

140- **Invites** 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.

141- **Also invites** 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.

142- **Requests** the Borsa Istanbul as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum in cooperation with IDB to continue to work towards the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah 50 Index, its potential sub-indices and to develop effective products and services based on the Index.

143- **Welcomes** the efforts of the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum for the establishment of the Fund towards the operationalization of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah 50 Index.

144- **Also requests** the Member States to actively support the Forum's Task Force on Indices including the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah 50 Index and its potential sub-indices, products and services based on the Index.

145- **Welcomes** the offer of the Borsa Istanbul as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, to host the 14th Meeting of the Forum in 2020, in İstanbul, and **requests** all Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

ii) Cooperation among Capital Markets' Regulatory Bodies

146- **Welcomes** the report of the 8th Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum, hosted by Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey on September 26th, 2019 in Istanbul.

147- **Welcomes** 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 **calls 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.

148- **Takes note** of the briefing by 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 **requests** the Forum's Secretariat to finalize the necessary legal, administrative and technical preparations for the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate Electronic Platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange.

149- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 34th COMCEC Session, **calls upon** the interested Member States to actively participate in the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange and **invites** them to identify their authorized bodies as well as notify them to the Forum's Secretariat for enhancing coordination.

150- **Welcomes** the offer of the Capital Markets Board of Turkey as the Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum, to host the 9th Meeting of the Forum in 2020, and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

iii) OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum

151- **Welcomes** the Communique of the 1st Meeting of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum hosted by the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey in Bodrum/Turkey on 22-24 September 2019.

152- **Also welcomes** the offer of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey as the Secretariat of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum, to host the 2nd Meeting of the Forum in 2020, and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

153- **Commends** the training and capacity building programs organized by the SESRIC among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States in different aspects of cooperation and **requests** the SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the relevant institutions of the Member States.

Exchange of Views on “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries” (Agenda Item: 12)

154- **Welcomes** the policy recommendations of the 14th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group on “Increasing the Resilience of the Food Systems in the OIC Member Countries in Face of Future Food Crises” organized on 9-10 October 2019 in Ankara, Turkey.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

Theme of the next Exchange of Views Session

155- **Decides** on “Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness” as the theme for the Exchange of Views Session at the 36th Session of the COMCEC and

requests the COMCEC Tourism Working Group in its 16th Meeting, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 36th COMCEC Session.

Date of the 36th Session of the COMCEC (Agenda Item: 13)

156- **Decides** that the 36th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 20-21 April 2020 in Ankara, Turkey and the 36th Session of the COMCEC will be held on 23-26 November 2020 in İstanbul, Turkey.

Any Other Business

i) Renewal of the Bureau Members

157- **Elects** the State of Kuwait, Republic of Indonesia and Federal Republic of Nigeria as Vice Chairmen of the Bureau of the COMCEC to represent the Arab, Asian and African Regions, respectively, and Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Rapporteur, to assume their posts as of the 36th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC; as a result of the election, the composition of the Follow-up Committee is as follows;

<u>Country</u>	<u>Status</u>
Republic of Turkey	: Chairman (Permanent)
State of Palestine	: Vice-Chairman (Permanent)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	: Vice-Chairman (Permanent)
State of Kuwait	: Vice-Chairman (Representing the Arab Region)
Republic of Indonesia	: Vice-Chairman (Representing the Asian Region)
Federal Republic of Nigeria	: Vice-Chairman (Representing the African Region)
State of Qatar	: Member of the Previous Bureau
Malaysia	: Member of the Previous Bureau
Republic of Gabon	: Member of the Previous Bureau
Islamic Republic of Pakistan	: Rapporteur
