



**COMCEC**

**REPORT  
THIRTY SIX MEETING  
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE  
OF THE COMCEC**

**20-21 October 2020**



**COMCEC Coordination Office  
Ankara, October 2020**

**OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/REP**

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

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# **R E P O R T**

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

**(20-21 October 2020)**

Original: English

**REPORT**  
**THIRTY SIXTH MEETING OF THE**  
**FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE**  
**ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION**  
**(Virtual-Only Meeting 20-21 October 2020)**

1. The Thirty Sixth 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 20-21 October 2020 in a virtual-only format.

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 Kuwait                 | : | (Vice Chairman, Representing the                |
|                                 |   | Arab Region),                                   |
| 5- Republic of Nigeria          | : | (Vice-Chairman Representing the African         |
|                                 |   | Region),  |
| 6- Republic of Indonesia        | : | (Vice Chairman, Representing the Asian Region), |
| 7- Islamic Republic of Pakistan | : | (Rapporteur),                                   |
| 8- State of Qatar               | : | (Member of the Previous Bureau),                |
| 9- Malaysia                     | : | (Member of the Previous Bureau)                 |
| 10. Republic of Gabon           | : | (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), the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC), and the Organization of the Islamic Shipowners' Association (OISA) 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. İbrahim ŞENEL, Vice President of Strategy Budget of the Presidency of Republic of Turkey, inaugurated the Meeting.

5. In his statement, H.E. ŞENEL, firstly touched upon the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and expressed his condolences for the loss of numerous lives in both the Islamic Countries and the World at large due to this insidious disease. He also stated that the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC has been organized in a virtual-only format for the first time due to the circumstances arising from the pandemic. He expressed his wishes that the Meeting would successfully review and monitor the implementation of the COMCEC resolutions, programs and projects, and set the agenda of the COMCEC Ministerial Session.

6. H.E. ŞENEL pointed out that the pandemic already caused the most severe global economic crisis after the "Great Depression" which happened 90 years ago. However, he stressed that it is much worse than any previous economic crisis as the pandemic has also claimed the lives of nearly 1,1 million people so far and inflicted millions of others.

7. He touched upon the global trade and stated that production and consumption declined considerably due to the measures taken to prevent or to slow down the contamination of the Virus. He pointed out that the global merchandise trade volumes declined by 14.3 percent in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the previous period. He underlined the importance of reduction of tariffs and the elimination of non-tariff barriers to enhance international trade flows during such crises.

8. He also mentioned about negative impacts of the pandemic on the food supply and demand. He expressed that according to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2020 Report, approximately 750 million people were exposed to severe levels of food insecurity in 2019. He also expressed that according to the estimations, COVID-19 would add between 83 and 132 million more to the total number of undernourished people in the world in 2020. Therefore, supply chains need to be strengthened especially for essential items such as health supplies and food.

9. H.E. ŞENEL expressed that businesses in service sectors are also seriously affected by lockdowns in various areas such as transport, travel, and tourism. He touched upon the scenarios indicating that the potential shock would cause between a 60-80 percent decline in the international tourism economy in 2020. The economic constriction could cause large-scale job losses if demand does not recover soon. Rising unemployment also likely to worsen the risk of poverty and deprivation for millions.

10. Moreover, H.E. ŞENEL underlined that early operationalization of the TPS-OIC is crucial for enhancing trade among the OIC member countries. He invited the concerned member countries to fulfill the obligations arising from the TPS-OIC Agreements so that the System could be effectuated. He added that the trade financing and export guarantee mechanisms offered by IDB and various trade fairs and events organized by ICDT and ICCIA should be benefitted extensively by the Member Countries.

11. H.E. ŞENEL also touched upon another important project of the COMCEC, the OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul. Mentioning that significant progress has been made in recent years regarding the establishment of the Center in İstanbul, he stated that there are few remaining works to be completed for the operationalization of the Center. He requested the relevant institutions to expedite the formation of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the Center. He stressed the importance of the Arbitration Center in opening new avenues for the private sector of the member countries especially for enhancing the intra-OIC trade by providing trustworthy, quick, and efficient settlement of trade and investment disputes.

12. Underlining the successful organization of the COMCEC Working Group Meetings in a virtual-only format during the pandemic, H.E. ŞENEL indicated that the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism (CPF) is a useful instrument for implementing the policy recommendations formulated by the Working Groups.

13. H.E. ŞENEL also touched upon two new programs initiated by the CCO namely COMCEC COVID Response (CCR) and COMCEC Al-Quds Program. He pointed out that the CCR Programme will specifically focus on supporting member countries in tackling negative impacts of the pandemic especially on the economy. He added that the Al-Quds Program concentrates on destination development and management as well as community based tourism in the city of Al-Quds.

14. H.E. ŞENEL concluded his remarks by wishing that all the deliberations during the 36th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC would contribute to peace, prosperity and welfare of the Islamic Ummah.

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

15. 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 of the Republic of Turkey and the COMCEC Coordination Office for the well preparations made for this virtual meeting.



16. H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN highlighted the various economic and social impacts of COVID-19 in the OIC Member Countries. In this regard, H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN underlined that the OIC has mobilized the full capacity of the Organisation and its institutions to support member countries in developing and implementing national plans to cope with the COVID-19. To that end, the IDB Group has launched a US\$2.3 billion Strategic Preparedness and Response Programme for COVID-19 pandemic aiming at supporting our member states' efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Lastly, H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN commended the efforts of the COMCEC and other OIC institutions for conducting several projects and training and capacity building programmes on various aspects of the economy and called upon the OIC countries with available excess sources to assist other OIC countries, especially the LDCs in order to enhance their capabilities to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19.

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

17. The Meeting was also addressed by the Head of Delegation of the State of Kuwait, Dr. Ghazi ALAYASH Assistant Undersecretary For Economic Affairs – The Ministry of Finance He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting and COMCEC Coordination Office for organizing the Meeting. In his speech, Mr. ALAYASH highlighted the adverse effects of the COVID-19 especially in the fields of trade and tourism sector of the member countries. He stated that the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is much severe than 2008 world economic crisis. He emphasized on the importance of e-commerce to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic.

18. The Committee decided to convey its deepest condolences for the demises of late Emir of State of Kuwait H.E. Sheikh Sabah AL-SABAH, late President of the ICCIA H.E. Sheikh Saleh KAMEL, and the late Assistant Secretary-General of the OIC in Charge of Economic Affairs, H.E. Ambassador Ahmad SSENYOMO.

### **Sideline Event**

19. The 36th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held virtually on October 15th, 2020.

*(Report of the 36th Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex IV.)*

### **Working Sessions**

20. The working sessions of the Meeting were chaired by H.E. Mehmet Metin EKER, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC.

21. 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**

22. 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.

23. The Committee **welcomed** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and **also welcomed** the research reports conducted by the COMCEC Coordination Office for enriching the discussions in each COMCEC Working Group Meeting.

24. 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 July-September 2020.

25. The Committee **took note with appreciation** that the COMCEC Working Groups successfully held virtual consultative meetings on the current and potential future impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the key areas of cooperation namely agriculture, tourism, and trade.

26. The Committee **commended** the OIC Institutions' efforts in combatting COVID-19 Pandemic to help member countries in their efforts towards mitigating the adverse effects of the pandemic, among others, "the COMCEC COVID-19 Response Program" launched by the CCO; publication titled "Socio-Economic Impacts of Covid-19 Pandemic in OIC Member Countries," and various training and capacity building programs conducted by SESRIC; "Strategic Preparedness and Response Program for the COVID-19 Pandemic" initiated by the IsDB Group; the webinars on the impact of Covid-19 on intra-OIC trade and investment flows organized by the ICDT in collaboration with OIC and International Institutions; various trade finance and trade activities (financing support for the purchase of medical supplies, food staples and SMEs, webinars, support for equipment and capacity development, harmonization of standards, etc.) undertaken by ITFC to assist Member Countries' fight against COVID-19 pandemic and information sharing activities of the ICCIA to counter the COVID-19 crisis at both the Governmental as well as the Private Sector levels.

27. The Committee **welcomed** the call for project proposals under the new COMCEC COVID Response Program launched by the CCO with a view to address the existing and potential ramifications of the COVID Pandemic on member country economies.

28. **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.

29. The Committee **commended** the efforts of 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.

30. **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.

31. The Committee **welcomed** the finalization of the twenty-two projects funded under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2019 and **also welcomed** the initiation of twenty-two new projects to be implemented in 2021.

32. 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.

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. 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.

36. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 34th and 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Sessions, 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, the Committee emphasized 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.

37. 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.

38. 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)**

39. 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.

40. **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 continue to 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.

41. The Committee **commended** the OIC General Secretariat for organizing the Fifth Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) in Jeddah, OIC Headquarters on 4-5 December 2019.

42. **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**

43. **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on 22 September 2020, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Guidelines for Effective National Trade Facilitation Committees in Islamic Countries.”, the Committee **welcomed** the guiding principles and recommended practices identified in the “COMCEC Handbook for High Performing Trade Facilitation Bodies”

*(The Handbook document is attached as Annex VI.)*

44. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to actively participate in its 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be organized with the theme of “*Counter-measures to Sustain Trade Facilitation During and After Covid-19 Pandemic in the OIC Member Countries*”, in 2021. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Trade Working Group.

45. The Committee **took note with appreciation** the convening of the COMCEC Trade Working Group COVID-19 Consultative Meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “The Impacts of COVID-19 on Trade in the OIC Member Countries and The Way Forward”.

46. The Committee **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 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

47. The Committee also **welcomed** capacity building programmes organized by SESRIC to enhance intra-OIC Trade, specifically the training course on “Supply Chain and Logistics Management – Import and Export” for Palestine (the Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Jerusalem) in A1 Ram, Palestine between 03 November-01 December 2019.

48. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to ICDT, SMIIC, and ICIEC for organising several webinars on the impact of Covid-19 on intra-OIC trade and investment flows in collaboration with relevant OIC and international institutions.

49. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Indonesia, Lebanon, Palestine and SMIIC for the successful implementation of the following projects 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.

50. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Maldives, Sudan, ICCIA, and SMIIC for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 under the seventh project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project titled “Digital Transformation for Enhancing Trade Facilitation” will be implemented by ICCIA in partnership with 25 member countries.
- The project titled “Improve Food Import-Export Control System” will be implemented by Maldives in partnership with Turkey and Malaysia.
- The project titled “Efficient Border Management through One Stop Border Post (OSBP)” will be implemented by Sudan in partnership with Chad, Egypt and Tunisia.
- The project titled “OIC/SMIIC Halal Foundation Training for Africa Region” will be implemented by SMIIC in partnership with 14 Member Countries.

51. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to ICDT for organizing the following webinars in trade domain:

- The webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on trade promotion strategies in facilitating intra-OIC, on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in collaboration with Senegal Export, Tunisia Export, the Malaysian Trade Promotion Agency (MATRADE),
- The webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on Trade Financing and the Development of Strategies for Strengthening intra-OIC Trade and Investment on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, in collaboration with ITFC, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIMBANK) and the West African Development Bank (BOAD),
- The webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on the Standardization and Certification of Medical, Protective and Food Products in the OIC Member States on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 jointly organized with SMIIC in collaboration with the Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM), the National Institute of Standardization and Industrial Property (INNORPI), the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE), Dinar Standard (United Arab Emirates) and the Moroccan Institute of Standardization (IMANOR)
- The webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on the repercussions of the digitization of trade procedures in the facilitation of Intra-OIC trade with a view to mitigating the post COVID-19 effects, on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO), PortNet Morocco, Gainde2000 Senegal, the Mozambique Trade Net and the Oman Customs;

- The webinar the impact of COVID-19 on the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit to Strengthen Intra-OIC Trade and Investment and with the rest of the world on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, jointly organized with ICIEC in collaboration with the United Insurance Company (Sudan) Ltd., the Export Credit Bank of Turkey (TÜRK EXIMBANK) and the Export Credit Guarantee Agency of Oman (Credit Oman),
- The webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on Regional Integration of Intra-OIC Trade and Investment on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, in collaboration with the IsDB, ECOWAS, the League of Arab States and UNESCWA.

52. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to ITFC for organizing the following webinars in trade domain:

- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Capacity Development Programs to support the recovery of Tourism sector in Arab countries Post- COVID-19,
- E-Learning and Knowledge Sharing Platform on "Preparing for and Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic in African IsDB Member Countries",
- Support with equipment and Capacity Development on preparing and responding to COVID 19 Pandemic for the Laboratories network in the Sub-Saharan countries (ongoing),
- Harmonization of Standards for Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices in African Countries: (ongoing),
- Support the setting up the Tunisia National Center for Education Technologies "CNTE" Information and Communication Technology "ICT" Academy.

*i) TPS-OIC*

53. 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.

54. **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.

55. 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.

56. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the Republic of Turkey for hosting and COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT for organizing a Virtual Consultative Meeting for discussing the issues regarding the Implementation of the TPS-OIC on 27 October 2020, with the attendance of the Participating States, which have ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements and submitted their concession lists, and **called upon** the concerned member states to actively participate in this meeting.

57. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host a workshop on the raising awareness of the importance of TPS OIC and its impact on the private sector.

58. 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*

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

- The Republic of Turkey for hosting the “7<sup>th</sup> OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 28 November-1<sup>st</sup> December 2019;
- The State of Kuwait for hosting an Exceptional Edition of the Tourism, Handicrafts and Interior Decoration Exhibition of the OIC Member States in Kuwait-City on 18-23 December 2019.

60. The Committee **welcomed** that World Expo “EXPO 2020 Dubai” will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 and **invited** the OIC Institutions to actively participate in the event.

61. The Committee **welcomed that** the following Member States will host Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT in 2021 and 2022 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 “8<sup>th</sup> OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul in 2021 in collaboration with ICDT and SMIIC;
- The Republic of Senegal to host the 5<sup>th</sup> OIC Health Expo and the 17<sup>th</sup> OIC Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in Dakar in 2021;
- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 18<sup>th</sup> OIC Trade Fair in cooperation with ICDT in 2022.



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

63. 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.

64. The Committee **requested** ICDT to submit on regular basis, progress reports on the Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries and the other specialized fairs as well as exhibitions to the COMCEC Sessions and Follow-up Committee Meetings.

***iii) WTO Related Technical Assistance***

65. 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.

66. The Committee **called upon** 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.

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

68. 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.

69. The Committee **called upon** IDB Group and ICDT to monitor matters relating to WTO activities and report them to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other concerned fora.

70. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and the IsDB Country Strategy and Cooperation Department and ICDT for organizing a training workshop on trade in services negotiations techniques in the OIC Countries on 12-13 February 2020, in Casablanca.

71. The Committee **commended** ICDT for organising the webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on Regional Integration of Intra-OIC Trade and Investment on 23rd July 2020 in collaboration with the Country-Strategy and Cooperation Department of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA).

***iv) Trade Financing Activities***

72. 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 finance operations in the Member States, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 25 percent.

73. 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 June 2020, USD53 billion and USD43 billion respectively, and its total trade finance approvals and disbursement as of end June 2020 reached USD\$2.4 billion and US\$2.49 billion respectively.

74. 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.

75. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts of ITFC for conducting special programs to mitigate the adverse implications of COVID-19 pandemic in the OIC Member Countries on trade and business development where ITFC allocated USD 605 million in favor of OIC Member Countries for the purchase of medical supplies, food staples and SME / private sector support.

76. 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.

77. 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.

78. 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.

79. The Committee **took 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 **called upon** the relevant OIC Institutions to join and support these efforts.

80. The Committee **also 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.

81. 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.

82. The Committee **took note with appreciation** the ICIEC's role in supporting USD 5.4 billion of Intra-OIC business insured involving 36 countries with a cumulative insurance approval since inception which has reached USD 41.5 billion to end-2019 with business insured exceeding USD 64 billion.

83. 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 26 years and congratulate ICIEC in achieving six SDGs; namely SDG 2, SDG3, SDG7, SDG 8, SDG9, SDG 17.

84. The Committee also **took note of** the progress report submitted by the ICIEC on OIC Business Intelligence Programme and **requested** the ICIEC in collaboration with SESRIC to complete the technical preparations for launching the Programme at the earliest.

**The Committee requested ICIEC, in cooperation with SESRIC to continue and ensure delivery of the Questionnaire to the intended entities in Member Countries and analyze the replies received in order to prepare a report, with findings and recommendations for submission to the 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee and 37<sup>th</sup> Sessional. ”**

**v) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC**

85. 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.

86. **Welcoming** the Republic of Indonesia, State of Kuwait as the new members and Russian Federation as the new observer member of the SMIIC, which has increased the number of SMIIC Member States to 39 along with 3 Observers, the Committee **invited** the concerned Member States who have not yet done so to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Councils.

87. 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.

88. 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.

89. The Committee **took note with appreciation** the development of the SMIIC 2021-2030 Strategy Plan and the OIC Global Halal Quality Infrastructure.

90. The Committee **commended** the efforts of SMIIC for conducting 6 training programs on the OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards in order to facilitate the common use of standards within the OIC.

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

91. 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.

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

93. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the ICCIA for organizing the 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,

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

95. 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.”

96. **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, the Committee **welcomed** the establishment of the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul and the efforts towards its operationalization and **requested** the Member Countries to encourage their Chambers to actively participate in the activities of the Arbitration Center.

97. The Committee **took note with appreciation that** the OIC High-Level Public and Private Investment Conference was held jointly by the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Investment Office, the General Secretariat of the OIC, and Islamic Development Bank Group on 8-9 December 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey, with the theme “Unleashing Intra-OIC Investment Opportunities: Investment for Solidarity and Development”.

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

98. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group held virtually on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with the theme of “Pricing of Transport Infrastructure in OIC Member Countries”, the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations:

- Developing contemporary transport infrastructure pricing policies and making use of implementation instruments such as PPPs, where possible, and public transport operations for a well-functioning transport system.
- Assigning an autonomous operator (entity/institution/body) for the effective collection of charges and allocation of funds arising from transport infrastructure pricing services.
- Utilizing transport infrastructure pricing tools (i.e. tolls, levies, vehicle tax, fuel tax, mileage tax, etc.) to effectively manage transport demand as well as to raise funds for transport infrastructure development.
- Utilizing contemporary collection (i.e. automated electronic tolls, on-board-units, and Global Navigation Satellite System) and enforcement systems for ensuring an effective transport infrastructure pricing.

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

99. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to actively participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to be held with the theme of “Mitigation Strategies for Transport Service Providers after COVID-19”, in 2021. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group.

100. The Committee **commended** the efforts of The Gambia, Iran and Jordan for the following projects 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.

101. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Cameroon, Nigeria and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 under the seventh project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project titled “Monitoring Lagos-Abidjan Transport Corridor” will be implemented by Nigeria in partnership with Benin, Togo and the Gambia.
- The project titled “Establishing Maritime Transport Archives” will be implemented by Cameroon in partnership with Cote d’Ivoire and Chad in 2021.

102. The Project titled “Implementation of International Maritime Conventions” will be implemented by Turkey in partnership with Algeria and Tunisia in 2021.

103. 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.

104. **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**

105. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on September 24<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Medical Tourism in the OIC Member Countries”, the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations:

- Encouraging marketing and branding activities in order to boost the image of the destination country with a view to attract international patients.
- Using online platforms for customized marketing strategies towards target groups.
- Promoting development/implementation of exchange programs among the OIC Member Countries for medical personnel in order to boost knowledge and experience sharing.
- Encouraging bilateral or regional/multilateral arrangements (such as patient exchange programs, pre-diagnosis services, alliances between healthcare providers and streamlining health insurance schemes etc.) between public/private stakeholders including insurances and hospitals in order to sustain the exchange of patients.
- Establishing a database on health tourism for the use of OIC member countries for further cooperation in terms of patient-treatment exchange and capacity building in healthcare provision

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

106. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tourism Working Group to be held with the theme of “Mitigation Strategies for Tourism after COVID-19”, in 2021. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

107. The Committee **took note with appreciation of** the convening of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group COVID-19 Consultative Meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “The Impacts of COVID-19 on Tourism in the OIC Member Countries and The Way Forward”.

108. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 8th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum to be held virtually in November 2020 with the theme of "Al Quds as a Special Destination " and **called upon** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

109. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Azerbaijan, Gambia, Mali, Mozambique and ICDT for the following projects 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” 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 Nigeria and Senegal,
- 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 Countries,
- The Project titled “Capacity Building on Destination Management Organizations of OIC Member Countries” implemented by Mali with the partnership of 7 other member countries,
- The Project titled “Developing Muslim-Friendly Tourism (MFT) in Guyana and Suriname” implemented by ICDT with Guyana and Suriname.

110. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Cameroon, Uganda, and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 under the seventh project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Capacity Building of Destination Management Organizations (DMO) Stakeholders” to be implemented by Cameroon in partnership with Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Senegal,
- The Project titled “Community-Based Tourism through the Promotion of Heritage Sites” to be implemented by Uganda in partnership with Gambia, Malaysia, Mozambique, and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Revitalizing Mevlana's Travel Route” to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with Afghanistan and Iran.

111. 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 sustainable tourism, and developing multi-destination tourism corridors within the framework of the OIC Capacity Building Programme (OIC-CaB).

112. 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.

113. The Committee **welcomed** the new Al-Quds Program initiated by the CCO in 2020 in order to improve the tourism infrastructure with the ultimate aim of improving the image of Al-Quds and preserving Palestinian-Arab identity in the city. The committee **took note** of the two projects



to be finalized by the end of 2020 under the Al Quds Program;

- The Project titled “Analyzing the Tourism Infrastructure and Developing a Tourism Destination Road Map for Al-Quds” implemented by CCO in collaboration with the Ministry of National Economy of Palestine
- The Project titled “Supporting the Institutional Capacity of Al-Quds Tourism and Heritage Council” implemented by CCO in collaboration with the Ministry of National Economy of Palestine

114. 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).

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

115. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Member Countries. The Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a comprehensive national food security and nutrition strategy and/or strengthening the existing food security policies and strategies to extend their reach and inclusiveness so that everyone can reap the benefits, including the poorest and the most vulnerable to achieve food security and nutrition for all.
- Establishing a high level national coordination mechanism (i.e. an inter-ministerial or presidential council) for ensuring a healthy and sustainable multi-stakeholder dialogue for the effective coordination of all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the processes of policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring; and endowing it with significant execution power and sufficient human and financial resources.
- Improving the coordination and coherence of policy actions on food security and nutrition in turbulent times (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic) at all levels ranging from sub-national to national; sub-regional to regional, and bilateral, OIC-level to finally global level.
- Designing a detailed and transparent implementation plan for the national and sub-national tasks and equipping the fieldwork personnel with relevant know-how and allocating sufficient financial resources to each and every step of the implementation process.
- Establishing an online platform/food information systems (e.g. vulnerability atlas, food security fora) that ideally transmits real-time information on monitoring food security and nutrition governance with a view to generating credible data and statistics and formulating evidence-based policies

- Promoting capacity building and knowledge/experience sharing among the OIC Member Countries in the four levels of good governance of food security and nutrition (i.e. (i) Policy and Legal Framework (ii) Coordination and Coherence (iii) Implementation, and (iv) Information-Monitoring-Evaluation.)

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

116. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to actively participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to be held with the theme of How to Ensure the Sustainability of Food Supply Chains in Turbulent Times: The Case of COVID-19”, in 2021.

117. The Committee **took note with appreciation of** the convening of The COMCEC Agriculture Working Group COVID-19 Consultative Meeting on June 30th, 2020, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “The Impacts of COVID-19 on Food Security and Agriculture in the OIC Member Countries.”

118. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Malaysia 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 Warehousing and Storage Management” implemented by Malaysia in partnership with Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Turkey,
- The Project titled “Reduction of Food Loss and Waste in the OIC Countries” implemented by Turkey in partnership with Indonesia, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, and Tunisia.

119. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Benin, Niger, Suriname, COMSTECH and SESRIC for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 under the seventh project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Enhancing Capacity for Warehousing and Storage of Cereals and Cowpeas” to be implemented by Benin in partnership with Niger, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire,
- The Project titled “Capacity Building on Cereals and Cowpeas Storage” to be implemented by Niger in partnership with Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Capacity Building on Irrigation Systems in Vegetable Crops” to be implemented by Suriname in partnership with Indonesia and Turkey,
- The Project titled “New Breeding Technologies for Food and Nutritional Security” to be implemented by COMSTECH in partnership with seven other Member States, The Project titled “Enhancing Food Security through National Food Balance Sheets” to be implemented by SESRIC in partnership with other twelve Member States.

120. The Committee **took note of** the SESRIC's activities on agriculture including the virtually held training courses on Enhancement of Cotton Productivity, Food Safety Analysis and Water Saving Analysis.

121. 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.

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

122. **Taking note with appreciation** the convening of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group virtually held on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with the theme of "Urban Poverty in the OIC Member Countries.", the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations:

- Developing comprehensive and effective urban planning strategies that particularly focus on better management of slums to prevent uncontrolled growth of existing slums and formation of new ones, and improving the access of slum dwellers to basic services such as education and health services through strategic investments.
- Designing effective local labor market policies that would help tackling the informality problem and create more and better jobs.
- Activating the Islamic Social Finance Tools and systematically integrating them into the general urban poverty policy toolbox.
- Improving urban governance capacity and strengthening resilience to shocks (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic).
- Conceptualizing urban poverty and developing/improving data collection and measurement practices to achieve evidence-based policymaking.

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

123. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group, to actively participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group to be held with the theme of "COVID-19 and Its Adverse Effects on Socio-Economic Inequalities in the OIC Member Countries", in 2021. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

124. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Afghanistan, Nigeria, Suriname, Turkey, and SESRIC for the following projects 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, Palestine, and Turkey,
- The Project titled “Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education for Grassroots Empowerment in the OIC Countries ” implemented by Nigeria in partnership with The Gambia and Turkey,
- The Project titled “Increasing the Capacity of Vocational Education Centres for the Disabled in the Selected OIC Countries” implemented by Suriname in partnership with Guyana and Turkey,
- 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 countries.

125. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of the Benin, The Gambia, and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 under the seventh project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “TVET Piloting in the Selected OIC Countries ” to be implemented by Benin in partnership with The Gambia, Niger, and Turkey,
- The Project titled “Infusing Entrepreneurship Education in School Curricula” to be implemented by The Gambia in partnership with Sierra Leone and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Strengthening Health Human Capacity and Creating Intervention Task Force” to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with Sudan, Somalia, and Niger.

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

126. 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 36<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session about the shortfalls in reaching the target capital of the ISFD.

127. **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.

128. **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.

129. 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.

130. 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.

*ii) OIC-VET Program*

131. **Taking note with appreciation** of the efforts of SESRIC for the implementation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025, the Committee **requested** SESRIC to submit a progress report to the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC on the implementation status of the Road Map.

132. 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.

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

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

*iii) Implementation of the SDGs*

135. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **requested** 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.

136. The Committee **requested** SESRIC to continue to carry out statistical training activities with a focus on prioritized SDGs for the benefit of National Statistical Offices of the Member States within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.”

137. **Also recalling** the relevant resolution of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to compile the relevant OIC Institutions’ activities aligned with the prioritized SDG areas and submit the list to the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Deepening Financial Cooperation**

138. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group virtually on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with the theme of “Improving Shariah Governance Framework in Islamic Finance”, the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for the Shariah Governance processes and arrangements to ensure that all the operations and business activities in Islamic Finance are in accordance with Shariah.
- Encouraging the establishment of national Shariah Supervisory Boards (SSBs) supervising the institutional SSBs.
- Developing guidelines for ensuring/facilitating the active involvement of Investment Account Holders (IAHs) in IFIs’ management in accordance with their contribution to the investment pool.
- Encouraging talent development through training and professional certification programs and increasing the awareness of stakeholders about Shariah Governance.
- Promoting the integration of Islamic Finance sector into whole economy with a view to making monetary policy more inclusive.

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

139. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group, to actively participate in its 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be held with the theme of “The Role of Islamic Finance in Supporting Microenterprises and SMEs against COVID-19”, in 2021. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.

140. The Committee **commended** 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 ” 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 and Malaysia.
- The Project titled “Assessment of COMCEC Real Estate Securities Markets and Regulatory Landscapes for Strengthening Capital Markets” implemented by Turkey with the partnership of 10 member countries.

141. The Committee also **commended** the efforts of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone for the following projects to be implemented in 2020 under the seventh project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Capacity Building Program on Sukuk, ESG Sukuk and Islamic Fintech” to be implemented by Brunei Darussalam in partnership with Indonesia and Malaysia,
- The Project titled “Advancing Islamic Capital Market through Financial Technology” to be implemented by Malaysia in partnership with Turkey and Brunei Darussalam,
- The Project titled “Improving Takaful in the OIC Member States ” to be implemented by Nigeria in partnership with Sudan and Mozambique,
- The Project titled “Facilitating Women Entrepreneurs' Access to Islamic Finance” to be implemented by Sierra Leone in partnership with Malaysia and Nigeria.

*i) OIC Exchanges Forum*

142. The Committee **welcomed** the report of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC Exchanges Forum held virtually on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

143. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the OIC Exchanges Forum and its Task Forces and **invited** the Member States to actively participate in the activities organized under this Forum.

144. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Borsa Istanbul, as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, to host the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum in 2021 and **requested** the Member States to actively participate in these important events.

145. 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 and the Fund to the investors and the finance community in their respective countries by informing them directly or through public events and press releases as well as publishing the Index on the official websites of their Exchanges. The Committee also **invited** the Member States to support the Forum’s Task Force in finding investors for the Fund and increasing the Fund’s assets under management.

146. **Taking note** of the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts towards establishing OIC Gold Exchange among the volunteering Member States, the Committee **requested** the Forum's Secretariat to advance the technical preparations for the establishment of the OIC Gold Exchange and report to the 36th Session of the COMCEC.

147. The Committee **invited** the interested member states to actively support Forum's Task Force on Precious Metals by designating focal points in their respective countries to lead the OIC Gold Exchange Project.

148. The Committee **also invited** all Exchanges, Central Banks, OIC Central Banks Forum, and other relevant parties of interested Member States to contribute to the formulation of the business model for a well-functioning OIC Gold Market.

*ii) COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum*

149. The Committee **welcomed** the report of the 9th Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum held virtually on 13-14 October 2020. The Committee **also welcomed** the offer of the Capital Markets Board (CMB) of the Republic of Turkey, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum in 2021 and **requested** the Member States to actively participate in this important event.

150. 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.

151. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 35<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 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

152. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 36<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 for enhancing coordination.



153. **Taking note** of the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts towards advancing the sustainability agenda in the exchanges of the Member States, the Committee **requested** the Forum's Secretariat to work on technical preparations for the projects that may help support OIC Exchanges to take further action in sustainability, including working with S&P on assessing the feasibility of a sustainability index for the OIC Exchanges Forum.

*iii) OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum*

154. The Committee **welcomed** the Communique of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum held virtually on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

155. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Secretariat of OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum for updating and improving the Financial Vulnerability Index for OIC countries.

156. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of Central Bank of Turkey, as the Secretariat of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum, to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Forum in 2021 and **requested** the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.

157. 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 Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness”**

158. The Committee **welcomed** the policy recommendations of the 15th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on “Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness” held virtually on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, which will be submitted to the 36<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session.

159. The Committee **invited** the Ministers of the Member Countries in charge of tourism sector to participate in the 36th COMCEC Ministerial Session along with the Ministers in charge of COMCEC.

160. The Committee **encouraged** the Member States to prepare their country reports on the mentioned theme and convey them electronically to the CCO by November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, at the latest.

*i) Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 37<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session*

161. The Committee **took note** of the following possible themes of the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC:

**Theme 1:** Counter-measures to Sustain Trade Facilitation During and After COVID-19 Pandemic in the OIC Member Countries

**Theme 2:** The Role of Islamic Finance in Supporting Microenterprises and SMEs Against COVID 19

**Theme 3:** How to Ensure the Sustainability of Food Supply Chains in Turbulent Times: The Case of COVID-19

**Theme 4:** Mitigation Strategies for Transport Service Providers after COVID-19

**Theme 5:** Mitigation Strategies for Tourism after COVID-19

**Theme 6:** COVID-19 and Its Adverse Effects on Socio-Economic Inequalities in the OIC Member Countries

162. 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 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

**Agenda Item 12: Draft Agenda of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC**

163. The Committee **prepared** and **decided** to submit the Draft Agenda to the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

*(A copy of the Draft Agenda of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex XII.)*

**Closing Session**

164. At its Closing Session chaired by H.E. Ambassador Mehmet Metin EKER, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC, the Committee adopted its Report together with its Annexes.

165. Ms. Pande Nyoman Laksmi KUSUMAWAT, Head of Delegation of Indonesia, expressed her congratulations to the Republic of Turkey for hosting and the COMCEC Coordination Office for organizing the excellent arrangements made for virtual Meeting. She also emphasized the importance of fighting in unity and solidarity against the adverse effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

166. Afterwards, Ms. Nor Hasnah BADRODDIN, Head of Delegation of Malaysia, expressing her thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Turkey and the COMCEC Coordination Office for the successful conduct of the meeting, she wished mercy to those who lost their lives due to the

pandemic. She also stated that the social and economic problems caused by the pandemic can be overcome with the strong cooperation and solidarity of the Islamic Countries.

167. In his closing statement, H.E. Mehmet Metin EKER expressed his sincere gratitude for the active participation of all delegations and their valuable contributions to the deliberations.

168. H.E. EKER expressed his sadness for the losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic and sent his wishes for all the patients including those who suffer from the coronavirus to recover soon. H.E. EKER also underscored the profound adverse impacts of the pandemic on the economies and highlighted the importance of the cooperation efforts including the instruments under the auspices of the COMCEC.

169. H.E. EKER touched upon the efforts under the COMCEC Working Groups as well as the COMCEC Project Funding and invited all the member countries to continue actively contribute to and benefit from these instruments.

170. H.E. EKER expressed that all the member countries and relevant OIC institutions will contribute at the highest level to the two new programs initiated by the COMCEC Coordination Office namely the COMCEC COVID Response (CCR) and COMCEC Al-Quds Program. H.E. EKER wished every success to all partners in the implementation of these programs.

171. H.E. EKER 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. Mehmet Metin EKER is attached as Annex XIII.)*

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

# **ANNEX**

## **I**

Original: English

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
THE THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE  
OF THE COMCEC  
(20-21 October 2020)**

**A. MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE**

**REPUBLIC OF GABON**

- Mr. BARTHELEMY NGOULAKIA  
General Secretary,  
Ministry of Trade and Industry

**REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

- Ms. PANDE NYOMAN LAKSMI KUSUMAWATI  
Director, Indonesian National Development Planning Agency
- Ms. HILLARY TANIDA STEPHANY SITOMPUL  
Expert, Indonesian National Development Planning Agency

**THE STATE OF KUWAIT**

- Mr. GHAZI ALAYASH  
Assistant Undersecretary for Economic Affairs, Ministry of  
Finance
- Mr. SAAD ALRASHIDI  
Acting Director of International Economic Cooperation Department,  
Ministry of Finance
- Ms. FATMA ALKANDARY  
Economic First Analyst, Ministry of Finance
- Ms. JAMANAH AHMAD  
Foreign Relation Researcher, Ministry of Finance

**MALAYSIA**

- Ms. NOR HASNAH BADRODDIN  
Senior Director,  
Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia
- Mr. MOHD DAUD MOHD ARIF  
Undersecretary,  
Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia
- Mr. JAYAPPRAGAS MUTHUVEEROO  
Principal Assistant Secretary,  
Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia
- Ms. NUR NAJIAH MD ABAS  
Assistant Secretary,  
Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

- Ms. HAUWA ARABO MUSTAPHA  
Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. ZAYYAD ABDUSSALAM  
Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**

- Mr. BILAL KHAN PASHA  
Consul General, Consulate General of Pakistan
- Ms. MARIA KAZI  
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

**THE STATE OF PALESTINE**

- Mr. RAFAT RAYYAN  
Director International Organizations Department Ministry of  
National Economy

## **STATE OF QATAR**

- Mr. SAEED ALBRAIDI  
Head of International Organizations Department,  
Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. HASSAN AL MOHANNADI  
Advisor, Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. SALEEM ALKATHIRY  
Research, Ministry of Commerce

## **KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

- H.E. AHMED Y. GAZZAZ  
Charge d'Affairs, Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Ankara
- Mr. ABDULAZIZ ALSAKRAN  
General Manager, Saudi General Authority of Foreign Trade
- Mr. FAWAZ ALGHAMDI  
Commercial Attache, Saudi General Authority of Foreign Trade
- Ms. NADA ALHATHLOL  
Senior Specialist, Saudi General Authority of Foreign Trade

## **REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

- H.E. M. METİN EKER  
Ambassador, OIC Permanent Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. CENK URAZ  
Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. ILGIN ATALAY  
Deputy Director General, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
- Mr. ATAKAN ÖZDEMİR  
Head of Department, Ministry of Trade



- Mr. MAHMUT AYDOĞMUŞ  
Director, OIC Stock Exchange Forum
- Mr. RECEP BİLDİK  
Director, OIC Stock Exchange Forum
- Mr. AHMED SAİD ABUŞKA  
Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. İBRAHİM KÜÇÜKİKİZ  
Expert, OIC Central Banks Forum
- Ms. MERVE LOĞOĞLU  
Expert, OIC Central Banks Forum
- Ms. AYŞEGÜL DEMİR  
Expert, Ministry of Trade
- Ms. İREM ŞAFAK ŞİMŞEK  
Expert, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Ms. SEÇİL SAYIN KUTLUCA  
Senior Legal Expert, Capital Markets Board
- Mr. NURULLAH ASIM AKBULUT  
Expert, Ministry of Trade
- Mr. UTKU ŞEN  
Expert, Ministry of Treasury and Finance
- Ms. SONGÜL ELHENAY  
Expert, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Mr. NEVZAT KUNDURACI  
Expert, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services
- Ms. PINAR YAVUZKANAT  
Expert, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services
- Mr. AHMET DEMİRTAŞ  
Expert, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services

- Mr. HASAN UMUR ALSANCAK  
Expert, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
- Ms. BAŞAK YILMAZ  
Expert, Turkish Standards Institutions
- Ms. BAŞAK ÖNSAL DEMİR  
Coordinator, Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Ms. YASEMİN ÇELİK  
Expert, Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Mr. İLHAMİ AKTÜRK  
Expert, Turkish Standards Institutions
- Mr. SİLA KOZANLI  
Expert, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey

**B. THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

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

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

- Mr. AYMEN KASEM  
Division Manager
- Mr. AMADOU CIRE SALL  
Senior Associate
- Mr. HARUN ÇELİK  
Senior Manager
- Mr. HOJAMUROD HOJAEV  
Manager

**C. THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS**

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

- Mr. NEBİL DABUR  
Director General
- Mr. FADI ABDULLAH FARASIN  
Assistant Director General
- Mr. ATİLLA KARAMAN  
Director
- Mr. MAZHAR HUSSAIN  
Director
- Mr. ONUR ÇAĞLAR  
Acting Director

**D. SPECIALIST ORGANS OF THE OIC**

**ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IsDB)**

- Mr. AYMAN SEJINY  
Chief Executive Office
- Mr. OSMAN BUYUKMUTLU  
Director

**E. AFFILIATED ORGANS OF THE OIC**

**ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION (OISA)**

- Mr. MOHAMMAD ZAFAR BHATTI  
Director Finance

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

- Mr. İHSAN ÖVÜT  
Secretary General
- Ms. EMEL GÖNÇ  
Executive Assistant

**E. OIC STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

- Mr. MOHAMAD EL SAYED  
Manager, ICIEC
- Mr. AL TAYEB FADLALLAH  
Associate, ICIEC

**G. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE**

- Mr. FATİH ÜNLÜ  
Director General, Head of COMCEC Coordination Office
- Mr. SELÇUK KOÇ  
Head of Department
- Mr. MEHMET ARSLAN  
Head of Department
- Mr. DENİZ GÖLE  
Head of Department
- Ms. AYLİN ŞENOL GÜN  
Expert

- AYTEN AKMAN  
Expert
- Mr. GOKTEN DAMAR  
Expert
- Mr. MUSTAFA ADİL SAYAR  
Expert
- Mr. NİHAT AKBALIK  
Expert
- Mr. MEHMET AKİF ALANBAY  
Expert
- Ms. BİLGE ÖZBAY  
Expert
- Mr. CAN AYGÜL  
Expert

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# **ANNEX**

## **II**

Original: English

**OPENING STATEMENT BY H.E. İBRAHİM ŞENEL,  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDENCY OF STRATEGY AND BUDGET  
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
THIRTY SIXTH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE  
COMCEC  
(Ankara, 20 October, 2020)**

As-Selamu Alaikum,

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Esteemed Members of the Follow-up Committee,

Distinguished Guests,

It is a great pleasure for me to meet with you on the occasion of the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC. I would like to welcome you all with my heartfelt regards.

As you all know, we are going through an extraordinary difficult time due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has paralyzed every aspects of life globally. At the outset, I would like to express my deepest condolences for the loss of numerous lives both in the Islamic Countries and the World at large due to this insidious disease. I wish all the ailing brothers and sisters to recover as soon as possible. Our Creator and Sustainer, Allah the Almighty bestowed the humanity the genius and resources to cope with and overcome such unexpected crises. If we use our intellect and resources intensely at the right direction, a safe and effective treatment and prevention of the disease would soon be possible. It goes without saying that the treatment or the vaccine need to be easily accessible for all countries and all people so that these difficult days would be left behind.

Under the circumstances arising from the pandemic, we had to organize this meeting of the Follow-up Committee virtually. The Follow-up Committee fulfills a significant duty in terms of reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the COMCEC resolutions, programs and projects, and setting the agenda of the COMCEC Ministerial Session. I believe that this virtual meeting, which we will experience for the first time for the Follow-up Committee, will be successful and I wish you all a fruitful meeting in advance in your deliberations.

Distinguished Guests,

The COVID-19 pandemic is not just a health problem, but it is a colossal humanitarian crisis affecting almost all socio-economic aspects of life. The pandemic already caused the most severe global economic crisis after the "Great Depression" which happened 90 years ago. But there is one aspect we should never forget. As this COVID pandemic has also claimed the lives of nearly 1,1 million people so far and inflicted millions of others, it is in fact much worse than any previous economic crisis.

Production and consumption declined considerably due to the measures taken to prevent or to slow down the contamination of the Virus. Global merchandise trade volumes declined by 14.3 percent in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the previous period. Considering these figures, I believe that the reduction of tariffs and the elimination of non-tariff barriers are even more important during such crises to enhance international trade flows. In this respect, international cooperation is needed more than ever to keep global trade alive. For increasing global trade and to getting out of this crisis quickly, we have to benefit wisely from the opportunities of international cooperation and latest digital technologies.

Distinguished colleagues,

The COVID-19 pandemic is also directly affecting the food systems through its impacts on food supply and demand. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the



World (SOFI) 2020 Report reveals that approximately 750 million people were exposed to severe levels of food insecurity in 2019. According to estimations, COVID-19 would add between 83 and 132 million more to the total number of undernourished people in the world in 2020. Therefore, supply chains need to be strengthened especially for essential items such as health supplies and food.

Businesses in service sectors are also seriously affected by lockdowns in various areas such as transport, travel and tourism. To illustrate the severity of the crisis, scenarios indicate that the potential shock would cause between a 60-80 percent decline in the international tourism economy in 2020. The economic constriction could cause large-scale job losses if demand does not recover soon. Rising unemployment also likely to worsen the risk of poverty and deprivation for millions. It is estimated that the pandemic is likely to cause the first increase in global poverty since 1998 and will push 49 million people into extreme poverty in 2020.

Esteemed Members of the Follow-up Committee,

The global context requires close and strong cooperation among the OIC Member Countries. As the Islamic Ummah, while exerting efforts to enhance our production and increase our exports, we also need to take steps to enhance the intra-OIC trade. I sincerely believe that investing in each other and establishing stronger commercial ties among our nations will bring considerable gains to all of us in the long run and contribute to the welfare and peace in our region. I would like to express that, as the OIC members, we have significant tools that can help us to cope with such hard times if we can benefit from their potential properly.

We could reap the fruits of the TPS-OIC (Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States) only once it becomes fully operational. The legal basis for the TPS- OIC was completed in 2011. We have already reached the required number of member countries having submitted their concession lists. However, there are only few pending issues to make this System Operational. Our relevant authorities will discuss the issues

regarding the Implementation of the TPS-OIC in a Virtual Consultative Meeting next week. I would like to invite the concerned member countries to fulfil the obligations arising from the TPS-OIC Agreements so that we can effectuate the System as soon as possible. Likewise, we have to extensively benefit from the trade financing and export guarantee mechanisms offered by IDB and various trade fairs and events organized by ICDT and ICCIA.

I would also like to touch upon another important project of the COMCEC, the OIC İstanbul Arbitration Center. Significant progress has been made in recent years regarding the establishment of the Center in İstanbul. At this stage, for the operationalization of the Center, there are few remaining works to be completed. I would like to request the relevant institutions to expedite the formation of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the Center. So that, InshaAllah, we will be able announce launching the İstanbul Arbitration Center soon. I believe that this Arbitration Center will open new avenues for our private sector especially for enhancing the intra-OIC trade by providing trustworthy, quick and efficient settlement of trade and investment disputes.

Seizing this opportunity, I would like to express my deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the family of His Excellency Late Salih Kamel who passed away last May. We respectfully remember him for his valuable services to the Islamic Ummah. I would also like to congratulate His Excellency Abdullah Salih Kamel for his election as the new President of Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture (ICCIA). I believe that H.E. Kamel will contribute at the highest level to the cooperation efforts among the Islamic countries as his deceased father honorable Şeyh Salih Kamel did for decades.

Distinguished Guests,

During the pandemic period, the COMCEC Working Groups have successfully held their Meetings virtually. In addition to the regular Working Group Meetings, three consultative meeting have been realized, again in virtual-only format, in June-July 2020, in the areas of trade, tourism and agriculture. The Working Groups have come up with crucial recommendations, which will constitute important inputs for their programs in the upcoming years.

All the policy recommendations developed by the Working Groups provide the basis for concrete policy actions in our member countries. While utilizing national resources and human capital to realize the policy recommendations, we can also benefit from the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism (CPF). CPF is a useful instrument for implementing the policy recommendations. 22 projects were successfully completed in 2019 within the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism. Moreover, under the 7th Call for Project Proposals, another 22 projects were selected to be financed by the CCO in 2020. Implementation of these projects were postponed to next year upon the request of project owners due to international travel restrictions and delays arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the CCO has made 8th Call for Projects in September, 2020 and many member countries have submitted their new project proposals. I would like to express our thanks and gratitude for the growing interest of the Member Countries to the CPF.

In addition, the CCO has initiated two new programs this year for enhancing cooperation among member countries. The first program we developed is COMCEC COVID Response (CCR). The Programme will specifically focus on supporting member countries in tackling negative impacts of the pandemic especially on the economy. The Project Call under this program has been made last week and CCO will organize a training program for the relevant focal points tomorrow to introduce the novelties and guidelines of this program. I am of the view that this program is quite timely and critical to address common challenges faced by our brotherly countries amid COVID-19 Pandemic. Seizing this opportunity, I would like to inform you that Republic of Turkey on bilateral basis, has supported in total 155 countries and 8 international institutions during the pandemic with medical equipment, grant and cash aid etc. Likewise, we have extended assistance to 44 brotherly OIC member countries in the form of medical equipment and grant aid etc.

The second program we launched this year is COMCEC Al-Quds Program which concentrates on destination development and management as well as community based tourism in the city of Al-Quds. Two projects under this program are now being implemented and several other projects will be carried out between 2021 and 2022. I hope this program will contribute the economic and social development of Palestine, particularly the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif which always stays at the core of our hearts.

With these words, I would like to conclude my remarks by wishing that all your deliberations during the 36th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC to contribute to peace, prosperity and welfare of the Islamic Ummah.

May the Peace, Mercy and Blessing of Allah be Upon You.

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# **ANNEX**

## **III**

Original: Arabic

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

**THIRTY SIX MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP  
COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC  
(VIDEOCONFERENCE PLATFORM, 20-21 OCTOBER 2020)**

**H.E. İbrahim ŞENEL, Deputy President of the Strategy**

**and Budget of the Presidency 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 36<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 of the Republic of Turkey and the COMCEC Coordination Office for the arrangements made for this virtual meeting.

This Follow-up Committee Meeting is holding in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic and we are facing severe challenges to overcome socio-economic and humanitarian crisis caused by the pandemic. In response to the pandemic, OIC Member States have taken strict measures to prevent the outbreak, to ensure the proper functioning of the healthcare system and protect the most vulnerable. As we all know, the pandemic is affecting all economic sectors and segments of the population and unemployment and poverty levels are increasing dramatically around the world.

In this context, I wish to inform that the Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the Level of Foreign Ministers on the Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic was held virtually on 22 April 2020. The meeting called for global COVID-19 response efforts to continue in a spirit of solidarity, drawing on scientific research and large-scale coordination, while scaling-up national preparedness and response measures of prevention and alleviation of the devastating effects of the pandemic.

In this regard, the OIC has mobilized the full capacity of the Organisation and its institutions to support our countries in developing and implementing national plans to cope with the COVID-19 and to mobilize OIC-wide coordinated and coherent response to the pandemic and its adverse social, economic and financial impact on societies. It is in this context that I would like to commend the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group for launching a US\$2.3 billion Strategic Preparedness and Response Programme for COVID-19 pandemic, which is aimed at supporting our member states' efforts to prevent, contain, mitigate and recover from the impact of the pandemic. The SESRIC, ICDT, ISF, COMCEC Coordination Office, IOFS, SMIIC and ICCIA have also implemented several projects and training and capacity building programmes on various aspects on economy for the benefit of our countries.

In addition, the OIC prioritized mobilization of resources to the needs of our Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in order to enable them to cope with the pandemic and facilitate economic recovery. In this regard, I would like to point out that I urged OIC countries with available excess sources to assist other OIC countries, especially the LDCs in order to enhance their capabilities to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19. In this connection, the OIC General Secretariat and the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) launched a joint Initiative to assist Member States to fight the pandemic. The ISF has provided US\$ 1 million emergency assistance to Member States, especially OIC LDCs. In this regard, the ISF also opened an account in order to receive donations from the Member States. I also addressed letters to the leadership of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to consider easing debt burden of LDCs, and providing all possible assistance, including rescheduling of the debt payments, concessional loans and basic support to OIC Member States to combat the consequences of the pandemic.

While stopping the pandemic and saving lives remain the priority for all of us, promoting solidarity, cooperation, complementary and mutual support among our member states becomes more important than ever. Accordingly, OIC General Secretariat and its relevant institutions will continue to work closely with its member states to further a collaborative response to the COVID-19 and facilitate economic recovery in our countries. I wish therefore to express my sincere appreciation to the relevant OIC institutions, which have continued to collaborate with the General Secretariat for the execution of the various projects under the socio-economic agenda of OIC.

I wish you a very successful meeting and look forward to the outcome of your deliberations.

Wassalamu Alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakatihu.

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# **ANNEX**

## **IV**

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 36<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF  
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE  
(October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Virtual Meeting)**

- The 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in a virtual only-format, on the sidelines of the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.
- The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to the 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 (IsDB) Group
  - International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)-IsDB Group
  - Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)-IsDB Group
  - Islamic Corporation for the Development of Private Sector (ICD)- IsDB Group
  - Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
  - Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)
  - Organization of the Islamic Shipowners' Association (OISA)
  - 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

- The e-platform (<http://activities.comcec.org>) established by the CCO for the activities of the OIC Institutions
- OIC Institutions' Efforts in combatting COVID-19 Pandemic
- 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 Programme"
- Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions for the Benefit of Palestinian People/ Al-Quds Sharif as well as Geographically Distant OIC Member Countries and Observer Countries
- Any Other Business

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

- 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 directly serving to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations (Group A activities) and activities serving to the objectives of COMCEC Strategy (Group B activities) for the period of December 2019-October 2020 as well as for the period November 2020-November 2021 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation.

*(Group A and Group B activities are attached as Annex 1.)*

- The Committee was informed by the CCO that in terms of Group A, 70 activities were reported as completed by the OIC Institutions. In terms of cooperation areas, approximately 35% of the activities were implemented in trade domain followed by tourism and

financial cooperation. The Committee was also informed that with respect to types of the activities, the Institutions specially focused on trainings and technical assistance programs (33 %), workshops (22%) and meetings (18%).

- In terms of Group B activities, CCO representative informed the Committee that 114 activities have been completed since the 35th Session of the COMCEC and 116 activities are planned to be organized in the upcoming period by the respective OIC Institutions. Most of the completed and planned activities were reported in the area of trade.

- The Committee underlined the importance of contributions of the OIC Institutions to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations as well as realization of the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy. In this respect, the Committee commended the efforts of SESRIC in contributing to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations through specifically designed activities such as capacity building and training programmes in the six cooperation areas. The Committee also appreciated the efforts of other OIC institutions for the implementation of the policy recommendations and requested them to intensify their efforts and consider the possibility of organizing joint activities to that end.

- The Committee also noted the proposal that enhancing production capacity and innovation in the Member Countries should be the overarching goal of OIC institutions in their activities e.g. among others, by launching new windows for providing concessional loans to production and trade of hi-tech and technology intense products in OIC member countries.

- The CCO informed the Committee about the current developments regarding the projects supported by the COMCEC Coordination Office under the COMCEC Project Funding and also informed the participants that upon the request of project owners, most of the projects were postponed to 2021 for implementation. The Committee appreciated the efforts of the relevant OIC Institutions in submitting projects through the COMCEC Project Funding in the 8<sup>th</sup> project call made in September 2020. Moreover, the Committee invited the relevant OIC Institutions to utilize this mechanism more efficiently for the realization of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

- Regarding the recently established e-platform (<http://activities.comcec.org>) to monitor the implementation of the-planned activities of the OIC Institutions, the Committee was informed by the CCO about the details of this e-platform. In this respect, the Committee commended the efforts of the CCO and welcomed the launch of the said e-platform. Underlining the importance of the e-platform for simplifying and standardizing the reporting process, the Committee requested the CCO to prepare a brief guideline and organize a training session for the OIC Institutions. Furthermore, the Committee requested the OIC Institutions to convey their further feedbacks regarding the e-platform to the CCO and continue reporting their activities through the said platform.

### **OIC Institutions' Efforts in combatting COVID-19 Pandemic**

- The Committee was informed by the OIC Institutions about their activities / programs aiming to help member countries in their efforts towards mitigating the adverse effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Committee commended the efforts of the OIC Institutions, particularly, among others, “the COMCEC COVID-19 Response Program” launched by the CCO; publication titled “Socio-Economic Impacts of Covid-19 Pandemic in OIC Member Countries,” and various training and capacity building programs conducted by SESRIC; “Strategic Preparedness and Response Program for the COVID-19 Pandemic” initiated by the IsDB Group; the webinars on the impact of Covid-

19 on intra-OIC trade and investment flows organized by the ICDT in collaboration with OIC and International Institutions; various activities (financing support, webinars, support for equipment and capacity development, harmonization of standards, etc.) undertaken by ITFC to assist Member Countries' fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

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

- The Committee was informed by the SESRIC of the preparations regarding 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 36<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Sessions of the COMCEC.

- The Committee was informed by the CCO that in line with the relevant resolution of the 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session, “the List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Related to the SDGs for the period of 2020 and 2021” will be compiled by the CCO and submitted to the 36<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session. The Committee requested the OIC Institutions to convey their realized and planned activities related to the SDGs to the CCO well in advance of 36<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session. The Committee also requested the SESRIC and CCO to consider the possibility of establishing an online platform to better follow-up of the SDG- related activities of the OIC Institutions.

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

- The importance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the implementation of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action was highlighted.

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

- The Committee was informed by the ICIEC (IsDB Group) on the preparations towards the launching of “the OIC Business Intelligence Programme” initiative. The Committee noted the recent efforts and requested the ICIEC in cooperation with SESRIC to finalize the technical preparations for the operationalization of the Program.

#### **Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions for the Benefit of Palestinian People/ Al-Quds Sharif as well as Geographically Distant OIC Member Countries and Observer Countries**

- The Committee was informed by the OIC Institutions regarding their activities, projects and existing and newly launched programs for the benefit of Palestinian people and Al-Quds Sharif and geographically distant OIC member countries such as Guyana and Suriname and Observer Countries. The Committee appreciated the efforts of the OIC Institutions and requested them to further enhance their possible contributions, including the possible joint activities and programmes.

#### **Any Other Business**

- The Committee Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

# **ANNEX**

## **V**

Original: English



**AGENDA OF THE 36<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE  
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE  
COMCEC  
(20-21 October 2020, Virtual Meeting\*)**

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 Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness”
12. Draft Agenda of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC
13. Any Other Business
14. Adoption of the Report

# **ANNEX**

## **VI**

Original : English

**HANDBOOK TITLED "GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHING  
EFFECTIVE NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION BODIES IN THE  
OIC COUNTRIES" is available on the COMCEC website  
"<http://ebook.comcec.org/>".**

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# **ANNEX**

## **VII**

Original: English

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

The COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) successfully held its 15th Meeting on July 7th, 2020, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Pricing of Transport Infrastructure in the OIC Member Countries”. During the Meeting, TCWG made deliberations on the policy recommendations related to the pricing of transport infrastructure. The policy recommendations were formulated by taking into consideration the research report titled “Pricing of Transport Infrastructure in the OIC Member 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: Developing contemporary transport infrastructure pricing policies and making use of implementation instruments such as PPPs, where possible, and public transport operations for a well-functioning transport system.***

**Rationale:**

An enabling legal framework accompanied by an integrated transport policy is of particular importance for the success of transport infrastructure pricing systems. This would also facilitate the effective participation of the private sector in the development of transport infrastructure. The contemporary transport policies envisage an enabling legal framework that explicitly highlights the government’s commitments and the mechanisms for risk transfer between public and private stakeholders by streamlining all the different pricing implementations and convert them into a single transport infrastructure pricing act. In this vein, contemporary transport policies encourage the participation of the private sector in transport infrastructure projects. The success of transport infrastructure pricing schemes depends largely upon the implications, externalities, and people’s perception of transport infrastructure pricing schemes. In this framework, the contemporary transport policies attach particular importance to the social and economic conditions of the users.

***Policy Recommendation II : Assigning an autonomous operator (entity/institution/body) for the effective collection of charges and allocation of funds arising from transport infrastructure pricing services.***

**Rationale:**

Transport infrastructure pricing is a multidimensional issue involving public, private, and civil society. Within this respect, several institutions and organizations have varying roles in the formation of transport infrastructure pricing and charging policy, regulation, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The coordination among the relevant institutions and stakeholders is of crucial importance. However, considering the complexity of management of the pricing of transport infrastructure, effective coordination among the public and private stakeholders is an important challenge to be addressed. The roles and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders may not always be explicit. In this respect, for improved governance, the roles of regulators and operators can be separated, and autonomous commercialized institutions may provide the services demanded by stakeholders and users with greater efficiency. Therefore, the assignment of autonomous entities that would provide an effective collection of charges and the allocation of funds arising from transport infrastructure pricing services is of particular importance.

***Policy Recommendation III: Utilizing transport infrastructure pricing tools (tolls, levies, vehicle tax, fuel tax, mileage tax, etc.) to effectively manage transport demand as well as to raise funds for transport infrastructure development.***

**Rationale:**

An efficient and effective transport system is vital for the socio-economic functioning of any society. Transport networks, including road, rail, and air networks, have expanded consistently especially in developing countries in line with the growing demand. As the demand for transport infrastructure has increased considerably over the years, governments have initiated some mechanisms to diversify funding sources and to address this growing demand. The principle of cost recovery from transport users, known as transport infrastructure pricing, is one of the widely used mechanisms to source public finance to increase infrastructure capacity and recovery of costs, to effectively manage the demands for transportation services, to charge transport sector externalities including greenhouse gas emissions. Tolls, levies, vehicle tax, fuel tax, mileage tax, and vignettes are some of the widely used tools in transport infrastructure pricing systems. While developing countries use these tools mainly to provide new infrastructure and improve transport infrastructure performance, developed countries primarily make use of these tools for managing traffic demand.

***Policy Recommendation IV: Utilizing contemporary collection (i.e. automated electronic tolls, on-board-units, and Global Navigation Satellite System) and enforcement systems for ensuring an effective transport infrastructure pricing.***

**Rationale:**

The applied method and used technology are extremely vital for the better management of the pricing of transport infrastructure. An effective and efficient toll collection and enforcement system can leverage the abilities of the whole infrastructure pricing system. Collection can be done by employees, automatic machines, or a combination of both. Toll plazas and electronic tolls are two basic toll collection systems. Toll plazas consist of a series of toll gates, where each gate only opens once the driver pays the toll by cash, bank cards, vouchers, or others. On the other hand, electronic tolls allow toll payment without requiring vehicles to stop. Vehicles are required to carry an authorized on-board unit (OBU), electronic tag or transponder. Compared to toll plazas, electronic tolls do not require toll gates, which minimizes construction costs and this system can be implemented in high-density road networks. Some countries have a hybrid system where conventional toll plazas coexist with electronic tolling systems.

***Instruments to Realize the Policy Advice:***

**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 15TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC TOURISM WORKING GROUP**

The COMCEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) has successfully held its 15th Meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Developing Medical Tourism in the OIC Member Countries.” During the Meeting, Tourism Working Group, made deliberations on medical tourism in the OIC Member Countries. Accordingly, the participants has come up with some policy recommendations.

***Policy Advice 1. Encouraging marketing and branding activities in order to boost the image of the destination country with a view to attract international patients.***

### ***Rationale:***

Countries attract international patients with their capacity and capabilities in health provision. However, they increase their chance to be preferred as a destination country as much as their country image allows this position. In this sense, security and trustworthiness step forward as factors which influence country’s brand image. When country image is problematic as regards economic or other circumstances, it becomes important to obtain an improved image in the first place. In order to convince international communities towards a shift in their perception about the country, rebranding strategies can be introduced. Rebranding helps spread the message that the destination country is safe and trustworthy for all activities undertaken within its borders, including healthcare provision as well. For instance, integration of insurance systems is defined as an effective model for medical tourism activities regarding ease and secure payment procedures available in different countries. Medical tourism is not solely about health provision and medical services. Instead, second pillar of medical tourism consists of the tourism component. As a supporting factor to medical tourism, other tourism facilities (i.e. historical sites, cultural heritage etc.) can be promoted.

***Policy advice 2. Using online platforms for customized marketing strategies towards target groups***

### ***Rationale:***

Online platforms, especially popular social media channels such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, etc. provide virtual environments to express opinions and preferences. Although these platforms are not particularly designed for marketing, advertisements are usually permitted. Data collection from the registered accounts enables algorithms to suggest personalized advertisements in parallel to the users’ activities. From the medical tourism perspective, such platforms can be used in order to attain the target groups.

Based on their personal choices, matching treatments can be displayed on the channels they frequently use. Such advertisement strategy on medical products and services is especially applicable for cosmetic procedures towards those who are interested in wellbeing and beauty products. As for the OIC member countries, such an interactive tool can be used in order to understand the needs of target population. This would allow to develop segmentation strategy with the objective to respond in the most effective way to the needs of target population within the segment.

***Policy advice 3. Promoting development/implementation of exchange programs among the OIC Member Countries for medical personnel in order to boost knowledge and experience sharing***

***Rationale:***

In response to the medical needs of individuals and societies, health sciences discipline work on development of new techniques and tools. The way to treat diseases may vary across countries. Countries develop their own unique approach in relation to their level of health infrastructure in terms of medical education and R&D capacity. From this point of view, knowledge and experience sharing becomes important for medical personnel in order to adopt different approaches into their practices. The communication between medical personnel as regards the advancements in the healthcare sector facilitates dissemination of best practices in the field. Such a blend of knowledge between healthcare professionals can create a larger impact. It has, in fact, the potential to boost the industry as well. Therefore, exchange programs can nurture the healthcare industry at healthcare personnel and healthcare provision levels among the OIC member countries.

***Policy advice 4. Encouraging bilateral or regional/multilateral arrangements (such as patient exchange programs, pre-diagnosis services, alliances between healthcare providers and streamlining health insurance schemes etc.) between public/private stakeholders including insurances and hospitals in order to sustain the exchange of patients.***

***Rationale:***

Bilateral, regional and multilateral arrangements can increase health mobility between the signing parties and serve as a stimulating factor to boost trade relations. In this respect, partner countries may benefit from the increase in health mobility through filling the gap in demand towards medical treatment. This may also enable the other side of the arrangement to provide healthcare services and meet its potential in medical tourism. These arrangements may take multiple forms such as patient exchange programs, pre-diagnosis services, alliances between healthcare providers and streamlining health insurance schemes. For instance, opening a pre-diagnosis center in a partner country would give the opportunity to the supplier country to display its medical services. On the other side, the partner country would benefit from medical knowledge and experience of the visiting medical staff coming from the partner country. As for protocols signed between healthcare providers and health insurances, it is possible to affirm that both sides would benefit from medical tourism schemes.

***Policy Advice 5. Establishing a database on health tourism for the use of OIC member countries for further cooperation in terms of patient-treatment exchange and capacity building in healthcare provision***

***Rationale:***

Data collection in medical tourism constitutes a big problem. Countries experience challenges in finding the appropriate information as regards activities taken place in medical tourism industry. The lack of data collection methodology and database creates obstacles in terms of marketing as well.

Both side of the medical tourism actors (suppliers and demanders) can take data-based concrete actions for future collaborations. For instance, supplier countries can provide data on their medical services that are integrated in the medical tourism whereas demanders can list their priorities in medical treatments. Such a database can open a platform for collaboration not only in terms of patient-treatment exchange but also in terms of capacity building in healthcare provision as well. OIC level data sharing in medical tourism will facilitate both supply and demand side among the region.

***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.

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# **ANNEX**

## **IX**

Original: English

## **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE 15TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP**

A policy debate session was held during the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group. The Working Group came up with some concrete policy recommendations for enhancing good governance practices for ensuring food security and nutrition in the Member Countries. The policy recommendations given below have been identified in light of the main findings of the research report titled "*Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Member Countries*" and the responses from the Member Countries to Policy Questions conveyed by the COMCEC Coordination Office.

***Policy Recommendation I: Developing a comprehensive national food security and nutrition strategy and/or strengthening the existing food security policies and strategies to extend their reach and inclusiveness so that everyone can reap the benefits, including the poorest and the most vulnerable to achieve food security and nutrition for all.***

### **Rationale:**

An enabling legal framework accompanied by a comprehensive food security and nutrition policy is of particular importance for the success of the food security governance. A comprehensive food security and nutrition strategy could be developed as the first step of planning for good food security governance. Under the shadow of COVID-19; the said strategy could specifically re-define the vision, goals and priorities of the country on food security governance in line with the current and future food security and nutrition trends of the country, and guide complementary and cross-cutting strategies, laws, and programs, as well as activities for achievement of objectives. In this regard, the member countries may utilize the experiences and facilities provided by the OIC Institutions (e.g. COMCEC, IOFS, SESRIC, SMIIC, IsDB) as well as the international organizations (e.g. UNFAO).

***Policy Recommendation II: Establishing a high level national coordination mechanism (i.e. an inter-ministerial or presidential council) for ensuring a healthy and sustainable multi-stakeholder dialogue for the effective coordination of all governmental and non- governmental stakeholders in the processes of policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring; and endowing it with significant execution power and sufficient human and financial resources.***

### **Rationale:**

For successful food security and nutrition policies, governance and coordination mechanisms need to be drastically upgraded in all areas from policy formulation to implementation and monitoring. Effective coordination and coherence mechanisms require an inclusive and participatory process in which all segments of the population, especially the most vulnerable, have their needs and rights properly represented.

Different stakeholders have their own objectives, policy preferences, and functions, and this creates an inherent fragmentation in the sphere of governance. The OIC member countries may thus benefit from establishing a high level national coordination mechanism (inter-ministerial or presidential council), endowed with significant executive power. Member countries may benefit from mandating the operations, meetings, responsibilities, accountability criteria, and stakeholder participation mechanisms of their national coordination mechanisms. Moreover, they are recommended to ensure that the national coordination mechanism has sufficient human and financial resources.

***Policy Recommendation III: Improving the coordination and coherence of policy actions on food security and nutrition in turbulent times (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic) at all levels ranging from sub-national to national; national to bilateral or multilateral; sub-regional to regional, and finally, from OIC-level to global level.***

**Rationale:**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic downturn are expected to worsen food insecurity and malnutrition situation in many countries mainly through (i) the declining availability of food (due to contraction of food production and trade) and (ii) the access to food (due to employment and income losses). Recently published figures indicate that, by the end of 2020, 130 million people in low and middle income countries will be added to those already suffering from acute hunger before the pandemic started. Roughly half of the OIC Member Countries are among the countries that face the highest risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Minimizing the risks associated with the pandemic necessitates good governance practices especially with respect to the coordination of policy actions at national and sub-national levels and bilateral, OIC-level and finally global levels.

***Policy Recommendation IV: Designing a detailed and transparent implementation plan for the national and sub-national tasks and equipping the fieldwork personnel with relevant know-how and allocating sufficient financial resources to each and every step of the implementation process.***

**Rationale:**

Adopted policies and programs that are not supported by detailed and transparent implementation plans may end up being partially implemented or not implemented as a result of departures of critical post-holders due to new appointments and other bureaucratic obstacles. This is more than highly possible in this new era where COVID-19's negative effects are felt considerably. Therefore, the top challenge regarding implementation is to design the policies and programs with an explicit implementation plan for the national and sub-national tasks. One of the main governance challenges regarding implementation is associated with the lack of sufficient human and financial resources. Therefore, the OIC member countries may focus on mechanisms to train the field-work personnel so as to equip them with relevant know-how, and to allocate sufficient financial resources to each and every step of the implementation process.

***Policy Recommendation V: Establishing an online platform/food information systems (e.g. vulnerability atlas, food security fora) that ideally transmits real-time information on monitoring food security and nutrition governance with a view to generating credible data and statistics and formulating evidence-based policies.***

**Rationale:**

COVID-19 pandemic has shown once more the importance of the monitoring of acute food insecurity through the food information systems. Limited availability of timely, reliable and consistent data on food security and nutrition hampers evidence-based decision making by both public and private sector actors in the Member Countries as well as the international organizations. Besides utilizing the existing instruments such as OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) more effectively, new projects that are inter and intra related with other harshly affected sectors (tourism, trade, finance etc.) from COVID-19 need to be designed and conducted to generate credible data and statistics, to strengthen the Member Countries' capacities to analyze them, and support the development of policies, investment and action plans based on this evidence all across the OIC.

***Policy Recommendation VI: Promoting capacity building and knowledge/experience sharing among the OIC Member Countries in the four levels of good governance of food security and nutrition (i.e.***

***(i) Policy and Legal Framework (ii) Coordination and Coherence (iii) Implementation, and (iv) Information-Monitoring-Evaluation.)***

**Rationale:**

There are lessons that member countries can learn from the experiences of fellow members within the OIC. When effective sharing and capacity building mechanisms are established, successful outcomes of well- tested food security governance policies and practices in one country can allow others to adopt those without making the costly mistakes that the initiating country may have made during the process of fine-tuning new initiatives, saving valuable resources. Hence, regular or occasional gatherings of policy makers as well as practitioners from member countries to discuss common problems related to food security governance, and creation of staff exchange and training programs can be encouraged. The growing experience of all countries with on-line gatherings and meetings during the pandemic presents itself as an opportunity to make such events increasingly feasible. Also, the countries may seek technical assistance from OIC institutions and/or seek project-based funding from the OIC and other international bodies.

**Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:**

**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 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.

**Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS):** IOFS, as a specialized institution of the OIC dedicated to promoting food security and nutrition, may contribute to policy formulation in the OIC member countries and support good food security governance within the OIC.

**SESRIC:** Member Countries may utilize the Capacity Building Programs of SESRIC as well as OIC Statistical Commission in the areas related to food security and nutrition.

**IDB Group:** The facilities of the IDB Group, particularly the IsDB Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Implementation, may be utilized by the Member Countries to achieve good governance of food security and nutrition.

**SMIIC:** The Technical Committees of the SMIIC can be utilized.

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# **ANNEX**

## **X**

Original: English

## **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP**

The COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group (PAWG) has successfully held its 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “*Urban Poverty in the OIC Member Countries.*”

During the Meeting, PAWG made deliberations on reducing urban poverty in the OIC Member Countries. Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the research report conducted specifically for the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of PAWG 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 Recommendation 1: Developing comprehensive and effective urban planning strategies that particularly focus on better management of slums to prevent uncontrolled growth of existing slums and formation of new ones, and improving the access of slum dwellers to basic services such as education and health services through strategic investments.***

### **Rationale:**

Slums are the main poverty hubs in urban areas. Developing more effective urban planning strategies that particularly focus on better management of slums (through dissolving/depopulating them and preventing formation of new ones) could be a first step towards eradicating urban poverty. There are numerous good examples of such urban planning strategies in the Islamic world (e.g., Housing Development Administration (TOKİ) in Turkey and Purbachal New Town project in Bangladesh). Improving the access of slum dwellers to education and health services through strategic investments can help break poverty cycles. Moreover, in developing as well as implementing these strategies, it is crucial to utilize the relevant ICT tools and techniques more effectively to monitor slums and accurately identify the urban poor.

**Policy Recommendation 2: *Designing effective local labor market policies that would help tackling the informality problem and create more and better jobs***

**Rationale:**

In the OIC member countries, roughly one in three jobs is formed in the informal labor market. Informal workers are not protected by labor legislation or a social security system. Families residing in slums are mostly employed in informal sector, which suggests that informal employment is closely linked with more intensive urban poverty. To tackle the informality problem, it is crucial to develop local labor market policies, which gradually reduce the share of informal employment over time and create more and decent jobs. These labor market policies include, among others, training and skill acquisition, improved flexibility of formal work, stricter enforcement, differential tax schemes targeting youth, women or other disadvantaged groups, supporting job creation and social protection.

**Policy Recommendation 3: *Activating the Islamic Social Finance Tools and systematically integrating them into the general urban poverty policy toolbox***

**Rationale:**

The existing evidence suggests that the Islamic social finance system is a viable complementary tool that can be used in combination with traditional poverty reduction policies to eradicate urban poverty in the OIC countries. For example, organizing an effective distribution of individual-level compulsory transfers, charity-based recommended transfers, and other voluntary transfers (both pecuniary and non-pecuniary) would greatly improve welfare in the society and reduce poverty in urban settings. Activating the Islamic social finance tools and systematically integrate them into the general urban poverty reduction policy toolbox within a well-crafted “policy-mix” (e.g. the zakat-based infrastructure projects implemented in Indonesia); and utilizing the related ICT tools (such as blockchain technologies, FINTECH systems, cashless smart cards, geographical information systems) that facilitate a more effective use of the Islamic social finance tools (e.g., the Social Family Card in Egypt; cashless shopping cards distributed to refugees living in camps in Turkey and Jordan) is of crucial importance for reducing urban poverty. The OIC Member Countries provide numerous good practices on Islamic social finance tools as a source of inspiration for their fellows. Through experience sharing and capacity building programs, this valuable experience could be shared among the member countries.

**Policy Recommendation 4: *Improving urban governance capacity and strengthening resilience to shocks (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic)***

**Rationale:**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic downturn are expected to worsen the urban poverty in the Member Countries. Although COVID-19 is a global shock, its adverse consequences are more severely felt by the poor, who are more likely to live in overcrowded neighborhoods and slums. Therefore, improving urban governance capacity by establishing a viable long-term national strategy aiming to effectively tackle urban poverty, improving resilience to unexpected events such as COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, large population movements, and health shocks; strengthening policy coordination between national and local authorities, enhancing legal and institutional capacity, and getting connected to the international policy network in a more effective way are recommended. Minimizing the risks associated with the pandemic necessitates good governance practices especially with respect to the coordination of policy actions at national and sub-national levels and bilateral, OIC-level and finally global levels.

**Policy Recommendation 5: Conceptualizing urban poverty and developing/improving data collection and measurement practices to achieve evidence-based policy making**

**Rationale:**

Urban poverty is highly multidimensional, and those multiple dimensions need to be systematically internalized to improve the understanding of the main policy issues. Conceptualizing and defining urban poverty within a multidimensional and region-specific context is also very important since those concepts and definitions crucially affect humanitarian policy and the nature of other basic services provided such as health, water, sanitation, sewage, etc. Without a well-structured conceptualization, national and local authorities will be ill-equipped to address the key urban poverty challenges. Moreover, improving data collection practices and developing new instruments to enhance measurement of urban poverty is of particular importance for evidence-based policy making. In this regard, it is recommended to utilize the relevant ICT tools and techniques more effectively to conceptualize, collect data and monitor slums and accurately identify the urban poor.

**Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:**

**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.

**SESRIC:** Member Countries may utilize the Capacity Building Programs of SESRIC to realize the above-mentioned policy recommendations.

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# **ANNEX**

## **XI**

Original: English

## **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 14TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC FINANCIAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP**

The COMCEC Financial Working Group (FCWG) has successfully held its 14th Meeting on September 15th, 2020 in virtual-only format with the theme of “Improving the Shariah Governance Framework in Islamic Finance”. During the Meeting, FCWG made deliberations on improving shariah governance framework in Islamic finance sector in the OIC Member Countries. Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the analytical study conducted for the 14th Meeting of FCWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions, was the main input for the discussions. Accordingly, the participants have come up with some policy recommendations.

**Policy Advice 1: Developing a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for the Shariah Governance processes and arrangements to ensure that all the operations and business activities in Islamic Finance are in accordance with Shariah.**

### **Rationale:**

Islamic banking and financial market laws should contain the definitions of all currently known and approved Islamic finance products and services as well as instruments. The concerned law should stipulate the general rule of prohibiting trade in pure risk and debt. The law may also authorize the regulator to add new products once they are approved. Furthermore, a special standard for the listed companies and Islamic financial instruments should be attached to the law with a stipulation of an annual review. Such standards would set the required conditions for ensuring Shariah compliance. Besides, a handbook on Islamic finance products and instruments should be issued by the regulators to support and facilitate the implementation of the respective law.

**Policy Advice 2: Encouraging the establishment of national Shariah Supervisory Boards (SSBs) supervising the institutional SSBs.**

### **Rationale:**

National Shariah Supervisory Boards (SSBs) have various important functions. They can play a very significant role in resolving the disputes between Islamic Financial Institutions (IFIs) and customers. Furthermore, approving new products, supervising IFIs on proper income purifications, reviewing yearly accounting of profit and zakat calculations and their distribution, assessing and regularly reporting Shariah non-compliance risks to shareholders and investment account holders are among the other major functions of National SSBs. The National SSBs are very instrumental in securing the interests of all stakeholders, not just shareholders.

**Policy Advice 3: Developing guidelines for ensuring/facilitating the active involvement of Investment Account Holders (IAHs) in IFIs' management in accordance with their contribution to the mudaraba pool.**

**Rationale:**

Comprehensive guidelines about Shariah Governance Framework can be developed to enable all stakeholders (i.e. customers, management, shareholders, supervisory authorities) perform their roles in accomplishing the Shariah Governance objectives, and to promote soundness and stability of IFIs. In this regard, the following mechanisms, among others, might be taken into consideration during the preparation of the concerned guidelines:

- Voting in the general assembly and board of directors should be distributed between shareholders and IAHs in proportion to their resources,
- The resources provided by IAHs might be measured as of the beginning of the financial year,
- IAHs might be allowed to assign their representatives in the general assembly of IFIs,
- BoD seats might be assigned to the IAHs with the largest accounts, in a proportion of their resources.

**Policy Advice 4: Encouraging talent development through training and professional certification programs and increasing the awareness of stakeholders about Shariah Governance.**

**Rationale:**

In many cases, there might be a need for improving the qualifications of SSB's members and a shortage of qualified Shariah experts. The practice of assigning SSBs membership exclusively from among Shariah

specialists without identifying the necessary qualifications such as academic degree, research and teaching experience etc. is a major challenge. In this respect, a set of criteria may be identified for the appointment of the SSB members. In addition, training and professional certification programs can be conducted for talent development in this crucial area.

**Policy Advice 5: Promoting the integration of Islamic Finance sector into whole economy with a view to making monetary policy more inclusive.**

**Rationale:**

In order to integrate the Islamic finance sector into the macro-economy and make monetary policy more inclusive, monetary authorities are advised to do the following:

- To issue Central Deposit Certificates (CDC) in proportion to the ratio of total Islamic finance assets to the total financial assets in the whole economy, against their cash value which would be placed as Central Deposits in IFIs. Accordingly, the monetary authority may wish to reduce money supply by the same amount or any amount that would make such issue non-inflationary, by increasing the legal reserve ratio.
- The monetary authority would set the instructions to control the investment of central deposits.



- The monetary authority can issue more CDC's and make them available for sale to the public, including IFIs. Their profits would be added to the Central Deposits in IFIs.
- The monetary authority may allow trading of CDC's in money market.
- The monetary authority can change the rate of growth of money through: (1) Adding to or subtracting from its Central Deposits balances with IFIs, (2) using open market operations in CDC's to adjust the rate of growth of the money supply.

**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 realising above- mentioned policy recommendations, the member countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding facility. These projects may include the organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparation of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

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# **ANNEX**

## **XII**

Original: English



**DRAFT AGENDA  
OF THE 36<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMCEC  
(18-19; 25-26 November 2020, Virtual Meeting)**

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 Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the OIC Member States
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 Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness”
13. Date of the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Resolutions

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# **ANNEX**

## **XIII**

Original : English

**CLOSING SPEECH BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MEHMET METİN EKER,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY TO THE OIC  
THIRTY SIXTH MEETING OF THE  
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC  
(Ankara, 21 October 2020)**

Distinguished Members of the Follow-up Committee, Esteemed Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the active participation of all delegations and their valuable contributions to the deliberations. In a virtual environment but with real and intensive deliberations, we have successfully concluded the 36<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC. We have reviewed various cooperation issues and new initiatives under the COMCEC and drawn up its agenda for the 36<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session.

Esteemed Guests,

Around 1.1 million people lost their lives worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic and hundred thousand of others are still struggling with the virus. Maybe some of us have already lost their dear relatives, close friends, or colleagues. May Allah the Almighty shower His blessings on our brothers and sisters who lost their lives due to the pandemic. I also wish that all our patients including those who suffer from the coronavirus recover soon.

Dear Guests,

As you all know, very strict measures that we have never seen in our normal lives have been taken all over the world to prevent the spread of the virus. The pandemic has brought significant changes in our daily routines and conduct of life. Our behaviors, social habits have been influenced heavily, and we are yet to know where this COVID pandemic will take us to.

One positive aspect of this new situation, in other words of this isolation is probably that we may have started to think more on the meaning of life that may end so suddenly even from an attack by an invisible virus. I have been really surprised to learn that the world, the humanity is going through this extremely difficult time only due to a few grams of corona virus.

We are also witnessing profound adverse impacts of the Pandemic on our economies as it has upturned our daily life and paralyzed trade both within and among nations. Economies are experiencing significant downsizing in 2020. In an environment where the economy has slowed down so much, I think we should use our cooperation instruments we have in the most efficient way.

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

I am really glad to observe that the cooperation efforts under the auspices of COMCEC continue uninterruptedly despite heavy circumstances and restrictions stemming from the pandemic. I would like to express my special thanks and appreciation to all our colleagues in CCO as well as all the member countries and contributing partner institutions towards that end.

I am also pleased to observe that the 36th COMCEC Ministerial Session will be held next month as planned. Although the Ministerial Session will be held in a virtual-only format, as we have experienced here, it is quite important and crucial for COMCEC to sustain its regularity as a platform that has been able to convene uninterruptedly for 35 years towards Islamic solidarity and brotherhood.

Regarding the two new programs that have been initiated by the COMCEC Coordination Office namely the COMCEC COVID Response (CCR) and COMCEC Al-Quds Program, I hope that all the member countries and relevant OIC institutions will contribute to these programs at the highest level. I wish every success to all partners in the implementation of these programs.

Esteemed Delegates,

During our Meeting, we have dwelt on various critical issues. I would like to just briefly highlight some of these points.

As discussed during the working session, there are only a few pending issues to make the TPS-OIC System operational. Relevant authorities will discuss the issues arising from the concession lists for the implementation of the TPS-OIC system in a Virtual Consultative Meeting next week. I hope this Meeting would be beneficial towards operationalizing the System.

Another important project of the COMCEC is the OIC Arbitration Center. The Center would be fully effectuated once the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the Center are established. I hope our relevant institutions namely the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and TOBB will expedite the formation of necessary Boards and institutional set up for the Center.

Esteemed Guests,

Before concluding, I would like to thank all the Members of the Follow-Up Committee, the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, ICDT, ICCIA, SMIIC, ITFC, ICIEC and ICD 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 us to render this meeting a real success.

Hope to see you soon. Thank you.

Esselamu alaikum ve Rahmetullah.

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# **ANNEX**

## **XIV**

Original: English

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED  
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE THIRTY SIX MEETING OF  
THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC  
(Online, 20-21 October 2020)**

1.	Report on the Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy - Progress Report.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(1)-CCO
2.	Report of the OIC General Secretariat on the Implementation of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(2)-OIC
3.	Brief on Trade/TPS-OIC.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(3)-CCO
4.	Proceedings of the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group .....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(4)-CCO
5.	Handbook presented to the 15th Meeting of the Trade Working Group to be submitted to the 36th Session of the COMCEC.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(5)-CCO
6.	List of TPS-OIC Signatory and Ratifying Countries.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(6)-CCO
7.	Reports of ICDT on the OIC Fairs and Exhibitions.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(7)-ICDT
8.	Executive Summary: Annual Report on Trade Between the OIC Member States.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(8)-ICDT
9.	Report of the ICDT on the Issues Relating to the Activities of the WTO .....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(9)- ICDT

10.	ITFC Progress Report on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(10)- ITFC
11.	ICIEC's Brief Performance 2019.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(11)-ICIEC
12.	Brief Note on OIC Business Intelligence Center.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(12)-IDBICIEC
13.	Report on the Activities of SMIIC.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(13)-SMIIC
14.	Report on the Activities of ICCIA.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(14)-ICCIA
15.	ICD's 2019 Achievements to Promote the Private Sector in OIC Member Countries .....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(15)-IDB
16.	Brief on Transport and Communications.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(16)-CCO
17.	Proceedings of the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group .....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(17)-CCO
18.	Policy Recommendations of the 15th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group to be submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 36th Session of the COMCEC .....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(18)-CCO
19.	Brief on Tourism .....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(19)-CCO
20.	Proceedings of the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group .....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(20)-CCO
21.	Policy Recommendations of the 15th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group to be submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 36th Session of the COMCEC .....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(21)-CCO
22.	Brief on Agricultural Cooperation.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(22)-CCO
23.	Proceedings of the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(23)-CCO
24.	Policy Recommendations of the 15th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group to be submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 36th Session of the COMCEC .....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(24)-CCO
25.	Brief on Poverty Alleviation .....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(25)-CCO
26.	Proceedings of the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(26)-CCO

27.	Policy Recommendations of the 15th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group to be submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 36th Session of the COMCEC .....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(27)-CCO
28.	Brief on Financial Cooperation .....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(28)-CCO
29.	Proceedings of the 14th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(29)-CCO
30.	Policy Recommendations of the 14th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group to be submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 36th Session of the COMCEC .....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(30)-CCO
31.	SESRIC Activity Report Towards the Implementation of COMCEC Strategy.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/36-20/D(31)-SESRIC

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

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