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**REPORT
OF THE THIRTY FIFTH SESSION
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC
AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC
(İstanbul, 25-28 November 2019)**

1. The Thirty Fifth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 25-28 November 2019 in İstanbul.

2. The Session was attended by representatives of the following Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC):

- 1- Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- 2- People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- 3- Republic of Azerbaijan
- 4- Kingdom of Bahrain
- 5- People's Republic of Bangladesh
- 6- Republic of Benin
- 7- Brunei Darussalam
- 8- Burkina Faso
- 9- Republic of Cameroon
- 10-Republic of Chad
- 11-Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
- 12-Republic of Djibouti
- 13-Arab Republic of Egypt
- 14-Republic of Gabon
- 15-Republic of The Gambia
- 16-Republic of Guinea
- 17-Republic of Indonesia
- 18-Islamic Republic of Iran
- 19-Republic of Iraq
- 20-Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- 21-Republic of Kazakhstan
- 22-The State of Kuwait
- 23-Republic of Lebanon
- 24-Libya
- 25-Malaysia
- 26-Republic of Mali
- 27-Islamic Republic of Mauritania

- 28-Kingdom of Morocco
- 29-Republic of Mozambique
- 30-Federal Republic of Nigeria
- 31-Sultanate of Oman
- 32-Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- 33-The State of Palestine
- 34-State of Qatar
- 35-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 36-Republic of Senegal
- 37-Republic of Somalia
- 38-Republic of Sudan
- 39-Republic of Suriname
- 40-Republic of Tajikistan
- 41-Republic of Tunisia
- 42-Republic of Turkey
- 43-Republic of Turkmenistan
- 44-Republic of Uganda
- 45-State of the United Arab Emirates
- 46-Republic of Uzbekistan
- 47-Republic of Yemen

3. The Russian Federation, Kingdom of Thailand, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the Session as observers.

4. Serbia participated in the Session as a guest.

5. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office the following OIC Organs/ Institutions attended the Session:

- 1- Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH)
- 2- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
- 3- Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
- 4- Islamic Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)
- 5- Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
- 6- Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group
- 7- Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
- 8- Organization of the Islamic Ship-owners Association (OISA)
- 9- Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC)
- 10- Federation of Contractors from Islamic Countries (FOCIC)
- 11- Islamic University of Technology (IUT)
- 12- Islamic Organization of Food Security (IOFS)

6. Representatives of the following international organizations attended the Ministerial Session and Special Sessions:

- 1- Developing Eight (D-8)
- 2- Economic Cooperation Organization Trade and Development Bank (ECOBANK)
- 3- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- 4- Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI)
- 5- Association of National Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) in Member Countries of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) (ADFIMI)

(A copy of the List of Participants of the Thirty Fifth Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex I.)

7. The Meeting of Senior Officials of the 35th COMCEC Session that preceded the Ministerial Session was held on 25th and 26th November 2019 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Salih Mutlu ŞEN, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC. The Senior Officials deliberated on the agenda items and prepared the Draft Resolutions for consideration by the Ministerial Session.

Opening Session

8. The Opening Ceremony of the Thirty Five Session of the COMCEC was held on November 27th, 2019 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC.

9. Welcoming the delegates, H.E. ERDOĞAN expressed his wishes for the session to be most beneficial for the member countries, the Muslim World and the humanity in general. H.E. ERDOĞAN celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the OIC, which aims to increase political, economic, commercial and cultural cooperation and solidarity among Islamic countries.

10. H.E. ERDOĞAN expressed that as the international community, we are gradually losing the ability to produce lasting solutions to problems such as terror, hunger, misery, regional turmoil, forced migration and climate change.

11. H.E. ERDOĞAN continued his statement by highlighting the current international system, shaped by the extraordinary conditions of the post-World War II era, lacks the capability to achieve the desired justice and order.

12. H.E. ERDOĞAN stressed that Turkey would continue her efforts to bring fair solutions to the problems of Muslim world with an entrepreneurial and humanitarian

foreign policy approach. Emphasizing the importance of ensuring peace and justice in the Islamic world, H.E. ERDOĞAN stated that Islamic World should not allow internal turmoil in our region and develop its own ability to solve our problems.

13. H.E. ERDOĞAN underlined the significance of the relevant countries to update their concession lists and to complete other procedures for the implementation of the Preferential Trade System of Islamic Countries, which is the most important project of COMCEC for strengthening economic and commercial cooperation.

14. In the face the negative impacts of rapid environmental changes and political problems on world societies increases, H.E. ERDOĞAN pointed out as OIC member countries, we are unfortunately among the countries that most affected by food crises.

15. In this respect, H.E. ERDOĞAN underlined the significance of the theme of this year's exchange of views session which is "Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries"

16. H.E. ERDOĞAN also mentioned the importance of some COMCEC projects such as the Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC), the Gold Exchanges, the Real Estate Exchange, S&P/OIC COMCEC 50 Shariah Index and the OIC Arbitration Center. H.E. ERDOĞAN also stressed the need for accelerating the operationalization process of these projects and pointed out that that Turkey has established a high level National Coordination Committee on COMCEC affairs.

17. H.E. ERDOĞAN also stated that the COMCEC Policy Follow-up System, which was designed to follow the implementation of the policy recommendations adopted at the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, would become more productive with the valuable contributions of the member countries.

18. While concluding his speech, H.E. ERDOĞAN expressed his hope for realization of all efforts aiming at developing cooperation among member countries of the OIC and COMCEC, would strengthen the collaboration between brotherly nations, and increase the prosperity of the Islamic Ummah.

19. H.E. ERDOĞAN congratulated Saudi Arabia for undertaking the Presidency of the OIC Summit, which covers the 14th Summit with the 2019-2021 period, and expressed that the political, economic and commercial cooperation between Islamic countries would be further developed.

(A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN is attached as Annex II.)

20. Following the Inaugural Statement made by H.E. ERDOĞAN, the Secretary General of the OIC made a statement at the Opening Session.

21. His Excellency Dr. Yousef Al-OTHAIMEEN, the Secretary General of the OIC, thanked the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the traditional hospitality and

excellent arrangements made for the success of this annual event. H.E. Al-OTHAI MEEN underlined the importance of cooperation in the areas of intra-OIC trade, halal food, Islamic tourism. In this respect, he stated that the implementation of the Strategic Roadmap for development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States would give an additional impetus for the promotion of Islamic tourism in the Member Countries. H.E. Al-OTHAI MEEN also commended all the Member States that have continued to support the activities of the OIC, including the contribution to OIC various projects, hosting of OIC several events, signing and ratification of the OIC economic agreements.

(The text of the Statement of the Secretary General of the OIC is attached as Annex III.)

22. The Heads of Delegations of Qatar, Gabon and Tajikistan made statements during the Opening Ceremony. They appreciated the strong support of the Government of the Republic of Turkey to the COMCEC's activities over the years and thanked H.E. ERDOĞAN for his wise guidance and leadership in enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States. The Head of Delegation of Qatar stressed the lack of progress in WTO Meetings due to more protective measures taken by several countries and underlined the necessity of increasing the intra-OIC investments. The Head of Delegation of Gabon highlighted the availability of arable lands in Africa and the investment opportunities in agriculture, fisheries and wood industries in the African countries. The Head of Delegation of Tajikistan underlined the importance of eliminating trade and investment barriers as well as investing in Islamic banking and digital economy.

23. H.E. Dr. Bandar M. H. HAJJAR, President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group also delivered a statement at the Opening Session. H.E. Dr. HAJJAR expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Member Countries for their permanent support to the activities of the IDB Group. H.E. Dr. HAJJAR pointed out that the OIC member countries represent nearly one third of the world's agricultural land and produce about 15% of the world's production in the cereal, horticultural and livestock sectors, including fisheries. H.E. Dr. HAJJAR stressed the need to increase agricultural production and establish value-added chains in the manufacturing and to prioritize investment in rural and marketing infrastructure to improve market performance for reducing post-harvest losses and waste with support of agricultural research and the use of modern technology.

(The text of the Statement of the IDB Group President is attached as Annex IV.)

24. Mr. Rifat HİSARCIKLIOĞLU, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and the Vice-President of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture also made a speech at the Opening Session. Mr. HİSARCIKLIOĞLU stressed the importance of solidarity and cooperation

among the Islamic countries. Considering this, he emphasized the role of trade as a source of peace in OIC countries. Mr. HİSARCIKLIOĞLU also stated that OIC Arbitration Center would be operationalized in this year. Mr. HİSARCIKOĞLU underlined that the OIC Arbitration Center would boost the intra-OIC trade and investment.

25. Afterwards, a signing ceremony was held. The Headquarters Agreement of OIC Arbitration Centre was signed between the Ministry of Commerce of the Republic of Turkey and Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA).

26. Following the Opening Ceremony, H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN received the Heads of Delegation.

Ministerial Working Session

27. The Ministerial Working Session of the Thirty-Fifth Session of the COMCEC was held on November 27th, 2019 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Fuat OKTAY, Vice President of the Republic of Turkey.

28. The Session adopted the Agenda of the Thirty-Fifth Session of the COMCEC.

29. Following the adoption of the agenda, H.E. Ambassador Salih Mutlu ŞEN, as the Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), informed the Session of the outcomes of the Senior Officials Meeting as well as the policy recommendations on “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries” deliberated by the SOM and submitted to the consideration of the Ministerial Session.

30. Mr. Daniel J. GUSTAFSON, Deputy Director General of FAO, has delivered a keynote speech on various dimensions of the sustainable food systems. Mr. GUSTAFSON underlined the importance of the role of different stakeholders, consumer education, cooperation among different institutions regarding to policy of food in national level. He also mentioned the examples from Bangladesh, Jordan and Morocco.

31. Following the presentation of Mr. Daniel J. GUSTAFSON, the Exchange of Views Session of the 35th Session of the COMCEC was held with the theme of “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries.”

32. Afterwards, the Ministers and heads of delegations of Member Countries made presentations on their country experiences with regards to sustainability of food systems in their respective countries.

Side Events/Special Sessions

33. The 35th Meeting of the Sessional Committee was held on November 24th, 2019 as a sideline event with the participation of the relevant OIC Institutions.

(A copy of the report of the 35th Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex V.)

34. The side event on the “COMCEC Project Funding: Experiences of the Project Owners” was made on November 26th, 2019. During the event, the owners of the successful projects funded under the sixth project call of the COMCEC Project Funding made presentations with respect to the implementation of their projects.

35. The side event on the “Launch of COMCEC Policy Follow-up System” was held on November 26th, 2019. During the event, newly established Policy Follow-up System was presented to the participants.

36. The special session 1 on “Sustainable Food Systems in The Islamic World: Ongoing Dynamics and Constraints” was held on November 28th, 2019. The session was moderated by Prof. Hami ALPAS, Department of Food Engineering, Middle East Technical University. The speakers for this special session were as follows: Mr. Jamie MORRISON Strategic Programme Leader at FAO, Dr. Bashir JAMA, Global Management Food Security Specialist in Agriculture Infrastructure Division of Islamic Development Bank, and Mr. Turgut AĞIRNASLIGİL, Investment Project Manager at the Union of Sugar Beet Growers Cooperatives (PANKOBİRLİK).

37. The special session 2 on the “Adaptation Strategies to Minimize the Adverse Effects of Climate Change on Sustainable Food Systems in the Islamic World” was held on November 28th, 2019. The session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Gökhan ÖZERTAN, Head of Department of Economics Bogazici University. Mr. Ashraf HAMOUDA, Head of Office United Nations World Food Programme, Prof. Dr. M. Levent KURNAZ, Center for Climate Change and Policy Studies Bogazici University and Ms. Begüm MUTUŞ, General Manager Yıldız Holding, were the speakers of this special session.

38. The special session 3 on “Strengthening Governance for Food Security in The Islamic World” was held on November 28th, 2019. The session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Serdar SAYAN, Dean of the Graduate School of Social Sciences TOBB University of Economics and Technology. The speakers of this special session were as follows: Mr. Daniel J. GUSTAFSON, Deputy Director General at FAO, Mr. Ahmet GÜLDAL, Chairman of the Executive Board Turkish Grain Board (TMO) and Ms. Janet K. NGOMBALU, Regional Program Coordinator Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC).

39. The special session 4 on “Food and Agriculture in Times of Crisis: NGO’s Emergency Response” was held on November 28th, 2019. The session was moderated by Ms. Yvonne FORSEN, Chief of Food Security Analysis Service Research, Assessment & Monitoring Division UN World Food Programme. Dr. Rajali MAHARJAN, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Tokyo Institute of Technology, Mr. Mohammed ABDUS SALAM Programme Head Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme BRAC, and Mr. Niyazi Özgür YÜCE, Executive Board Member IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, were the speakers of this special session.

40. The special session 5 on “Innovative Financing and Investment Opportunities for Sustainable Food Systems” was held on November 28th, 2019. The session was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Remziye YILMAZ, Department of Food Engineering, Hacettepe University. The speakers for this special session were as follows: H.E. Hani Salem SONBOL, Chief Executive Officer, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), Ms. Ayşe Ayşin IŞIKGECE, Director General, The General Directorate of Agricultural Enterprises (TIGEM) and Mr. Abdelkarim SMA, Economist, Near East and North Africa & Europe Division of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

41. The special session 6 on “The Role of Arbitration in Enhancing Trade and Investment in The Islamic World” was held on November 28th, 2019. The Keynote speaker of the session was H.E. M. Rifat HISARCIKLIOĞLU, Chairman, TOBB. The session was moderated by H.E. Yousef Hassan KHALAWI, Secretary General, ICCIA. The speakers of this special session were as follows: Prof. Ziya AKINCI, President, Istanbul Arbitration Centre Turkey, Prof. Khawar QURESHI, QC, Serle Court Chambers, and Mr. Mehmet Celal SAVAŞ, Chief Legal Officer, SOCAR Turkey Enerji A.Ş.

42. The Forum on Sustainable Food System was held on November 28th, 2019. The session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Serdar SAYAN. The speakers of the Forum were Mr. Jamie MORRISON, Prof. Dr. Gökhan ÖZERTAN, Ms. Yvonne FORSEN and Mr. Abdelkarim SMA.

43. As a sideline event of the 35th Session of COMCEC, COMCEC Project Funding Exhibition took place on 25-28 November 2019.

Closing Session:

44. The Closing Session of the Thirty-Fifth Session of the COMCEC was held on November 28th, 2019 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Fuat OKTAY, Vice President of the Republic of Turkey.

45. Mr. Bilal Khan PASHA, Consul General of Consulate General of Pakistan, Rapporteur, summarized the salient points in the Resolutions.

46. The Session adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/35-../RES..

47. H.E. Ahmed SSENYOMO, Assistant Secretary General read out the message of H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-OTHAIMEEN, Secretary General of the OIC. In his message H.E. Al-OTHAIMEEN extended his thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for hosting the 35th Session of the COMCEC and to all participants for the successful conclusion of the Session.

48. H.E. Zubairu DADA, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria made a statement on behalf of all participating States. H.E. the Minister thanked the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting successfully the 35th Session of the COMCEC. He underlined the importance of enhancing intra-OIC trade and investments as well as ensuring active engagement of private sector in the cooperation efforts.

49. H.E. Iya TI DJANI, Ambassador of Cameroon to OIC also made a statement and thanked the Government of the Republic of Turkey for successful arrangements made for the 35th Session of the COMCEC.

50. H.E. Fuat OKTAY, Vice President of the Republic of Turkey, made a closing statement at the Session. H.E. OKTAY underlined the importance of sustainable food systems especially for the Islamic world. He stressed that with the increasing global population, providing healthy and nutritious food within safe environmental limits is one of the biggest global concerns. H.E. OKTAY expressed that, the OIC Group has a significant trade deficit in food and agricultural trade although over a quarter of world’s agricultural area belongs to the OIC Member Countries.

51. H.E. OKTAY underlined the importance of achieving 25 percent intra-OIC trade volume. Then he touched upon the significance of trade preferential system among the OIC countries (TPS-OIC) for reaching the 25 percent intra-OIC trade volume and expressed his hope for the operationalization of the TPS-OIC soon. He also stressed that establishment of the OIC Arbitration Center is an encouraging case point for our other endeavors in various cooperation areas.

52. H.E. OKTAY underlined that the set of policy recommendations adopted by Ministers on “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries” would enlighten Member Countries’ way towards reducing the disequilibrium between food supply and demand, and improving the sustainability of the food systems in the OIC Member Countries.

53. H.E. Fuat OKTAY concluded his statement by expressing the significance of Member Countries’ active participation in various cooperation programs and projects conducted under the COMCEC.

(The text of the Closing Statement of H.E. Fuat OKTAY is attached as Annex VI.)

54. All documents submitted to the 35th Session of COMCEC will be available on the COMCEC web site (www.comcec.org).

