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**REPORT**  
**OF**  
**THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT**  
**ON**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIC TEN YEAR PROGRAMME OF**  
**ACTION**  
**SUBMITTED TO**  
**THE 31<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND**  
**COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC (COMCEC)**

**ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**  
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## **I. INTRODUCTION:**

1. The year 2015 witnessed renewed activities towards the implementation of the various resolutions bearing on intra-OIC socio-economic cooperation. In addition to the series of interventions by the relevant OIC institutions through on-going projects on trade, infrastructure and agro-industrial development, and microfinance, the convening of the First OIC Investment Forum for Central Asia, the launch of the OIC City of Tourism Award and proposed OIC multistakeholders' forum on Halal standardization, accreditation and certification have heralded new intra-OIC engagements in the area of trade, tourism sector development and regional integration.
2. Considering the fact that the requirements for the take-off of the trade facilitation mechanism represented by the TPS-OIC have now been completed, all OIC participants in this scheme are now in a better position to take advantage of this tariff reduction instrument in enhancing intra-OIC trade exchanges. Similarly, the on-going arrangements to consolidate the structures of the new specialized OIC institution for food security, namely Islamic Organisation for Food Security have been perfected, through the convening of the Consultative Meeting for both the 21 signatories and other OIC member states in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 13 January 2015.
3. This Report will therefore highlight the foregoing activities, which were undertaken in the light of the relevant OIC resolutions, the Ten-Year Programme of Action, and various OIC multilateral agreements. The Report also summarizes the activities of the relevant OIC institutions working in the domain of socio-economic cooperation within the framework of the renewed emphasis on inter-agency coordination, aimed at enhancing synergy and effectiveness of OIC programmes. It will also proffer necessary recommendations for consideration of OIC Member States with particular reference to those activities requiring national actions and high level decisions for their expeditious and effective implementation.

## **II. INTRA-OIC TRADE:**

4. During the year under review, the Organization has continued to accord priority to implementing programmes and initiatives in the area of trade financing, export credit insurance, trade promotion through trade fairs and specialized exhibitions, development of strategic commodities as well as trade facilitation measures. Accordingly, the intra-OIC trade exchanges have continued to grow since the last report in November 2014. The total trade volume of OIC Member States has recorded a slight decrease of 0.52% from US\$ 4,184.08 trillion in 2013 to US\$ 4,162.25 trillion in 2014. Similarly, the total value of intra-OIC trade in 2014 amounted to US\$ 802.25 billion, compared to US\$ 776.13 billion in 2013, thereby recording an increase of 3.37%. At the same time, the share of intra-OIC trade in the total trade of Member States increased from 18.64 % in 2013 to 19.33% in 2014, which represents an increase of 3.71%.

### ***Trade Promotion:***

5. Accordingly, the OIC, through its relevant institutions organized the following trade fairs and specialized exhibitions, aimed at promoting trade exchanges and increasing access to goods and products from OIC member states:
  - *The 3<sup>rd</sup> OIC Halal Expo, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 8-10 December 2014:* the Fair was attended by 120 companies from 12 OIC Member States as well as Muslim communities from non-OIC Member States, in search of business and partnership opportunities.
  - *The 8<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 13-16 April 2014:* The Exhibition provided a platform for about 400 participating companies from 17 member states to promote their products and exchange information on latest development and innovations in food industry and packaging sectors.
  - *Organic and Local Products Exhibition of the OIC Member States, Tunis, Republic of Tunisia, 28 October-1 November 2015.* The Exhibition is an opportunity for companies and players of the Bio industry and small farmers to promote their products and services
6. The 15<sup>th</sup> Trade Fair of the OIC Member States has now been rescheduled. It will now hold in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 22-26 May 2016. Similarly, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States will take place in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates on 8-10 December 2015.

### **Network of OIC Trade Promotion Organs**

7. In order to increase knowledge-sharing, synergy and collaboration among national trade promotion agencies of OIC member states, the inaugural meeting of the Network of OIC Trade Promotion Organs (TPOs) was held in Sharjah, State of the United Arab Emirates on 17-18 March 2014 under the auspices of ICDT and the collaboration of Sharjah Chamber of Commerce. The Meeting agreed to meet biennially to identify areas of joint collaboration and projects as well as mobilizing funds for their implementation. In this regard, the next meeting of OIC-TPOs will be held on the sidelines of 15<sup>th</sup> Trade Fair of the OIC Member States, scheduled to be held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 22-26 May 2016.

### ***Trade Financing and Export Credit Insurances:***

8. The steady increase in trade financing interventions by the relevant OIC organs has contributed greatly to stimulating productivity and appreciable growth among the beneficiary enterprises of the OIC member states. The major preoccupation is to put in place a robust modality for ensuring access of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to trade financing, particularly in the various sub-regions of the Organisation.
9. During the year under review, the Islamic Trade Financing Corporation (ITFC) has continued to expand its operations in developing intra-OIC trade, through implementation of various initiatives, such as Trade Cooperation and Promotion Programme (TCPP), Supporting Strategic Commodities, Access to SMEs and Least Developed Member Countries (LDMCs),

as well as regional Trade Development Programmes such as Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States.

10. In supporting intra-OIC trade in strategic commodities, ITFC approved an aggregate of US\$ 333 million facilities for supplying agricultural inputs, staples food and export financing in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gambia, Mali Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and Zimbabwe. In 2013, ITFC approved 19 operations for agricultural sector, amounting to US\$ 566 million, slightly higher than the previous year. In addition to agricultural commodities, ITFC has continued to support member states for supply of other strategic commodities, such as polyethylene, polypropylene, oil etc.
11. Supporting SMEs is one of the key pillars of ITFC's strategy as part of the high-level OIC mandate. To this end, ITFC extends Line of Financing and 2-Step Murabaha Financing (2SMF) to local banks who in turn provides the funding to SMEs for specific trade finance transactions. In 2013, ITFC provided US\$ 125 million under these mechanisms which increased to US\$ 385 million in the first 8 month of 2014.
12. The facility approvals by ITFC doubled from US\$ 2.5 billion in 2008 to US\$ 5.1 billion in 2014. Accordingly, over last 7 years the volume of ITFC trade financing approval reached US\$ 25 billion. The Corporation was able to attract new clients and new countries were penetrated as an alignment to diversification strategy of ITFC for reaching more customers and expanding its coverage.
13. Similarly, the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) has increased its trade expand transactions through encouraging investment flows among Member States. It fulfils this by providing Shariah compliant export credit and investment insurance services to exporters, financial institutions, and investors, to cover the risk of non-payment of export receivable resulting from commercial or non-commercial and political risks. It also provides re-insurance services to the export credit agencies of Member States.
14. The ICIEC business insurance operations increased by 9% in 2013 to reach US\$ 3.4 billion, while the new commitments slightly decreased by 3% from US\$ 2.3 billion in 2012 to US\$ 2.2 billion in 2013. These activities facilitated trade transactions and investment flows totaling US\$ 4.8 billion and US\$ 1.9 billion, respectively in 2013. Cumulatively, since inception, insurance approvals issued reached US\$ 20.2 billion and business insured totaled US\$ 17.9 billion with an overall claims ratio standing at 25 percent, which is significantly below the industry's ratio. The top-6 Member States that benefited most from ICIEC services since the inception of business were Saudi Arabia (25.7%), Bahrain (11.9%), UAE (11.0%), Egypt (8.6%), Pakistan (7.0%) and Turkey (4.7%).

#### ***Trade Facilitation:***

15. Similarly, the General Secretariat renewed its invitation to Member States to give effect to the various multilateral trade instruments in force among the OIC Member States.
16. During the year under review, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Kuwait ratified the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin. On its part, the Kingdom of Morocco submitted its List of Products under the TPS-OIC on 18 July 2014. Accordingly, the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC)

on TPS-OIC can now convene to ensure the immediate operationalisation of this OIC trade facilitation mechanism. The status of signing and ratification of OIC economic agreements as of 30 February 2014 is annexed to this Report. In this regard, the COMCEC Coordination Office, in collaboration with Union of Chambers of Commerce of Turkey (TOBB) organized a seminar for participating member states in the TPS-OIC in Ankara, Turkey on 26-27 January 2015 to examine new developments with regard to the operationalization of this system.

17. It is, therefore, appropriate to renew invitation to Member States, which are yet to complete the signing, and ratification processes of OIC Economic Agreements to endeavour to do so at their earliest convenience. In the same vein, Member States who have signed and ratified the TPS-OIC may wish to forward their lists in line with the relevant provisions of CFM and COMCEC resolutions. This includes the submission of their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of products (schedules of concessions), sample of certificates and specimen impression of stamps used in their customs and to complete internal legislative, and administrative measures.
18. Similarly, and in line with the objective of facilitating trade exchanges among OIC Member States, the OIC High Level Forum on Trade Facilitation and Single Window Initiatives for Enhanced Regional Economic Cooperation was held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco on 25-26 February 2013. The Forum agreed to set up a task force to study the possibility of, and follow up, the establishment of a Single Window initiative in OIC Member States. The Forum requested ICDT and ITFC to elaborate a roadmap, and Terms of Reference (ToR) for the implementation of this initiative. In this context, it is noticeable that the following Member States have established their national Single Windows, namely: Benin, Burkina Faso (in progress), Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, United Arab Emirates, Gambia, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali (in progress), Morocco, Mozambique, Uganda (in progress), Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Tunisia and Turkey.
19. In the same vein, ICDT and ITFC, in collaboration with the Ministry in Charge of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco, will organize a Workshop on "the Single Window Modality and E-trade and Their Role in Promoting Intra-OIC Trade" in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 9-10 November 2015. The major goal of this workshop is to share knowledge, experience and best practices among the participants on the implementation of national trade facilitation programs and promote the development and implementation of single window and paperless trade projects in the OIC Member States. This event also aims at taking stock of the current cooperation status of data exchange and harmonization among the authorities in charge of foreign trade and discussing the possibility of establishing regional single window systems and trade information portals.
20. In line with Resolutions of the 30th Session of COMCEC, the COMCEC Coordination Office in collaboration with the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) organized a seminar on Implementation of the Rules of Origin of Trade Preferential System of OIC (TPS-OIC) in Ankara, Republic of Turkey on 26-27 January 2015. The Seminar was attended by representatives of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan and Turkey. Representatives of OIC General Secretariat, Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have also attended the event. The meeting

received presentations and discussed various aspects of implementation of the Rules of Origin of TPS-OIC including: products covered by preferential trading arrangements; TPS-OIC Certificate of Origin; conversion of Concession Lists; and the role of Private Sector.

***OIC Halal Food Standards and Procedures:***

21. The need to revisit the pending issues on the proposed OIC Halal Standards, Accreditation and Certification Procedures, the General Secretariat held an inter-agency coordination meeting at the OIC Headquarters on 8 December 2014, with representative of three OIC institutions, namely, International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), and Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA).
22. In the light of the report of the Secretary General, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Kuwait City, State of Kuwait, on 27-28 May 2015 welcomed the initiative by the Secretary-General to convene an OIC Stakeholders' Forum on Unified Halal Food Standards and Procedures at its headquarters in Jeddah during the year 2015, in coordination with the above-mentioned OIC institutions. The Forum will now hold at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah on 9-10 December 2015.
23. The Forum is expected to bring together various Standardization, Accreditation and Certification institutions of the Member States, relevant OIC institutions experts and stockholders in the domain of Halal to address the following themes and objectives: Elaboration of a unified Halal Standard through harmonization of various Islamic Schools of Thought; Cooperation among the various national and regional stakeholders in the Halal Sector; Operationalisation of the current Accreditation Procedure, through an agreed structure; Modalities for registration of Accreditation bodies; Determining and Operationalising the Certificate Procedures of the OIC; Role of Private Sector on the Development of Halal Industry; Expanding Intra-OIC trade on Halal Sector; and Promoting Research & Development and Best Practices in the Halal Sector.

**III. COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF TRANSPORT**

***Implementation of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project:***

24. As reported to the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the General Secretariat has initiated arrangements with IDB to promote the implementation of OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project, through mobilization of funds for the Dakar-Bamako-Sikasso-Bobo Dioulasso railway loop. In addition, the General Secretariat has also requested Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso to formally submit this cross-border project to the Islamic Development Bank to enable further necessary actions thereon. In response to the General Secretariat's request, the Government of Senegal informed that in June 2015 it has submitted for consideration of IDB a financial request in respect of the construction of Dakar-Bamako segment of the above mentioned railway loop.
25. In a similar vein, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of Council of Foreign Ministers, which was held in Kuwait on 27-28 May 2015, supported the execution of the Dakar-Bamako-Sikasso-Bobo-Dioulasso

Railway segment on Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor and urged OIC Member States and Institutions to mobilize necessary funding for the said project.

26. In view of the foregoing, the General Secretariat will continue to sensitize the concerned OIC Member States on the need to include the respective national segments along the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor in their national development plans and submit their well designed feasibility studies for securing adequate technical support and financing from OIC Member States and its development partners.

***Activities of the Organization of the Islamic Ship-owners Association:***

27. The 36<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee and 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of the Islamic Ship-owners Association (OISA) were held in Dubai, United Arab of Emirates (UAE) on 12 November 2014. The outcome of the Meeting was the signing of Memoranda of Understanding with three Maritime and Ship Building Companies, such as Emirates Classification Society (TASNEEF); Arab Ship Building and Repair Yard (ASRY) and Arab Federation of Shipping (AFS). The MoUs envisaged the promotion of cooperation between these organisations and members of the OIC in the area of ships classification, technical consulting, training services, and maritime certificates as well as shipbuilding. Similarly, the annual meeting of OISA for 2015, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 21 October 2015.

**IV. AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

28. While commending OIC Member States, which have already signed the Statute of Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS), the 42 Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) invited the former to ratify the Statute of this new OIC specialized institution. It also urged other OIC Member States to conclude all necessary arrangements to accede to the Statute of IOFS at their earliest convenience.

***Establishment of Islamic Organisation for Food Security in Kazakhstan:***

29. As of 1 October 2015, twenty three OIC Member States had signed the Statute of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS). These Member States are: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Benin, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Iran, Kazakhstan, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Palestine, Sierra Leon, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Comoros and UAE. In November 2014, the Parliament of Kazakhstan ratified the Statute and set the stage for other OIC Member States, which have signed the same, to follow suit.
30. The Statute of IOFS provides that it shall be applied provisionally upon signing by at least ten OIC Member States and definitively enter into force when ten Member States submit their instrument of ratification. Accordingly and considering the fact that the required number of signatures has been secured for application of the Statute of IOFS provisionally, a Consultative Meeting on IOFS was held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 13 January 2015. The Meeting, which was attended by the both signatories and non-signatories of the IOFS Statute, reviewed the preparations for the Inaugural Session of the General Assembly Meeting of the IOFS, which was scheduled for Astana, Kazakhstan on 12-14 October 2015.



31. While commending the OIC member states, which have signed the Statute of IOFS, the 42<sup>nd</sup> CFM welcomed on-going arrangements for the convening of the inaugural General Assembly of IOFS in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan in October 2015.
32. The inaugural General Assembly is expected to consider and approve a Plan of Action that would seek to implement quick-win programmes, aimed at fast-tracking exchanges and cooperation among IOFS Member States. Such programmes include, among others: creation of a comprehensive database and conducting research on all aspects of the food security; establishment of Agriculture SME Fund; and development of Regional Food Security Programmes (RFSP). The draft agenda of the inaugural General Assembly include the election of members of the Executive Board and the interim Director General of IOFS Secretariat, among others.
33. The inaugural General Assembly, which was originally scheduled to hold in Astana, Kazakhstan on 12-14 October 2015 has now been postponed at the instance of the host authorities due to the delay in attaining the required quorum. The General Secretariat is consulting with the appropriate Kazakh authorities on the re-scheduling of the inaugural General Assembly during the first half of 2016.

***The 7<sup>th</sup> OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development:***

34. The Seventh OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCF SAD), which was scheduled to take place in Dakar, Senegal in 2013. However, the Government of Kazakhstan has indicated its preparedness to host this Conference in Astana on 12-14 October 2015 along with the hosting of the General Assembly of IOFS. The 7<sup>th</sup> OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development was expected to examine the practical modalities for the implementation of the various decisions of the previous Ministerial sessions and relationship between the Conference and the new specialized institution, IOFS.
35. The Seventh OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development scheduled for Astana, Kazakhstan concurrently with the inaugural session of IOFS was also postponed for the same reason as highlighted above. Both meetings are now being rescheduled for the first half of 2016.

**OIC Cotton Action Plan**

36. The relevant OIC Resolutions on OIC Cotton Action Plan requested Member States to resubmit their respective cotton projects in a comprehensive bankable format, while calling on SESRIC and the IDB Group to encourage capacity building projects in cotton and cotton related sectors among cotton producing Member States.
37. Consequently, the 5<sup>th</sup> Project Committee Meeting on Cotton was held in IDB Headquarters, Jeddah, on 16 November 2014. The members of the Committee, including the OIC General Secretariat, IDB Group, SESRIC, ICCIA, five (5) Centers of Excellence (Egypt, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal and Turkey) attended the meeting. In addition to the members of the Committee, member countries and projects owners from Azerbaijan, Cameroon and Mozambique as well as COMCEC Coordination Committee participated at the meeting.

38. The 5<sup>th</sup> Project Committee Meeting agreed to combine some of the 19 projects, cleared by the Project Committee during its previous meetings but yet to be financed. Among the 19 projects, 14 are technical assistance/capacity building, while the remaining five are investment projects. In this regard, the meeting requested SESRIC to combine the 14 projects into one technical assistance/capacity building project and submit it to the IDB Group for financing. The IDB Group has already approved two (2) investment projects from Mozambique and Cameroon for financing. Most of the projects cleared by the Project Committee were not financed due to lack of official request from member countries. In this regard, the General Secretariat has renewed its communication with all project owners, requesting them to resubmit the proposed Cotton projects in a comprehensive bankable format through the normal official channel.
39. Within the framework of development of the Cotton sector, the IDB has provided US\$ 17 million to 17 OIC Member States, in the form technical assistance grants for capacity building and project preparation (feasibility studies) as well as project financing. Furthermore, ITFC has, during the period 2009-2013, provided US\$ 414 million to OIC Member States to support cotton value chain (production, marketing and trade).
40. On its part, SESRIC has organized, within the framework of its capacity building programmes, fifteen (15) training courses since adoption of the OIC Cotton Programme. In addition, SESRIC has submitted a new technical assistance project to the 5<sup>th</sup> OIC Project Committee Meeting on Cotton, comprising 13 sub-projects that aim at enhancing the capacity of member countries' institutions and experts in the various cotton sub-sectors. These include quality improvement and treatment of cotton diseases, pesticides, cotton growing and irrigation techniques, marketing and trade policies, cotton varieties and efficient cultivation technologies, study on competitiveness and improvement of cotton sector in Member States, etc.

## **V. EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY**

### ***OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection***

41. The relevant OIC Resolutions on Labour, Employment and Social Protection urged the Member States to implement various short, medium and long-term programmes, particularly those related to Occupational Health and Safety, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Social Protection.
42. Accordingly, the First Steering Committee Meeting for the Implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection was held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 17-18 June 2014, with the participation of delegates from eight member-states of the Committee (out of 9), representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC and IDB Group.
43. The First Steering Committee Meeting finalized the Executive Programme for the implementation of the OIC Framework on Labour, Employment and Social Protection, which defined areas of intra-OIC collaboration for the next two years. The General Secretariat has circulated the Report of the Meeting and the Executive Programme among the Member States

and requested the esteemed Member States to kindly submit their needs on the various projects indicated in the Executive Programme. The General Secretariat also requested the concerned OIC Member States and institutions, which sponsored the specific activities envisaged in the Executive Programme, to communicate the final arrangements made for the commencement of their proposed activities.

44. Subsequently, Indonesia submitted its general opinion on the Executive Programme, while Turkey suggested that it would be appropriate to exchange experiences on Demand Researches of Labour markets, which would contribute to the data collection at the OIC level. On their parts, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Iraq, Mali, Niger, Sudan, Togo and Tunisia have indicated their needs on the projects envisaged in the Executive Programme such as in the area of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) development, popularizing OSH standards, labour market data statistics collection, legal protection for employees and labor market legislations, among others.
45. Similarly, Malaysia organized training programmes on international occupational safety and health law and industrial hygiene for the representatives of a number of OIC Member States in recent years. Within this context, the Government of Malaysia has invited OIC Member States to participate in the Capacity Building Programme related to Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Development under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). The initiative of Malaysia will enhance the execution of the Executive Programme for the implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection.
46. On its part, SESRIC has established, within its efforts to implement the Executive Programme, a database of occupational safety and health trainers under the OIC-OSHNET portal. It has also organized six training programmes on occupational safety and health in Suriname, Bangladesh, Sudan, Albania, Brunei-Darussalam and Pakistan during 2014-2015.
47. In addition, SESRIC also developed a Capacity Building Programme for Social Security Institutions (SSI-CaB) aimed at building synergy between institutions to enhance cooperation for innovative approaches, techniques and methods to increase social security coverage in OIC Member States. A series of training programmes will be organized under the SSI-CaB in Azerbaijan, Burkina-Faso, Sudan and Togo in the near future.
48. With regard to the proposed creation of an OIC Labour Center in Baku, Azerbaijan as a specialized institution and in line with the decision of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICLM, the General Secretariat has circulated the Draft Statute of the Labour Center of the OIC and the Concept Paper on the establishment of the said Center. Consequently, Bahrain, Burkina-Faso, the Gambia, Turkey, Morocco, Lebanon, Kuwait and Qatar have submitted their views and comments on the Draft Statute. While the Gambia and the Kingdom of Bahrain agreed with the text of the Statute, Burkina Faso, Turkey, Morocco, Lebanon and Kuwait have made some amendments and comments on the Articles of the Draft Statute, particularly on the provisions of Aims and Objectives of the Center, Conventions and Agreements, authorities of the General Assembly and Executive Board, the Secretariat, among others. On its part, the State of Qatar indicated that it has no remarks on the Draft Statute, except that Member States shall not bear any additional expenses other than their contributions to the Organization. Based on the above

submissions, the General Secretariat has harmonized the text of the Draft Statute and circulated the revised version to the Member States for their consideration.

49. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM), will be held in the Republic of Indonesia on 28-30 October 2015. It is expected that the 3<sup>rd</sup> ICLM will consider the implementation of resolutions of the previous sessions, including the revised Draft Statute of the Labour Center of the OIC and various mechanisms to operationalize the Executive Programme of the OIC Labour Framework, among others.

## **VI. TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT**

### ***The Ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Minister***

50. The Ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) will be held in Niamey, Republic of Niger on 14-16 December 2015. The Conference is expected to select OIC City of Tourism Awards for 2017 and 2018 and review issues relating to the promotion of Islamic Tourism in the Member States, including operationalization of Tourism Occupational Skill Standards (TOSS). In addition to the presentations by the various focal points (Indonesia, Iran and Malaysia) on Tourism Facilitation, Research and Training and Tourism Marketing, the Republic of Niger would host the Culture and Tourism Exhibition throughout the period of the Conference. The latter initiative is aimed at encouraging Member States to showcase their respective national products in the domain of arts, culture and tourism.

### ***Fourth Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism***

51. The Fourth Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism was held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, on 3 June 2014. The Meeting was chaired by the Minister of Tourism and Culture of the Republic of The Gambia and the Chairperson of the Eighth Session of the ICTM, with delegates from six (6) members of the Committee (out of nine (9)), representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC and ICDT attending. The Republic of Indonesia also participated at the meeting as an observer.
52. The highpoint of the meeting was the selection of the two winning awards for the OIC City of Tourism namely: Al-Quds Al-Sherif (2015) and Konya, Republic of Turkey (2016) respectively. The selection was held on the basis of the scores obtained against the identified selection criteria as approved by the 8<sup>th</sup> ICTM. Subsequently, the OIC General Secretariat and the concerned OIC institutions initiated the joint Programme of Activities, in commemoration of OIC City of Tourism-2015. In this regard, the Secretary-General personally commissioned the award during his visit to Al-Quds Al-Sherif on 4-5 January 2015 for the Exhibition of Historical Photos of the City of Al-Quds. The other activities on the Programme included organization of exhibitions, workshops and training sessions, selection and announcement of Awards on “Best Hotel”, “Best Restaurant”, “Best Travel Agency”, “Best Tourism Product” and “Best Print Media”. Accordingly, it would be appreciated if the esteemed Member States would react positively to the request for sponsorship of any befitting activities in their respective countries to commemorate this Award in 2015. It is worth mentioning that in this context, the Republic of Turkey has graciously offered to donate 74 publications to the libraries of Al-Quds Al-Sherif.

53. In line with the Programme of Activities, in commemoration of OIC City of Tourism-2015, the SESRIC will organize a two-day workshop on “Exploring Tourism Potential of Al-Quds Al- Sherif City” in Istanbul, republic of Turkey, on 24-25 November 2015. The objective of Workshop is to provide the participants an opportunity to deliberate and to exchange views, knowledge and experience with a view to determining ways and modalities for increasing the tourism potential of Al-Quds Al-Sherif City and formulate concrete recommendations for action at the OIC level.

***Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa***

54. The 12<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the “Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development on a Network of Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa” was held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 17-18 December 2014. The Meeting was attended by delegates from six (6) member of the Committee and representatives of the ICDT and IDB Group. The meeting urged participating Member States to submit their national projects in bankable format for further necessary action.

***First OIC International Forum on Islamic Tourism***

55. The First OIC International Forum on Islamic Tourism took place in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, on 2-3 June 2014. The Forum was attended by delegates from 27 OIC Member States, representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC and ICDT, as well as members of the Private Sector, research institutions and other Civil Society organizations.
56. The Forum made very important recommendations that can complement the on-going efforts at increasing Islamic financial and economic products, in such a manner as to stimulate economic activities in OIC Member States, while as the same increasing economic welfare through social and financial inclusion among OIC citizens.
57. Specifically, the Forum urged the OIC to promote awareness on the significance of Islamic tourism for economic purposes with the aim of fostering unity among the peoples of the Islamic Ummah. It also recommended the convening of an annual forum on Islamic tourism, including developing its branding and positioning in the global tourism market. Furthermore, the Forum recommended the promotion of Sharia-based tourism flows among OIC member states, by implementing national policies to enhance intra-OIC tourist flows, through, inter alia, visa facilitation, provision of conducive climate on investment, and capacity-building.
58. The meeting also identified actions in the domain of capacity-building, a detailed study and research on Islamic tourism and the behavior of the Muslim traveler, investment opportunities, development of cultural sites, information on history of arts and science in Islam, activation of tourism committee by SMIIC, encouraging business transactions in the field of Islamic tourism.
59. In this regard, The Republic of Indonesia has graciously agreed to act as a coordinator for Islamic tourism to further facilitate the development of Islamic Tourism among the Member States. The General Secretariat has taken note of the recent communication by the Kingdom

of Saudi Arabia, indicating the latter's desire to actively participate in the programme. The General Secretariat is embarking on arrangements to invite interested OIC member states to host the second edition of the Forum during the current year with the anticipated participation of relevant stakeholders in the tourism industries of the OIC. The objectives of the Forum will include, among others, sensitization of national tourism associations in OIC member states to the need to develop Islamic tourism products, enhance capacity-building and infrastructure development, and encourage increased certification of Islamic tourism service providers.

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> OIC Tourism Fair***

60. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States will be held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates on 8-10 December 2015, under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the State of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah. In this regard, OIC Member States are to be encouraged to actively participate at this Tourism Fair.

## **VII. COOPERATION IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR**

### ***Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of OIC Countries:***

61. The Annual Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States was held in Surabaya, Indonesia on 5-6 November 2014. The Meeting adopted the Final Communiqué, the important points of which include, inter alia:
- recognizing the need for enhancing intra-OIC cooperation and collaboration to strengthen the Macro-prudential regulatory frameworks in OIC countries through allocation of resources for technical assistance in developing joint capacity building and experience sharing programmes;
  - emphasizing the need to develop dedicated instruments, infrastructure and policies in order to promote Islamic financial system, including internationally recognized standards in this area;
  - recognizing the need to optimize and revitalize the Islamic social finance, which has a huge potential to contribute to socio-economic development in OIC member states; among others.
62. The Meeting also underscored the need for more intra-OIC cooperation among to discuss common policy issues and concerns relating to development of sound financial systems as well as promotion of Islamic financial products and Islamic social finance for socio-economic development in OIC member states.
63. Upon the proposal by the Government of Suriname, the Annual Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States which was scheduled to take place in Paramaribo, Suriname on 23-24 October 2015, has now been postponed to a new date to be confirmed in due course.

### ***Development of Microfinance Institutions:***

64. The OIC has been pre-occupied with addressing the problem posed by inadequate investment and paucity of resources to support development efforts in its Member States, particularly among its poor and vulnerable segments. In this regard, the diversification of funding sources has become crucial, more so considering the ever increasing demand for financial resources.
65. Keeping in view the importance of microfinance for poverty alleviation and empowerment of poor and low-income people, the OIC and its relevant institutions have initiated several microfinance development programmes. These include IDB Microfinance Development Programme (IDB-MDP); and a US\$ 500 million Microfinance Support Programme (MFSP) of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), among others. Under IDB Microfinance Development Programme, a number of microfinance related projects are being implemented in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sudan, Senegal, Tunisia, Egypt, Pakistan and Tajikistan. In a similar way, up to date, ISFD within the framework of MFSP has approved US\$111.47 million for financing a number of projects in the various OIC countries.
66. In order to overcome the impediments to the expansion of microfinance services and to promote sustainable development of microfinance in OIC Member States, the OIC General Secretariat and IDB will organize a Microfinance Workshop in Khartoum, Sudan, in the first quarter of 2016. The objective of the event is to kick-start a platform to share and deepen the understanding on the Islamic Microfinance models, good practices, governance and standards developed by the Central Bank and Islamic Microfinance Institutions in Sudan. One of the main objectives of this event is also to review and complete the 3 years Program on Islamic Microfinance for Poverty Alleviation and Capacity Transfer (IMPACT), which was initially drafted by OIC General Secretariat and IDB. This program will provide a platform for information sharing, networking, advocacy, research, and capacity building on financial inclusion in OIC Member Countries and beyond.

### ***Development of Islamic Social Finance:***

67. In recent years, Islamic social finances such as zakah and awqaf are assuming great significance within the OIC development agenda, as an effective tool for mobilizing funds to address the problem of financial exclusion faced by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in OIC Member States, within the framework of its poverty alleviation initiatives.
68. Within this context, the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), a research and training arm of the IDB Group, has embarked on documenting the development of Islamic social finance sector in OIC Member States as well as non-OIC countries and has accordingly produced its first report on Islamic Social Finance. This report presents the historical trends, future challenges and prospects for the various segments of the Islamic social finance sector in South and Southeast Asia and it covers Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam. This is in addition to training activities, which IRTI and other OIC institutions are organizing with regard to development of the Islamic social finance sector.
69. In a similar vein, the Leadership Meeting between the OIC General Secretariat and IDB Group which was held in Jeddah on 17 April 2014, underscored the need for mainstreaming

the various initiatives within OIC family in the area of Zakat and Awqaf, as well as the convening of an annual forum on Islamic social finance, in order to optimize capacity building and exchange of best practices. In this regard, IRTI will organize a roundtable discussion on the development of Islamic social finance sector in OIC Member States in 2016.

70. In view of the foregoing, the OIC Member States are hereby invited to support the ongoing efforts of OIC institutions to popularize Islamic social finance in OIC countries, in order to improve financial inclusion of the poor and vulnerable segments of population in OIC Member States. Similarly, the OIC Member States are requested to encourage participation of their respective experts in a roundtable discussion on the development of Islamic social finance sector in OIC Member States scheduled for in 2016.

## **VIII. ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR**

71. The General Secretariat has, during the year under review, intensified its collaboration with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) to ensure proper coordination between this Private Sector institution and other OIC institutions operating in the domain of trade and commercial cooperation. Accordingly, efforts are underway to ensure that the relevant resolution on the joint holding of trade fairs and investment forums is implemented in a timely fashion. In the same vein, the General Secretariat has been coordinating its action on the proposed convening of an OIC Stakeholders' Forum on Halal Standards Accreditation and Certification with the ICCIA and other OIC institutions, such as SMIIC and IIFA.

### ***The Food Trade Exchange Meeting between Saudi Arabia and other Islamic Countries:***

72. The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), in collaboration with the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce, organized The First Food Trade Exchange Meeting between Saudi Arabia and other Islamic Countries in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 5-6 November 2014. The meeting, which was attended by the representatives of Private Sector Organisations working in the domain of food trade in OIC Member States, discussed the ways and means of increasing trade between Saudi Arabia and other OIC Member States in such food commodities as grains, rice fruit and vegetables, medical plants, meat, poultry and fish.

### ***31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly and 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Directors Meetings of ICCIA:***

73. The 31<sup>st</sup> General assembly and 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Directors Meetings of the Islamic Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) was held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda on 25-27 April 2015. The meeting reviewed the current programmes and activities of ICCIA, with particular reference to the issues related to trade mark for Halal products and certificate, resource mobilization, and establishment of a commercial arbitration center. The meeting created special committees on new initiatives of ICIA namely setting up the Excellence Award, and establishment of Arbitration Centre. The Special Committee on establishment of Arbitration Center recommended benefiting from the existing arbitration centers such as Islamic Center for Reconciliation and Arbitration in Dubai, as well as signing cooperation protocols with the reputed Arbitration and Reconciliation Centers in OIC Member Countries. Similarly, the General Assembly created a Special Committee to study the role of ICCIA in the area of Halal trademark. The recommendations of the special committees will be



submitted to the up-coming meetings of General Assembly and Board of Directors of ICCIA for approval.

74. The 8<sup>th</sup> Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries under the theme of Empowering Women Enterprises for Inclusive Growth was held in Kampala, Uganda on 26-27 October 2015. Similarly, the 17<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting will be organized in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with the 15<sup>th</sup> Islamic Trade Fairs from 22-23 May 2016.

## **IX. SPECIAL FUNDS AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROGRAMMES**

### ***Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD):***

75. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers considered the need to further mobilise funds to make up for the funding gap of US\$7.74 billion to the Islamic Solidarity Fund and requested the Secretary General to convene a fund-mobilisation session during the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of CFM scheduled to hold in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan in 2016.
76. The ISFD, since its inception in 2008, has completed various programme and projects in the area of poverty eradication and capacity building in OIC member states. During its Five-Year Strategy, which was completed in 2012, the ISFD created such flagship programmes as Vocational Literacy Programme (VOLIP), Microfinance Support Programme (MFSP). The total cost of each programme is estimated at US\$500 million. So far, a number of projects have been approved under these two programmes with a total value of US\$247.52 million (US\$136.05 million for VOLIP, and US\$111.47 million for MFSP).
77. However, the Fund is still facing the constraint of low level of mobilized resources, compared to its approved target capital of US\$ 10.0 billion. Currently, the level of pledged capital contributions to the ISFD stands at US\$ 2.68 billion, committed by 44 member countries (US\$ 1.68 billion) and the IDB (US\$ 1.0 billion). The total amount of received contributions so far is US\$ 2.31 billion, of which US\$ 750 million was paid by the IDB and US\$ 1.56 billion by member countries. The net income of the Fund in 2014 was US\$ 72.3 million, compared to US\$ 26.48 million in 2013, and US\$ 59.86 in the year before. This was mainly because of increased investment portfolio and higher rate of return on investments in Sukuk in 2014.
78. It is envisaged that the funds mobilization session will shore up funds for this important poverty alleviation of the OIC, thereby enabling it to take on further projects within the three strategic sectors of micro-finance, vocational training and food security.

### ***Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA):***

79. As reported to the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of COMCEC, the approval phase of SPDA was accomplished in November 2012, which resulted in the approval of a total of 480 projects in 22 OIC African Member States. A number of approved projects are still going through the various stages of implementation.
80. Consequently, the General Secretariat requested all OIC Member States to communicate their views on the implementation of SPDA as well as any relevant proposals for the impending

successor programme of SPDA. On its part, the IDB has recruited a team of two consultants to undertake independent assessment of SPDA implementation and to prepare outlines for a successor programme. Recently, IDB commissioned the independent assessment of SPDA implementation, which concluded that the full implementation of the ongoing projects would contribute significantly to the beneficiary countries' economic growth and poverty reduction efforts, particularly in areas of agriculture, infrastructure and human capacity development. The independent assessment also includes policy-level and operational-level recommendations that aimed at ensuring rapid delivery of development assistance. Presently, IDB is studying the independent assessment with a view to defining its future strategy, including elaboration of a successor programme, to support the OIC African Member States.

81. Similarly, the 42nd Session of Council of Foreign Ministers, which was held in Kuwait on 27-28 May 2015, commended the achievements under the SPDA and urged concerned OIC Member States to submit their national priorities to facilitate expeditious action on the new successor programme. It also requested the Secretary General, in collaboration with relevant OIC institutions, to organize investment and sensitization forums in Africa as a prelude to the elaboration of a new OIC special programme for the development of Africa. Based on the resolution of CFM, the General Secretariat is presently working on modalities for the proposed forums.
82. In view of the foregoing, the concerned OIC Member States are hereby invited to react positively to the request of the General Secretariat on the proposals for a successor programme, while other OIC Member States are implored to indicate their possible contributions in support of this sub-regional development programme.

***OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia:***

83. In line with provisions of relevant resolutions of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) on OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia, the OIC General Secretariat organized the First Investment Forum on OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan on 27-28 October 2014. The Forum brought together 324 representatives of Public and Private Sectors from 19 Member States. Representatives of Thailand, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and USA also attended the Forum as observer. The Forum was also attended by various regional and international organizations as well as relevant OIC institutions.
84. The Forum adopted various projects identified in the domain of transport and infrastructure, trade and investment, export and agro-food sectors' development, and Small and Medium Enterprises and tourism. The Forum succeeded in identifying 23 priority projects in Central Asia, foremost of which are the following:
  - a. Regional Power Transmission Project (CASA 1000);
  - b. Construction of 3 Dry-Cargo Terminals and Dredging of the water Area of Aktau Port in Kazakhstan;
  - c. Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Turkmenistan Railway Construction;
  - d. Construction of a Logistics Center "Tursunzade" in Tajikistan;
  - e. Free Economic Zones in Tajikistan (Sughd, Danghara, Pandj and Ishkoshim);
  - f. Creation of food industries with the use of modern technology;

- g. Providing concessional financing for importation of commodities and goods from Islamic countries, including providing the importing institutions with low mark-up and relatively longer period of repayment
85. The active participation of multilateral development banks, development agencies, public and private investors along with their counterparts from national institutions of OIC member states contributed to the success of the Forum. The Forum adopted to meet biennially in one of the OIC Member States in Central Asia.
  86. In order to proceed expeditiously with the implementation of these projects, the General Secretariat has addressed member states and OIC institutions to identify relevant implementation modalities accordingly. To this end, IDB has indicated its intention to actively incorporate projects on transport, infrastructure, trade financing, investment promotion and export credit through the relevant arms of the IDB, including ITFC and ICIEC.
  87. In this regard, the Forum recommended the convening of an Investment Forum for Central Asia every two years, on the sidelines of the relevant OIC trade fair or specialized forums. Accordingly, - efforts would be made with the relevant OIC institutions to harmonize the date of their respective fairs to coincide with this Investment Forum.

#### **X. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO OIC MEMBER STATES AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN NON-OIC COUNTRIES**

88. In line with the objectives of promoting partnership, mutual assistance and solidarity among OIC Member States, the OIC Member States and institutions continued to provide assistance to some OIC Member States and Muslim communities in non-OIC countries. These countries and communities include: Benin, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Comoros, Somalia and people of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, the following projects were submitted for the purpose of mobilizing funding from OIC Member States. The projects include:
  - Equipping Technical and Vocational Training Institutions in 120 days (Government of Benin);
  - Establishment of a Micro-Finance Office in the three provinces (Government of Burkina Faso);
  - Construction of a Training Center (Government of Burkina Faso);
  - Improvement of Cattle Breeding (Government of Burkina Faso);
  - Development of Women Entrepreneurship in Comoros (Government of Comoros);
  - Design of a Fenton Oxidative Waste Water Treatment Plant (Government of Nigeria);
  - Construction and Equipment of a Vocational Training Facility for Somali Youth (Government of Somalia);
  - Joint OIC-UNOSSC project on Livelihoods Improvement and Economic Regeneration through South-South Cooperation in Somalia.

#### **Malaysian Capacity Building Programme for OIC Countries (CBP4OICC)**

89. The Government of Malaysia in March 2005 launched a Capacity Building Programme for OIC Countries (CBP4OICC). The three projects were identified for the implementation in Phase I of the CBP4OICC in Sierra Leone (Capacity Building in the Palm Oil Industry),

Mauritania (Exploitation of Oil and Mineral Resources and Capacity Building in Administrative, Planning and Management Functions) and Bangladesh (Development of the Fisheries Sector), respectively. The two projects in Mauritania and Sierra Leone have been successfully completed, while the third project in Bangladesh is presently being implemented. The success achieved during the phase I underscores the need for the launching the next phase of this flagship programme. To this end, the General Secretariat is currently holding consultations with the Government of Malaysia and IDB with regard to the next phase of the CBP4OICC.

90. In view of the foregoing, the OIC Member States are kindly requested to provide the General Secretariat with information about their respective assistance to OIC Member States and Muslim communities in non-OIC countries as well as consider the possibility of making resource or in-kind contributions for the implementation of the above mentioned projects.

## **XI. COOPERATION WITH OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

91. During the Year under review, the General Secretariat has continued to interface with international organisations for the sake of widening partnership for the implementation of OIC resolutions in the following manner:

### ***UN-OIC Collaboration:***

92. The biennial meeting between the organizations and agencies within the United Nations system and the various institutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 20-22 May 2014. The meeting provided an opportunity for review of the various bilateral projects between OIC and UN agencies and institutions. These include conflict situations in OIC countries; combating terrorism and countering radicalism and violent extremism; joint projects on Somalia, trade facilitation, agriculture and food security; cooperation within the framework of UN Alliance of Civilizations and Istanbul Process; combating Islamophobia, among others.
93. In the economic domain, the meeting examined the status of implementation of their joint projects on Somalia, trade facilitation, agriculture and food security, Aid-for-Trade initiatives, as well as joint organization of business/trade forums and exhibitions, mobilization of funds for joint projects, capacity building programme for trade and agriculture related activities.
94. At the end of its proceedings, the meeting adopted its Report and Updated Matrix of Activities, which under 41 objectives contains 154 activities and timelines for their implementation in the next biennium. The economic components include such activities as capacity-building for trade negotiations, Aid for Trade, organization of Business Forums and Private Sector meetings, capacity building programmes in agricultural sector, and partnership funding under Jeddah Declaration for food security, among others. It was agreed that the Director-General of Science and Technology in the OIC General Secretariat and the Senior Political Officer responsible for the OIC file in the Department of Political Affairs in the United Nations Secretariat act as focal points for OIC and UN respectively to coordinate activities relating to the UN-OIC cooperation and implementation of the Matrix.

95. In the domain of South-South Cooperation, the OIC is collaborating with UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) through participation in the Global Expo on South-South Cooperation as well as support for ICCIA capacity building project for business women in OIC Member States. Owing to the current proposal to expand partnership on post-recovery assistance to other OIC Member States, including Yemen, the General Secretariat and the UNOSSC are presently negotiating a bilateral framework for cooperation.

### ***Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda***

96. As the deadline of 2015 for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has reached, the OIC has submitted to UN-side its perspective on the ongoing global debate on the SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda. The OIC perspective articulated on the issues relating to development of the human productive capacity in Member States through its poverty alleviation, vocational training and micro-finance programmes. Specifically, the OIC perspective with regard to Post-2015 Development Agenda emanates from its on-going initiatives on poverty eradication, employment and decent work for all, financing development, sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition and popularising social finance and islamic financial products, among others.

### ***Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure:***

97. The OIC attended the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, which was held in Dakar, Senegal on 14-15 June 2014. The Dakar Financing Summit (DFS) was aimed at mobilizing various stakeholders to support efforts of the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to accelerate the implementation of priority regional infrastructure projects.
98. The Summit issued "The Dakar Agenda for Action (DAA)", which identifies infrastructure development as a key driver and a critical enabler for sustainable growth in Africa and how the continent's public and private sector will partner with other development players to ensure financing and investment for key regional infrastructures. To this end, the Summit agreed to prioritize the financing of the 16 infrastructure projects as pilot to accelerate the implementation of PIDA, while the African Development Bank was invited to finance the preparation of these projects.
99. Recommendations contained in the DAA cover the areas of project preparation; project segmentation; Diaspora Funds; increased private sector participation; enabling policy environment; and Sovereign Wealth Funds. Highlights of the recommendations include, among others:
- Countries should enact laws to facilitate the participation of private sector in projects;
  - Government and public institutions must focus on financing the preparation phase of projects;
  - Countries should promote the participation of local private sector in Africa's infrastructure development, notably through favorable local laws and provision of capacity building opportunities; and
  - Harmonizing regional regulatory frameworks for infrastructure development in order to minimize disparities in rules and regulations, including on Public Private Partnerships.

100. Participation of the OIC at the DFS was within the framework of its on-going alliance with AU/NEPAD for the implementation of the OIC Dakar Port Sudan Railway. It is more so considering the fact that one of the 16 projects is modernization of Dakar-Bamako railway line, which is a key component of OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project and AU Dakar-Djibouti Transport Corridor. Accordingly, the OIC will further intensify its interaction with AU/NEPAD for the above purpose.

#### **OIC-GCC:**

101. The General Secretariat and the Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, have explored the modalities for creating joint programmes within the purview of OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection during the official visit to the OIC General Secretariat by the Director General of the Executive Bureau on 30 December 2014.

#### **OIC-LAS:**

102. Within the framework of extant MoU between the OIC and the League of Arab States (LAS), the Arab Tourism Organisation participated in the 8th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers held in Banjul, The Gambia, on 4-6 December 2013, and delivered a keynote address, containing the criteria for selection of the award of “Arab Tourism City”, which proved useful in the finalization of the OIC criteria and mechanism for the award of “OIC City of Tourism”.

### **XII. ELABORATION OF THE NEW OIC PROGRAMME OF ACTION:**

103. The 40th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea on 9-11 December 2013 considered the Report of the Secretary General on the Implementation of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA). The Report provided a detailed account of the achievements realized in the implementation of the TYPOA, including the various challenges faced, and suggesting measures to further consolidate on the gains hitherto made.

104. While acknowledging that the TYPOA resulted in diversification and increase of OIC activities in various domains, the CFM emphasized the imminent expiration of the TYPOA in December 2015 and the need to take stock of the achievements as well as challenges attendant on the implementation of this Programme. To this end, the 40th Session of CFM requested the Secretary General to initiate actions on a comprehensive and inclusive review of the TYPOA with a view to making necessary proposals for a possible successor programme.

105. Consequently, the 41st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 18-19 June 2014, considered the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the decision of 40th CFM with regard to the TYPOA. The Report embodied the respective assessments of the relevant OIC institutions, including the achievements under the TYPOA and general guidelines to be followed in the elaboration of a successor programme. Following the consideration of the Report, the CFM adopted Resolution 1/41-TYPOA on the status of implementation of the Ten Year Programme of

Action (TYPOA). The CFM recognized the significance of TYPOA in scaling-up OIC activities in various domains and the need to maximize and sustain recorded progress and achievements of the OIC beyond 2015. To this end, the CFM welcomed the proposal to elaborate a new OIC Programme of Action for 2016-2025. It also called upon the Secretary General to convene OIC Intergovernmental Experts Group Meeting (EGM) to elaborate a draft programme, while taking into account the contributions by OIC Member States and institutions.

106. Pursuant to the resolution of the 41st CFM, the General Secretariat convened the OIC Intergovernmental Experts Group Meeting (EGM) to consider the draft OIC-2025: Programme of Action at the OIC Headquarters on 18 March 2015. The EGM discussed various aspects of the draft OIC-2025: Programme of Action. It also noted that more time was required to finalize inputs by some delegations and agreed that specific amendments should be forwarded to the OIC General Secretariat latest by 20 April 2015. It also requested the General Secretariat to reconvene the EGM on 6-7 May 2015 to finalize the draft OIC-2025: Programme of Action, which was planned to be submitted for consideration by the 42nd session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Kuwait on 27–28 May 2015.
107. The General Secretariat reconvened the EGM on 6-7 May 2015 to finalize the draft OIC-2025: Programme of Action. The EGM, which was attended by the experts from the OIC member states, considered some parts the draft OIC-2025: Programme of Action (Rev-1), reflecting the amendments received from some Member States by 20 April 2015 as agreed during the First Experts Group Meeting (Jeddah, 18 March 2015).
108. Considering the need to study all amendments, the meeting requested for more time to enable finalization of the document. Accordingly, the EGM urged the Member States to submit their comments and recommendations expeditiously to facilitate the work of the General Secretariat. Since it was not possible for the Experts Group to finalize the document, it requested the Secretary General to bring the matter to the attention of the 42nd Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) to give it chance to continue its work.
109. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers, having considered the outcomes of the above mentioned Intergovernmental Experts Group meetings, requested the Secretary General to continue to facilitate the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Experts Group for early finalization of the new Programme of Action. In line with the resolution of CFM, the next Intergovernmental Experts Group meeting is scheduled for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in November/December 2015 to finalize the draft OIC-2025: Programme of Action.
110. The draft OIC-2025: Programme of Action comprises 17 priority areas in such domain as peace and security, Palestine and Al-Quds, poverty alleviation, science, technology and innovation, education, health, environment, climate change and sustainability as well as culture and interfaith harmony and humanitarian action among others. Each priority area has specific goals and actions. The economic component includes trade, investment and finance; agriculture and food security; employment, infrastructure and industrialization; transport; energy; tourism as well as entrepreneurship and SMEs development.

### **XIII. CONCLUSION:**

111. The follow-up and implementation of the various programmes and activities in the relevant socio-economic domain have been greatly facilitated by the active contribution of the relevant OIC institutions. In this regard, the valuable contribution of IDB Group in successful staging of the First OIC Investment Forum for Central Asia and subsequent incorporation of identified projects in the operational scheme of IDB Group is highly commendable.
112. Equally commendable is the support respectively accorded by IRCICA, SESRIC, ICDT and ISESCO towards the launch of the first OIC City of Tourism Award 2015 as well as the year-long activities already lined-up to commemorate the award, which was given to Al Quds Al Sharif.
113. It is expected that in the aftermath of the Consultative Meeting held on 13 January 2015 in Jeddah, the imminent convening of the General Assembly of IOFS and 7<sup>th</sup> Session of Ministerial Conference of Food Security and Agricultural Development would provide short- and medium-term actions plans for the realization of quick-win joint projects in the area of food security, agriculture and rural development.
114. Similarly, the on-going efforts to closely synergize the programmes and activities of relevant OIC institutions in the domain of trade, standardization, tourism, labour and productivity, Islamic, social and micro finance, would bring about such tangible results in line with OIC objectives of an integrated OIC economy as well as rapid growth and development of its member states.
115. In this regard, it is gladdening to acknowledge the various support and cooperation received from OIC Member States both in the form of early accession to the various OIC multilateral agreements, and commitments to the funding of relevant OIC projects. However, it is necessary to underscore the importance of increased ownership of, and early feedback on, various OIC projects and programmes by the esteemed member states.

**Department of Economic Affairs,  
18 October 2015**