

Original: English

**REPORT OF  
THE 38<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE  
(June 3rd, 2021, Virtual Meeting)**

- The 38<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on June 3rd, 2021, in a virtual only-format, on the sidelines of the 37<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Meeting of the COMCEC.
- The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), the following OIC Institutions attended the Meeting:
  - General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
  - Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
  - Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
  - 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 Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
- 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
  - 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
  - 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**

- Commending 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 2020-June 2021 as well as for the period June 2021-December 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, 71 activities/programmes have been implemented during the concerning time period. Among others, the Poverty, with 23 activities, is the first cooperation area where a significant number of activities have been organized. The Committee was also informed that with respect to types of the activities, training activities are mostly preferred type with 43%, followed by workshops with 30 %, and technical assistance, seminars, forums and other activities with 27 %. Concerning the planned activities in the frame of Group A, the Committee was briefed that there are 46 planned activities, which directly serve to the implementation of the policy recommendations. In this respect, the poverty is the most preferred cooperation area, followed by tourism and agriculture. Out of 46 planned activities of Group A activities, training is reported as the mostly preferred type of activity.

- On the other hand, the Committee was informed by the CCO that under the Group B activities 130 activities have been completed since 36th COMCEC. The majority of the activities have been implemented in poverty alleviation and trade cooperation areas. Regarding the planned activities to be organized between December 2020 and November 2021, the Committee was informed that there are 116 activities to be conducted until 37th COMCEC Session. Among these planned activities, the concerned institutions would mainly focus on trainings and technical assistance programmes with 42.3 %, followed by the research and studies groups with 18.2 %.

- The Committee commended the efforts of the concerned institutions for their specifically designated activities in the six cooperation areas aimed at implementing the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations as well as realizing the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy. The Committee requested the concerned institutions to intensify their efforts and consider the possibility of organizing joint activities to that end.

- The Committee **welcomed** the significant increase in number of activities conducted by OIC institutions for the realization of the COMCEC Strategy especially using video-conferencing facilities and **requested** the OIC institutions to continue to organize virtual training programmes wherever feasible for the member countries.

- Furthermore, the CCO informed the Committee about the current developments regarding the projects supported by the COMCEC Coordination Office under the COMCEC Project

Funding. CCO informed the participants that during six implementation years, 83 projects have been implemented successfully by 24 Member Countries and 3 OIC Institutions. 53 Member Countries have benefited from these projects as partners. Moreover, under the 7th Call for Project Proposals, 22 projects were selected to be financed by the CCO in 2020. However, implementation of these projects postponed to 2021 due to international travel restrictions arising from the COVID 19 pandemic. Also, under the 8th Call for Project Proposals made in September 2020, 5 new projects were selected to be financed by the CCO in 2021. All the projects are expected to be finalized in 2021. While commending the remarkable interest of the Member Countries and OIC Institutions, the Committee invited the relevant OIC Institutions to utilize this mechanism more efficiently for the realization of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

- Highlighting the importance of the online follow-up system (<http://activities.comcec.org>) for simplifying and standardizing the reporting process, the Committee commended the OIC Institutions for utilizing the system reporting their relevant activities. The Committee requested the OIC Institutions to continue reporting their activities through the said platform.
- The Committee took note with appreciation that the CCO would organize a special virtual consultative session with the participation of the concerned OIC Institutions to discuss the ways and means of enhancing the role of OIC institutions in effective implementation of the COMCEC Policy Recommendations. The CCO, in consultation with the relevant OIC Institutions, would identify the specific dates for the said event to be organized prior to the 37th Session of the COMCEC

### **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.
- Based on the views expressed by participating delegations in some COMCEC Working Group meetings, CCO proposed that the activities conducted and facilities offered by the relevant OIC Institutions for offsetting the negative impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic in the member countries may be compiled and published as a concise electronic/ published booklet for raising awareness. The Committee welcomed the proposal of CCO agreed that the CCO, as the Chair of the Sessional Committee, would consult with the OIC General Secretariat about the possibility of producing and publicizing a booklet on COVID-19 related activities/projects/programmes of the concerned institutions with the contribution of all stakeholders. The Committee also welcomed the willingness of the ICCIA to be the focal point for reporting the developments from the private sector aspect.

### **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 37<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Sessions of the COMCEC.

- The Committee was informed by the CCO that in line with the relevant resolution of the COMCEC Sessions, “the List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Related to the SDGs for the period of 2020 and 2021” would be compiled by the CCO and submitted to the 37<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session.
- In accordance with the decision of the previous Sessional Committee Meeting, the Committee requested CCO to continue its consultations with SESRIC towards THE establishment of an online platform to better follow-up of the SDG-related activities of the OIC Institutions.
- The Committee welcomed the proposal of ICDT for publicizing the SDG-related activities of the concerned OIC Institutions in a single and concise booklet/pamphlet. The Committee agreed that CCO, as the Chair of the Sessional Committee, would consult with the OIC General Secretariat about the possibility of producing such a booklet/pamphlet.

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

- The Committee was informed by the ICIEC (IsDB Group) on the progress towards the launching of “the OIC Business Intelligence Programme” initiative. The Committee noted the recent developments and efforts, and requested the ICIEC in cooperation with SESRIC to finalize the technical preparations for the operationalization of the Program. In this respect, the Committee welcomed the short and medium term plan of actions of the ICIEC aimed at launching the Programme. For the efficiency of the Center, CCO proposed that capacity enhancement and networking activities may be initiated from now on so that in the interim period would be utilized for laying the ground for cooperation in this crucial area.
- Taking note of the limited responses to the questionnaire conducted by the ICIEC in collaboration with SESRIC, the Committee requested the ICIEC in collaboration with SESRIC to continue their efforts to increase the number of the responses as well as submit their assessments on the outputs of the questionnaire to the 37<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session.

### **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, projects, and programmes.
- The Committee underlined that the contributions of the concerned institutions to the Palestine need to be showcased in relevant OIC fora.
- The Committee welcomed the project idea of the ICCIA aimed at organizing some activities to put forward the Islamic heritage of the Al-Quds Sharif in Palestine.

### **Any Other Business**

- The Committee Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

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