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REPORT

OF

THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

TO

**THE 35TH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL
COOPERATION OF THE OIC (COMCEC)**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The report of the Secretary General features the most recent actions by the General Secretariat and institutions working in the economic domain, since the convening of the 34th COMCEC General Assembly session held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 26-29 November 2018. These actions are aimed at following up the implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, the relevant resolutions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, COMCEC and other decision-making bodies of the OIC.
2. In addition to the series of interventions by the relevant OIC institutions through on-going projects on trade and investment, infrastructure and agro-industrial development, and microfinance, the convening of the 6th OIC Halal Expo, 16th OIC Trade Fair, the elaboration of OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy (IDRIP) and an intra-OIC cooperation framework on the development of strategic agricultural commodities have featured prominently on the agenda of the OIC during the period under review. The report also highlighted other activities implemented during the period under review with regard to development of private sector; execution of OIC poverty alleviation initiatives and regional development programmes; establishment of permanent OIC Investment Dispute Settlement Mechanism; and economic assistance to the needy OIC Member States, among others.
3. The report would also show-case activities aimed at attaining the new intra-OIC target of 25% in 2025, including the objective of establishing a trade-free zone, in the wake of the anticipated implementation of the Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC). Other programmes elaborated and implemented during the year under review are in the domain of industrialization, transport sector cooperation, energy, tourism, labour, employment and social protection, the role of the Private Sector, entrepreneurship and financial sector development.
4. In addition to the various activities conducted by the General Secretariat during the period under review, this Report shall dwell on the activities of the numerous OIC institutions working in the economic domain. In line with the statutory responsibilities of the General Secretariat on coordination of OIC institutions, the General Secretariat has organized the Fourth Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI), held in Jeddah, OIC Headquarters on 3-4 December 2018. This meeting was implemental in fast-tracking and prioritizing the implementation of various OIC resolutions, while at the same time creating synergy and effective collaboration among OIC institutions and indeed other development partners.

II. AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

5. The need to consolidate the various OIC executive organs for the implementation of OIC policies and decisions in the domain of agriculture, rural development and food security is closely related to the realization of relevant OIC targets in the agricultural sector. In this regard, during the period under review the OIC General Secretariat has continued to deploy efforts towards the consolidation of structures of newly established specialized

institution, the Islamic Organization for Food Security and elaboration of dedicated OIC programmes for development of strategic commodities. This is in addition to programmes and projects that OIC institutions have continued to initiate and execute various initiatives for the benefit of OIC member states.

(a) Islamic Organization for Food Security

6. As it was reported to 34th Session of COMCEC, following the ratification of the Headquarters Agreement between IOFS and the Government of Kazakhstan by the Parliament of Kazakhstan in November 2017, the Secretariat of IOFS started its operations on 1st March 2018. Furthermore, the Statute of IOFS entered into force definitively on 19 February 2018 upon its ratification by ten (10) member states. In addition, during the year under review, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ratified the Statute and deposited the instruments of ratification at the OIC General Secretariat, respectively. As a result, the number of OIC member states, which have signed the IOFS Statute, reached 32, while 12 countries have so far ratified the same.
7. Following the entry into force of the IOFS Statute, the second session of IOFS General Assembly was scheduled to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 10-11 December 2018. But due to unforeseen administrative and logistical constraints, the convening of this session was postponed to 2019. The General Assembly will consider issues relating to general and financial policies, work programme and organizational structure of IOFS. It will also reconstitute the membership of IOFS Executive Board in view of the entry into force of the IOFS Statute. The General Assembly will further consider the elaboration and execution of cooperation projects on food security as well as full implementation of the IOFS -5-Year Plan of Action approved by the Inaugural General Assembly in 2016.
8. In view of the foregoing, the General Secretariat renews its request to other OIC member states to conclude all necessary arrangements to accede to the Statute of IOFS at their earliest convenience, as well as support IOFS in developing cooperation projects in this important sector.

(b) Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development

9. As it was reported to 34th Session of COMCEC, the Government of the Republic of Turkey has graciously offered to host the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCFSAD) in Istanbul, Turkey during the last quarter of 2019. To this end, the General Secretariat is presently working with the relevant authorities in Turkey on fixing of the dates as well as preparing documents of the Conference, including necessary logistical arrangements.
10. It is expected that the 8th MCFSAD will consider the implementation of resolutions of the previous Conferences, including the activities of IOFS, and financing of projects in the domain of agriculture and food security in OIC member states. It will also consider the OIC Programmes of Action for Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities (wheat, rice, and cassava), which will outline the main objectives and focus areas of

intra-OIC-cooperation. In addition, the 8th MCFSAD will appoint members of the Steering Committee of the MCFSAD, which will be established by the Conference for the purpose of following-up of implementation of the OIC resolutions in the domain of agriculture and food security.

(c) OIC Programmes of Action for Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities

11. The 34th Session of COMCEC took note of the ongoing elaboration of OIC programmes of action for development of strategic agricultural commodities such as wheat, rice and cassava pursuant to the Resolution No.1/43-E adopted by 43rd CFM and encouraged OIC member states to provide their respective inputs to these programmes.
12. Consequently, in February 2019, the General Secretariat circulated among OIC member states drafts of OIC Programme of Action for Development of Rice; OIC Programme of Action for Development of Wheat; and OIC Programme of Action for Development of Cassava, respectively. It also requested them to submit their respective inputs and comments on these drafts in order to enhance their ownership and subsequent implementation.
13. The proposed programmes lay out a vision for commodity-led industrialization. They will seek to enable OIC countries, which are top producers of these commodities, to add value, extract higher rents from their commodities, integrate into the global value chains, and promote value addition, among others. Accordingly, the drafts of these programmes with Member States' inputs will be submitted to the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development for review and validation.
14. In view of the foregoing, OIC member states are hereby requested to send their inputs to above mentioned programmes at their earliest convenience.

(d) Financing of Agricultural Projects by IDB

15. Recognizing the importance of agriculture sector to socio-economic development of OIC member states, the IDB has recently increased its interventions in the agriculture sector, which targets small entrepreneurs in OIC member states. Accordingly, during 2018, the IDB launched a US\$10 million Regional Rice Value Chain Development Program for the benefit of 10 OIC countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Sudan) in Sub-Saharan Africa. The program, which will be implemented during 2018-2019, aims at assisting these countries to achieve self-sufficiency in rice production as well as to reduce rice imports significantly. It is expected that 2 million smallholder households across these countries will benefit from this program.
16. IDB also supported the implementation of a US\$12 million Regional Soil Fertility Mapping Project of West Africa. This project, which involves six OIC countries (Cote D'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone) in West Africa, aims at improving crop production and productivity in targeted areas.

(e) Training Programmes

17. Within its mandate, SESRIC has continued to organize training programmes in the area of increasing productivity of agriculture sector and sustaining food security for the benefit of OIC member states. Accordingly, during the year under review, SESRIC has organized the following activities:
- 1) Practical and Theoretical Training Course on “Development of Sustainable Transgenic Technology, Commercialization and Post-release Monitoring”, Ankara, Turkey, 8-10 May 2018;
 - 2) Seminar on “Regional Seminar on Innovative Technologies in Water Sector for the achievement of the SDG 6” Amman, Jordan, 26-28 June 2018; and
 - 3) Study Visit on “Sustainable Aquaculture in Palestine”, Antalya, Turkey, 24-28 September 2018.
 - 4) Study Visit on “Sustainable Aquaculture in OIC Countries” in Antalya, Turkey on 3-7 December 2018, within the framework of OIC Agriculture Capacity Building Programme.

III. EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY

18. In recent years, intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of labour, employment and social protection has continuously grown in depth and scope. The implementation of the OIC Framework on Labour, Employment and Social Protection has continued to stimulate the recorded growth in this sector. During the year under review, the OIC and its relevant institutions have continued to carry out activities aimed at helping job-seekers in OIC countries develop their personal and organizational skills, knowledge, and abilities, as well as improving their competitiveness and consequently their performance. This is more so considering the fact that the unemployment rate in OIC member states as a group fluctuated between 7.4% and 9.1% during the period 2000-2017 and creating decent job opportunities still continue to be priority for absolute majority of OIC countries. Accordingly, during the period under review the following activities were accomplished:

(a) 3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee of Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers

19. As it was reported to 34th Session of COMCEC the 4th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers, was held on 21-22 February 2018 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The 4th ICLM considered and adopted the three legal frameworks to harmonize standards and practices on labour matters among OIC member states, namely: i) Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Skills; ii) Bilateral Agreement on Exchange of Workforce; and iii) OIC Labour Market Strategy.
20. In view of the foregoing, the Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers was held In Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 10-11 March 2019. The meeting undertook a review of the implementation of the decisions of the 4th ICLM, including the OIC Framework on Labour, Employment and Social Protection.

21. The meeting underscored the need to continue implementing the decisions of the Islamic Conferences of Labour Ministers, including the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection through identifying and incorporating concrete and implementable actions. To this end, the meeting endorsed the updated Executive Programme, which features capacity building activities to be executed during the year 2019/2020 in six cooperation areas prioritized by the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection.
22. During the project year 2019/2020, major training programmes projects planned for member states include:
 - (a) Training/capacity building programmes on OSH;
 - (b) Workshop on Promoting self-employment and upgrading the informal sector;
 - (c) Training on skills and entrepreneurship development;
 - (d) Training workshop on improving the governance of labour migration and the protection of migrant/foreign contract workers' rights;
 - (e) Workshop on institutional capacity building for effective labour market information systems;
 - (f) Workshop on Ensuring and Expanding Social Security and Protection of Wages; and
 - (g) Workshop on Reintegrating Former Prisoners into the labor market, among others.

(b) Accession to the Statute of OIC Labour Centre

23. The General Secretariat has continued to sensitize OIC member states on the need to sign and ratify the Statute of OIC Labour Centre in order to facilitate its timely operationalisation. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that during the period under review, the Republic of Azerbaijan has ratified the Statute of OIC Labour Centre. In addition, Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Republic of Sudan signed the Statute of OIC Labour Centre during the 46th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of OIC held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019, thus bringing the total number of OIC member states, which signed the same to five.
24. In view of the foregoing, it should be noted that the Statute of OIC Labour Centre 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 instruments of ratification.
25. Against this background, the General Secretariat reiterates its earlier call on other OIC member states to conclude all necessary arrangements to accede to the Statute of OIC Labour Centre at their earliest convenience.

IV. INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT

26. Intra-OIC trade activities feature cooperation actions and interventions in the area of trade promotion, financing and facilitation, and export credit insurances. Other areas of activity include halal sector development, investment promotion and capacity building programmes, OIC South-South cooperation, including outcome of the various consultations and coordination with regional and international partners.

(a) Recent Outlook of Intra-OIC Trade

27. According to ICDT data, intra-OIC net trade volume reached US\$ 322.2 billion in 2017 compared to US\$ 278.2 billion in 2016, due to the fluctuation of commodities prices including oil, mining and food products. Besides, the share of intra-OIC Trade in the overall foreign trade of Member States increased by 6 % from 18.7% in 2016 to 19.8% in 2017.

28. The main intra-OIC trading countries in 2017 were: UAE, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Egypt, Pakistan, Oman and Iraq. These countries registered 74.6% of the intra-OIC trade for a total of US\$ 481 billion.

29. In 2017, about 28 countries reached the 25% target of intra-OIC trade target set up in the OIC-2025: Programme of Action. These countries are: Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, The Gambia, Togo, Mali, Tajikistan, Djibouti, Jordan, Bahrain, Lebanon, Senegal, Oman, Sierra Leone, Egypt, UAE, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Benin, Comoros, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Chad.

30. As for world trade of OIC countries as a group, the share of OIC countries decreased from US\$ 4.2 trillion in 2014 to US\$3.2 trillion in 2017, i.e. a 22% decline. This was a result of fluctuating commodity prices, the existence of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment and the fragile environment of the global economy and trade. The trade share of the OIC countries accounted for 11% in 2014 against 9.4% of world trade in 2017, i.e. a 14.4% decline.

(b) Trade Promotion

31. During the period under review, the OIC, through its relevant institutions, organized the following specialized exhibitions, aimed at promoting trade exchanges and increasing access to goods and products from OIC member states:

- *The 6th Exhibition of the OIC Halal Expo was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 29 November - 2 December 2018.* This Exhibition witnessed the nearly 32,000 visitors, over 150 firms, and 270 international B2B delegations.
- *4th OIC Health Expo.* 4th OIC Health Expo held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on 7-9 December 2018 in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Hygiene Public of the Republic of

Cote d'Ivoire. More than 10 countries attended this event mobilising 2000 visitors and organising 20 B2B Meetings.

- 16th OIC Trade Fair was held in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq, on 7-13 April 2019. In line with the resolution of the 45th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the relevant Authorities of the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) will organize a 16th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in Baghdad on 7 to 13 April 2019.
- 1st Exhibition and Forum on Transport and Logistics in the OIC Member States. 1st Exhibition and Forum on Transport and Logistics in the OIC Member States will be organised from 9th to 11th April 2019, concomitantly with the 8th edition of the International Exhibition of Transport and Logistics (LOGISMED 2019) in Casablanca in collaboration with National Single Window of Foreign Trade Procedures of the Kingdom of Morocco (PORTNET) in collaboration with the Moroccan company (LOGISMED). On the sidelines of this event, ICDT will organise a panel on trade facilitation in the OIC Member States.

(c) Trade Financing and Export Credit Insurances

32. 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 Organization.
33. For the year 2018, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation's (ITFC) trade finance approvals reached US\$5.2 billion (for a target of US\$5.1 billion in 2018), a 6.1% increase, compared to the US\$4.9 billion in 2017. On the other hand, disbursements reached US\$4.5 billion (for a target of US\$4.1 billion in 2018), an increase of 32.3%, compared to US\$3.4 billion in 2017.
34. ITFC launched a flagship Arab Africa Trade Bridges (AATB) Program, which is designed to enhance trade as a tool to enhance trade as a tool to increase economic opportunities and support inclusive and sustainable growth across the Arab and sub-Saharan members of OIC. Key highlights of the program:
 - B2Bs in agri-food and pharmaceutical products
 - Partnering with the organization of Tunisia Africa Business Forum
 - Contributed and participated in the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF)
 - Established and managed the IsDBG AATB Steering Committee
 - Organized the first meeting of the top two layers of the Program's Governance Structure, namely the Governing Board (GB) and the Executive Committee (EC)
35. ITFC has also launched a West Africa SMEs Program to establish a bridge between the West Africa's SMEs and banks through capacity building for both SMEs and banks that will benefit from the effective utilization of lines of financing aimed at SME's support. Key achievements in this domain include:

- Launching of pilot projects for Senegal and Burkina Faso;
 - Establishing partnerships and mobilizing resources for the pilot project;
 - Signing of agreements with the partner bank and the executing agency.
36. Since inception 25 years ago, Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit's (ICIEC) mandate in providing Takaful credit and investment insurance services has uniquely positioned it to *enlarge the scope of trade transactions and investment flow among member countries*. While this has led ICIEC to be an impactful Multilateral financial institution, it has also put the Corporation at the cross-road of many global challenges.
37. In 2018, ICIEC was able to increase its business insured by 20% to USD 9.03 billion compared to USD 7.53 billion during 2017. Trade related business insured reached USD 6.19 billion compared to USD 5,81 billion in 2017 marking an increase by 7%; while Investment business insured remarkably increased by 65% reaching USD 2.84 billion compared to USD 1.72 billion.
38. As a result, the impact of ICIEC services translated into the support worth of USD 4.91 billion for member countries' exports, USD 4.28 billion for member countries' imports, USD 2.84 billion for inward foreign direct investments into member countries and USD 1.19 billion for outward foreign direct investments from member countries. In addition, the Corporation supported a volume of USD 8.5 billion of Intra-OIC business involving 35 countries.

(d) Trade Facilitation

39. The General Secretariat has continued to sensitize member states on the need to give effect to the various OIC multilateral trade instruments in force. Although the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) on TPS-OIC could not convene during the period of this report, the status of signing and ratification of OIC economic agreements, including TPS-OIC is annexed to this Report (*Annex-I*).
40. The following 14 OIC member states: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Turkey, Malaysia, Syria, Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan and Jordan have sent to the TNC Secretariat the List of Products for tariff concessions under the TPS/OIC. Moreover, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Morocco and Turkey notified to the TNC Secretariat their internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS/OIC Rules of Origin.
41. The TNC Secretariat requested the concerned member states to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience. The Committee welcomed the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan and Iran.

42. 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 the required documents, in line with the 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.
43. In line with the relevant OIC resolutions, the ICDT, the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) and the ICCIA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Sudan, organized a training Workshop on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC) and Multilateral Trading System in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan on 17-18 December 2018. More than 60 Participants from Sudan Public and Private Sector senior officials attended this workshop. The objective of the Workshop was to raise awareness about the importance of Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS/OIC) and its protocols and the recent development of the Multilateral Trading System including Sudan's accession to WTO. This Workshop was beneficial as it explained the Trade Preferential System for the Private Sector, which can be instrumental in expanding the trade relations between the Member Countries.

(e) Investment Promotion

i. Second OIC Regional Investment Forum

44. The General Secretariat of the OIC in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Tunisia and the relevant OIC institutions, will organize a Second OIC Regional Investment Forum in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia in the second half of 2019. This Forum is taking place in accordance with the 43rd CFM Resolution held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016.
45. The objective of the Forum is to attract more foreign direct investments to the OIC regions and provide guidance and practical examples for ways in which intra-OIC investment flows can be promoted towards achieving socio-economic development goals of the countries in the region. The Forum will also provide a platform for policy makers and respective business communities at national and regional levels to meet and exchange knowledge, and articulate commitments to improve the investment climate in the region. The Concept Note on the Forum was distributed among the Member States in September 2018.

ii. Establishment of the Permanent OIC Investment Dispute Settlement Mechanism

46. The 43rd Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) mandated the Secretary General (Resolution No. 1/43-E) in consultation with Member States and relevant OIC

organs/institutions including COMCEC to propose modalities for the creation of a permanent body for the settlement of disputes arising the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the OIC Member States. In this context, the General Secretariat in coordination with ICDT and IsDB, prepared a Concept Paper on the establishment of a permanent mechanism for the settlement of disputes out of the above-mentioned OIC Investment Agreement. The said Concept Paper was submitted to the 46th CFM, held in Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019 as well as distributed among the Member States in February 2019.

47. Consequently, the 46th CFM noted the Concept Paper contained in the Report of the Secretary General (Resolution No. 2/46-E (B)), which proposed modalities to the creation of a said permanent OIC body and requested the General Secretariat to submit the Concept Paper to an open-ended Intergovernmental Experts Group Meeting and then to COMCEC, to enable further discussions among Member States and relevant OIC institutions with a view to determining the appropriate modalities towards fulfilling the requirements of the above Agreement.

(f) Halal Sector Development

48. The 6th OIC Halal Expo and World Halal Summit (WHS) 2018 were held on 29 November-02 December 2018 in Istanbul, under the auspices of President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN in line with the co-operation framework between SMIIC and Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) under the theme of “Halal and Healthy Life: Awareness and Sustainability”. The aim of the WHS and OIC Halal Expo is to promote intra-OIC Halal Trade and sharing of the latest developments regarding Halal across the OIC.
49. SMIIC Scientific Conference was held during the World Halal Summit 2018 on the 29 November -01 December 2018 and speeches/presentations on Halal Food, Meat and Slaughtering Studies, Halal Pharmaceuticals, Laboratories and Halal Authentication, Halal Supply Chain, Halal Animal Feed and Halal Leather Products were made 50 prominent scientists and/or experts from all over the world. The proceeds of the scientific conference are being gathered in a book that will be published.
50. World Halal Summit 2018 hosted 60 speakers from 25 different countries. Also 5000 delegates from 38 different countries followed the conference sessions. Meanwhile, 6th OIC Halal Expo gathered 350 company from 33 different countries to introduce their products/system in this platform and provided networking opportunities and B2B meetings to see the roles of each contributor in this industry.
51. A regional Conference on “Implementation of SMIIC Standards for Halal products in Central Asia” was held on the 19 November 2018 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. The Conference was organized by SMIIC and the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Conference was attended by approximately 120 representatives from the private and public sector from Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

52. SMIIC Auditor Foundation Training Program 2018-Central Asia was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic on 20-22 November 2018. The training was attended by 30 participants from private and public sector from Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The training was given in English and Russian. The program was co-organized by SMIIC and The Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic.

V. TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

53. The 46th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), commended the celebration of the City of Tourism Award, and encouraged OIC member states to actively participate in the commemorative programmes to be undertaken in their respective countries. While urging all member states to organize annual events on Islamic tourism in order to promote intra-OIC tourist flow, CFM encouraged private sector entities of the member states to promote intra-OIC tourism by actively participating in the OIC Tourism Fair, to be held in Kuwait City, State of Kuwait in 2019, including the sidelines event relating to the Forum on Public Private Investors in the area of Tourism.

(a) Commemoration of OIC City of Tourism Award 2018 and 2019

54. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has organized an official Launching Ceremony on Commemoration of Tabriz, as OIC City of Tourism for 2018, in Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran on 25 April 2018. The delegates from Member States, diplomatic Missions and guests attended the Ceremony. Numerous cultural and artistic events as well as street festivals are underway across Tabriz in celebration of the occasion. The city has also offered special discounts on hotels, museums, historic sites and handicrafts for visitors.
55. The General Secretariat has request the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh to obtain a suitable documentary film (s) on tourism attractions of Dhaka. This is required for transmission to Member States to enable allocation of airtime to showcase the City of Dhaka in OIC Member States, considering its selection as OIC City of Tourism 2019. In addition, the General Secretariat, in collaboration with its relevant institutions, is planning to organize an OIC Expo on Eco-tourism in Dhaka, Bangladesh during the year, in commemoration of OIC City of Tourism for 2019.

(a) Implementation of the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States

56. In line the implementation of the Strategic Roadmap on the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States and within the framework of the OIC Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tr-CaB), SESRIC, in cooperation with SMIIC, organized a 3-day training course on "Halal Tourism and Muslim-Friendly Hospitality Service" in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 13-15 November 2018.
57. The training focused mainly on the State of Halal Tourism in OIC countries; halal certification and accreditation: history and current practices; Halal Tourism standards

around the world; Developing and marketing Halal Tourism products and services in the OIC countries. Other topics included; In-depth Understanding of Faith-based needs of Muslim travelers; Understanding Key Profiles, Drivers, Socio-Economic and Cultural Dimensions of Halal Tourism; and Designing Strategic Communications and Branding for Halal Tourism in OIC Countries. Following the theoretical training course, a study visit took place to various Muslim-Friendly hotels and locations.

58. Within the same framework, SESRIC also organized a Seminar on “Halal Tourism in OIC Countries” in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on 16 November 2018. The Seminar mainly focused on understanding the Halal concept, definition, fields and applications; current practices of Halal in selected OIC Countries, and the State of Halal Tourism in the Member States.
59. In addition, SESRIC organized a statistics course on “Tourism Statistics” in Brunei on 4-6 December 2018 provided by an expert from BPS-Statistics Indonesia with the participation of relevant officials of the JPKE of Brunei Darussalam.

VI. COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF TRANSPORT

60. Cooperation in the transport sector remains an important area of interaction among the OIC member states. Available statistics indicate that this sector has recorded many cooperation activities, which could be said to account for the recorded growth in this sub-sector. For example, OIC countries carried 14% of the world passengers and 18.2% of the world freight in 2016 as against 9% of the world passengers and 10% of the world freight in 2009. In addition, the 925 km Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway, which IDB partially financed and was inaugurated in 2014, OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway and the Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Oman Transport Corridor Agreement (Ashgabat Agreement) are good examples of development of transport cooperation among OIC member states. This part of the report summarizes the recent developments and planned OIC activities in this important sector.

(a) Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers

61. As it was reported to 34th Session of COMCEC, the Government of the Republic of Sudan had graciously offered to host the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers in Khartoum, Sudan on 17-19 December 2017. However, Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers had been postponed due to some unforeseen logistical difficulties.
62. In view of the foregoing, the 46th CFM held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on 1-2 March 2019, requested the OIC Secretary General to conclude necessary arrangements with the relevant authorities in the Republic of Sudan for the early convening of the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers. To this end, the General Secretariat is presently working with the relevant authorities in Sudan on the rescheduling of Conference. It is expected that the Conference will evaluate the implementation of the OIC resolutions on transportation and review the progress on execution of OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project. The Conference will be briefed on the progress made in the execution of cross-

border transport corridors such as (a) Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway project; and (b) Trans-Saharan Road Corridor. Most importantly, Conference will review and validate the envisaged actions of OIC-IDRIP in the transportation sector.

63. In addition, the Conference will also receive a presentation on the activities and challenges of OISA and make pronouncement on modalities for enhancing the role of OISA in realizing the OIC agenda on cooperation in maritime sector.

VII. ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR

64. Private sector growth is widely acknowledged to be an essential component in promoting socio-economic development and providing more economic opportunities in any given society. Recognizing this, the various CFM sessions called on member states to mainstream the role of the Private sector for the advancement of socio-economic development and cooperation within the OIC. Accordingly, this segment of report summarizes the activities of the relevant OIC institutions.

(a) 27th Board of Directors; 28th Board of Directors; and 35th General Assembly Meetings of ICCIA

65. On the sidelines of the 27th Board Meeting of ICCIA, held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 22-23 October 2018, ICCIA organized a Meeting for the Private Sector on the theme of “Inclusion in Sharia Economy: A New Paradigm”. The Sessions of the Meeting covered “Opportunities for Investment in OIC Countries (with a special focus on Infrastructure Development in Indonesia)”, “Development of Halal Economy for OIC Countries”, “Economic Empowerment of Businesswomen” and “Digital Economy - A Dynamic Concept for OIC Countries”. The objectives of these sessions were to highlight the opportunities available in the specific areas, in the OIC Countries.
66. During the B2B Sessions, representatives of the Private Sector showed interest in the available investment and trading opportunities in Indonesia and other OIC Countries. After the deliberation, MOUs for cooperation were signed between the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) & Indonesian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KADIN) and Saudi Indonesian Business Council and Indonesian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KADIN) to further promote trade, tourism, investment, and economic cooperation between their members and the private sector in general.
67. The 28th Board of Directors and 35th General Assembly Meetings of Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) were held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 3-4 March 2019. The General Assembly Meeting approved the planned activities of the Chamber for the year 2019.
68. Hence, on the sidelines of the Board and General Assembly Meetings, the ICCIA has co-organized with the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce (FEDCOC) the 4th Egypt Investment Forum, held in Cairo, Arabic Republic of Egypt from 2nd to 4th March

2019. The Forum was held under the Egyptian Presidency of the African Union on the theme of "Go Africa". The aim was to promote trilateral cooperation in trade and investment through linking technology providers, with Arab investors and development banks and funds to implement selected projects in manufacturing, agriculture, energy, ICT, transport and value-added trade and logistics. The event brought together business leaders from Arab, Asia and Africa regions.

69. The major planned activities of ICCIA for 2019 include: 17th Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member States/Trade Exchange Forum; 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Countries; Forum/Workshop for Public and Private Investors in the area of Tourism Development; Workshop on Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries-Challenges and Opportunities; Workshop on Scaling-up existing Enterprises through Skill Development; and Workshop on Promotion of Cottage Industries through SMEs.

(b) Sharing of Best Practices for the Benefit of the Private Sector

70. One of the positive results of the Businesswomen Forums organized by ICCIA has led to the setting up of a Family Bank in Sudan with a capital of US\$35 Million. The said Bank's portfolio provides micro-financing on Sharia terms for start-ups, productive families, women and youth. The Bank has expanded all over Sudan with 41 branches, offering services to the targeted segment of the society.
71. The Project was submitted to the 7th Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of OIC Member States, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in November 2018. The Conference has adopted a Resolutions calling for the possibility of establishing similar entities in other OIC Countries, for the benefit of the women and youth. In this context, the Islamic Chamber in contact with the IDB Group to assist in holding Training Programmes in concerned Member Countries to familiarize to adopt the best practices of the Family Bank of Sudan.
72. The UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office (UNIDO/ITPO) in Bahrain has also shown their interest to assist Training Programme that can be held on the establishment of Microcredit entities on the line of Family Bank. Similarly, Arab Union for Industrial Exports Development, Egypt is also offering to work with the ICCIA to provide training on areas of common interest, particularly in the African Countries. They have also showed the possibility of undertaking some training programmes in CIS Countries.
73. Furthermore, in view of the useful and practical approach of the Family Bank in the field of Microfinance, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) has published the Success Story of the Family Bank in its publication "Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development", which was translated into several languages and distributed globally, it was launched on 12th September 2018, in New York on the occasion of the UN South-South Cooperation Day.

(c) Establishment of OIC Arbitration Centre

74. The 46th CFM took note of the steps in setting up of the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul, as per the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, which will be hosted by the Republic of Turkey and Union of Turkish Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) as an organ affiliated to the ICCIA.

(d) Workshop on Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries - Challenges and Opportunities

75. ICCIA will be organizing a Workshop on “Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities” in collaboration with the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF) and FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa in Cairo-Arab Republic of Egypt in June 2019.
76. The objectives of the Workshop is to combat poverty and move towards self-reliance and prosperity under climate change and to highlight the importance of developing green economy and technology in OIC Countries and to integrating green economy & technology into planning, policy formulation & programs development process by incentivizing the users and making necessary institutional arrangement as well as to promote green economy & technology that: minimizes degradation of the environment; safe for use and promotes healthy and improved environment; zero or low GHG emissions; conserves energy and natural resources and promotes use of renewable energy resources.

(e) Capacity Building programme for SMEs

77. SESRIC in cooperation with the Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC) organized a Workshop on “Effect of Entrepreneurship Strategies on SMEs Development” on 30 April - 01 May 2019 in Tehran, Iran in line with the relevant resolution of the 34th Session of the COMCEC.

(f) Activities of Islamic Corporation for Development of Private Sector (ICD)

78. The Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), a member of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, currently has an authorized capital of US\$ 4 billion and its shareholders feature 54 OIC member states and 5 public financial institutions. The mandate of the ICD is to support the economic development of OIC member states through the provision of finance to private sector projects in accordance with the principles of Sharia’a.
79. Since inception till 31st December 2018, gross approvals of ICD have amounted to US\$ 6.4 billion, allocated to more than 400 projects. In terms of disbursement, the total ICD disbursement amounted to US\$ 3.2 billion. Sector-wise, cumulative ICD approvals spread over a number of sector, namely: financial sector (57%), industrial and mining sector (20%), and real estate, healthcare and others (23%), respectively.

80. Regarding geographic distribution, ICD investment operations expanded to over 50 member states. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region accounts for 31% of gross approvals, followed by Europe and Central Asia (22%), Sub-Saharan Africa (18%), and Asia and Pacific (14%). The share of regional/global projects covering several countries was nearly 15% of gross approvals.
81. According to ICD's General Assembly Resolution, the authorized capital of ICD has been increased from US\$ 2 billion to US\$ 4 billion, and the capital available for subscription has been raised from US\$1 billion to US\$2 billion. So far, ICD has received strong support of its shareholders for the 2nd General Capital Increase. As of the end of 2018, out of US\$ 1 billion available for subscription, US\$ 828 million worth of shares were subscribed by 36 ICD shareholders. On the payment side, and as of the end of 2018, ICD has already received payments of different shareholders at a total amount of more than US\$ 410 Million.

VIII. POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

82. Alleviation of poverty remains a major challenge to developmental efforts of OIC member states. To this end, the various OIC poverty alleviation initiatives are aimed at creating jobs by fostering skills, competitiveness and entrepreneurship. Accordingly, this segment will highlight the latest developments with regard to OIC poverty alleviation programmes such as Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA) and Special Programme for Central Asia (SPCA). It also includes activities of relevant OIC institutions in the area of poverty alleviation.

(a) *Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD)*

83. The 46th Session of CFM reiterated its earlier call on OIC member states to redeem their respective pledges to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and to make additional commitments on a voluntary basis, including allocation of Waqf in favour of ISFD so as to achieve the target capital of the said Fund, which is US\$ 10 billion.
84. As of 31 October 2018, the level of pledged capital contributions to the ISFD stood at US\$2.7 billion, committed by 49 member states (US\$1.7 billion) and the IDB (US\$1 billion). This represents 27% of the approved target capital of US\$10 billion. No new commitment has been made in 2018.
85. The total amount of paid contributions stood at US\$2.585 billion, of which US\$1 billion was paid by the IDB and US\$1.585 billion by member states. Out of 49 OIC member states, 28 have fully redeemed their pledges, 10 partially, and 11 have yet to redeem their pledges. 8 OIC member states (Afghanistan, Djibouti, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Tajikistan, Somalia and UAE) have not made any commitment with regard to ISFD.
86. With regard to operations, ISFD has continued to approve projects within the framework of its programmes such as Micro-Finance Support Programme (MFSP), Vocational

Literacy Programme (VOILP), Sustainable Villages Programme (SVP), Save the Mother's Programme and the Renewable Energy Programme for the Poor.

87. Cumulatively, ISFD, since its inception in 2007, has approved US\$834.22 million for financing of a total of 118 projects in 33 OIC member states. The main sectors of focus have been (i) Agriculture (45%); (ii) Education (24%); (iii) Health (13%); and (iv) Finance (13%). The OIC Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have been the main beneficiaries, receiving more than 80% of the Fund's financing.
88. In line with the relevant resolutions of CFM, the General Secretariat has sensitized member states of the need to make in-kind contributions to ISFD through allocation of Wakf landed property for ISFD and through the mobilization of contributions from high net-worth persons and philanthropies from OIC member states.
89. Subsequently, Benin, Burkina Faso and Comoros have allocated a plot of land to ISFD under the Waqf Programme. In addition, several countries have already expressed their interest to commit land for this purpose, including: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Maldives, Togo and Sudan.

(b) Special Programme for Central Asia

90. As it was reported to 34th Session of COMCEC, SPCA, which is aimed at supporting the cooperation efforts of OIC Member States in Central Asia, and which has been elaborated within the framework of OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia (PACCA), covers six OIC countries, namely, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. This Programme with a total financing of US\$6 billion features four priority areas as trade; energy; transport and agriculture, and its implementation period is set 2016-2020.
91. Within the framework of SPCA's execution, IDB has received 12 projects, amounting to US\$1.04 billion. Of these, two are energy projects aimed at tapping into the gas and water resources of the region to generate energy, while two transport projects will contribute to linking the region both within and with neighboring countries. Two agriculture projects will support increased fruit production and trading as well as the development of complementary infrastructure in an economic zone in Tajikistan and Halal meat standardization and certification in the Kyrgyz Republic. Other projects include a project on upgrading internet connectivity in Turkmenistan and a capacity building project on development value chains, among others.

(c) Special Programme for the Development of Africa

92. The SPDA is a US\$12 billion facility launched in 2008 and aimed at advancing pro-poor socio-economic activities. The sectoral priorities under the SPDA are geared towards promoting economic growth and regional integration. The SPDA focuses on (i) agriculture for food security; (ii) water and sanitation; (iii) power generation and

distribution; (iv) transport infrastructure; (v) education; and (vi) eliminating major communicable diseases.

93. In November 2012, when the approval phase of SPDA was completed, the level of funding commitments to the Programme by IDB Group reached US\$ 5 billion, while those from other international partners amounted to US\$7 billion. A total of 480 projects has been approved for financing under the SPDA in 22 OIC African member states.
94. Since the focus has been on deepening the implementation of approved projects to ensure that the expected outcomes are achieved. In this regard, it is noteworthy that the following projects were completed successfully, while other are still under implementation phase:
- Roseires Dam in Sudan;
 - Basic Urban Infrastructure for Social Housing Project in Bamako, Mali;
 - Social Housing Project in Bamako, Mali;
 - Linguere-Matam Road, Senegal;
 - Construction of the Dapaong-Ponio-Border Road, Burkina Faso;
 - Construction of Koudougou Dedougou Road Project, Burkina Faso;
 - Construction of Bassar- Katchamba Road Project, Togo; and
 - Post-Conflict Reconstruction Programme for the Centre-North-West in Cote d'Ivoire, among others.
95. The implementation of SPDA is getting close to its end and an analysis of projects completion will be undertaken in due course in order to assess achievements under SPDA.

(d) Capacity Building and Skills Training Programmes

96. During the year under review, SESRIC, within the framework of its various capacity building programmes, has organized about 40 capacity building and skills training programmes in a number of OIC member states, including Turkey, Burkina Faso, Sudan, Uganda, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Malaysia, and Indonesia. These programmes covered the various aspects of the poverty alleviation efforts at the national level.

(e) Support for Development of the Lake Chad Basin Countries

97. The Lake Chad Basin, which is shared by Algeria, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Libya, Niger, Nigeria, and Sudan, is one of the largest fresh water bodies in Africa. These eight countries have an estimated population of 373.6 million with 12% living around the Lake Chad Region. An estimated population of 40 million depend on the lake for crop and livestock farming, fishing, commerce and trade. The Lake is also a source of water supply for drinking, sanitation and development. It also offers a unique social and cultural environment contributing to the rich diversity of the region.

98. Since late 1960, due to increased human activities and series of droughts of high intensity and long duration saw the lake shrinking rapidly to 2,500 km² by 1985. The lake presently covers an area of less than 1,500 km². Diminishing water levels of the Lake Chad exacerbated by loss of biodiversity and ecosystems degradation, decline in fishing and irrigation activities, food insecurity, decline in income and consequent deterioration of living conditions, increase competition and conflict over the little available resource.
99. The foregoing situation has pushed people who depend on it for crop and livestock farming, fishing, commerce and trade to abject poverty. It also has triggered mass migration, conflicts and crises in the region, including the Boko Haram insurgency, which resulted in mass displacement of millions across the region. As a result, more than 2.4 million people are displaced and over 10 million people need assistance to meet their basic protection and humanitarian needs.
100. The various studies carried out show that there is no solution to the shrinking of Lake Chad except recharging the lake by transfer of water from outside the basin. Consequently, the Lake Chad Basin countries during the International Conference to Save Lake Chad held in Abuja, Nigeria in February 2018 approved a Roadmap with the Transaqua Project as the preferred option to save Lake Chad. The Transaqua Project is a 2,400 km-long waterway, crossing all west bank tributaries of the Congo River, to transfer water to recharge the Lake Chad.
101. Against this background, the 46th Session of the CFM, which was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019, requested OIC member states and relevant OIC development financing institutions, including IsDB Group and ISF, to support the Transaqua project. In addition, CFM called on OIC member states and relevant OIC institutions to support the Lake Chad Basin countries' efforts towards addressing humanitarian and developmental needs of displaced persons and communities in the Lake Chad Basin area.
102. In view of the foregoing, the OIC should identify itself with the on-going Lake Chad Basin development initiatives, including the Transaqua Project, and mobilize support from OIC member states for the Lake Chad Basin countries' efforts towards restoring peace and security. Accordingly, OIC member states are to seek alliance with the Lake Chad Basin
103. Commission, which is already championing the recharge of the Lake Chad. Consequently, the General Secretariat has established contact with the Executive Secretariat of the Lake Chad Basin Commission based in Ndjamena, Republic of Chad with a view to receiving appropriate briefs on the Trans Aqua Project as well as partnership arrangements necessary for the execution of the said project.

IX. OIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION POLICY

104. The availability of adequate infrastructure of regional interest and the efficient provision of related services are seen as crucial to the objective of achieving a greater degree of productive specialization and developing competitive advantages within the OIC region. In light of these considerations, infrastructure development and regional integration have become a key factor for fostering growth and reaching higher levels of development in the specific region. This is why OIC member states need to develop and put in place a framework that will foster connectivity among the countries of the specific region through increased physical infrastructure, connecting communication channels by means of transport, along with integrating the different types of energy and telecommunications networks.
105. It is against this background that 46th Session of CFM, while taking note the preparation and circulation to OIC member states of a draft OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy (OIC-IDRIP), requested the Secretary General to organize a series of validation workshops on OIC-IDRIP as a prelude to OIC Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting. It also decided to establish an OIC Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting to propose a Draft OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy, with the support and participation of the relevant OIC Institutions/Organs, including COMCEC, IsDB and SESRIC. Furthermore, it reiterated its request to the IsDB to conduct needs assessment of the OIC member states in the field of infrastructure development.
106. The OIC-IDRIP aims at supporting creation of cross-border projects aimed at promoting regional integration and it seeks to intervene in six priority sectors, namely: transport; energy; telecommunication and postal services; trade; industrial development; and agricultural development. The vision of the Policy is to develop an OIC economy that is integrated, interconnected, internally competitive, inclusive, growth-oriented and sustainable. The major goals of the Policy is to promote development and rehabilitation of infrastructure, facilitation of joint studies, mobilization of resources and facilitation of enabling legislative environment for the proper execution of these projects.
107. In view of the foregoing, the member states are encouraged to host one of the consultation and validation workshops on OIC-IDRIP during the coming year. This exercise would enable OIC member states to reflect duly their inputs in the OIC-IDRIP and increase its ownership by them. In addition, such consultation and validation workshops will serve as effective inputs into OIC Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting.

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

108. Development assistance remains an essential tool for growth and reduction of poverty in the needy OIC member states. To this end, some well-endowed OIC member states have

continued to contribute to financing of the various development projects in the needy OIC member states and other developing countries in line with the ideals of partnership, mutual assistance and solidarity. Accordingly, this segment of the report summarizes the assistance provided by some OIC member states to other OIC member states as well as non-OIC countries in recent years.

(a) Development Assistance by Saudi Arabia

109. The Government of Saudi Arabia has continued, through the Saudi Fund for Development (SDF), to finance development projects in a number of OIC member states and non-OIC countries through concessional loans. In 2017, SDF contributed financing to 30 development projects and programmes for a total amount of 3936 million Saudi riyals in 23 countries, consisting of 17 OIC member states (8 in Africa, 6 in Asia/Europe and 3 in MENA) and 6 non OIC-countries.
110. SDF's assistance was directed to financing projects in a number of crucial sectors of the economy, including social infrastructure, transportation and communication, agriculture, energy and other sectors. The largest share of financing was allocated to the social infrastructure (education, water supply and sewerage, housing and urban development, and health), transportation and communication sectors.
111. In this context, it is worth mentioning that SDF had, since its inception in 1975 and up to the end of 2017, allocated a total amount of 55047 million Saudi Riyals to finance 635 development projects and programmes for the benefit of 83 developing countries worldwide, majority of them being OIC member states.

(b) Development Assistance by United Arab Emirates

112. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) continues to play a leading role in the area of financing development in other countries. During 2017-2018, UAE provided assistance in the form of development support and humanitarian assistance to OIC member states in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa in the amount of US\$ 3,31billion. The bulk of UAE assistance was provided in the form of grants, while some in the form of concessional loans.
113. The sectors to which UAE directed its assistance in African countries included education and training, water supply, health sector, food security, basic infrastructure, humanitarian and relief assistance. The UAE's assistance to Asian countries included supporting national budgets, building power plants, education and training, construction and city development, trade regulatory policies, supporting religious organization and social welfare services.
114. The UAE assistance to Middle East countries included road transportation infrastructure, social welfare services, and agricultural land development. It further assisted in the reconstruction and development process in war-affected zones in Somalia, Syria,

Afghanistan, Iraq, and Mali, among others. The UAE also provided support to a number of countries in South America, like Suriname and Guyana, in the areas of education, water supply, road development and the provision of basic food commodities and support for their national budgets.

(c) Assistance by other OIC Member States

115. During the year under review, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has contributed US\$ 0.25 million for UNRWA Fund. It has also offered 100 scholarships for OIC least developed countries. The scholarships would be offered for Undergraduate, Masters and PhD level studies in Medical, Engineering, Physical and Natural Sciences disciplines. Furthermore, it provided training to Junior and Senior Diplomats from 28 Muslim countries in recent years.
116. On its part, the Arab Republic of Egypt has provided technical and humanitarian assistance during 2017-2018 to the following OIC and non-OIC countries such as: Burundi, Togo, Guinea, Conakry, Rwanda, Chad, Kazakhstan, Gabon, Somalia, Bangladesh, Congo Democratic Republic, Malawi, Southern Sudan, Zambia, Mali, Kenya, Djibouti, Yemen, Eritria, and Sudan. In line with the ideals of partnership, mutual assistance and solidarity among OIC Member states, some well-endowed OIC member states have continued to contribute to financing of the various development projects in the needy OIC member states and other developing countries. Accordingly, this segment of the report summarizes the assistance provided by some OIC member states to other OIC member states as well as non-OIC countries in recent years.

(d) COMCEC Project Cycle Management (PCM)

117. Under the COMCEC Project Cycle Management (PCM), 61 projects were successfully implemented during 2013-2018 and more than 40 OIC countries have participated in the COMCEC Project Funding. These projects relate to strengthening the capacities of the beneficiary countries in such areas as agriculture, tourism, trade, transportation and poverty alleviation.
118. Through the COMCEC PCM, member states and OIC Institutions are mobilized to realize the principles and objectives of the COMCEC Strategy. The projects conducted under this mechanism were developed in the areas where the policy recommendations were formulated by the Working Groups (WGs) and adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Meetings. Thus, this mechanism provides a policy support instrument for the project owners and beneficiaries. It also gives the member states an opportunity to work together in order to overcome their common challenges.

XI. CONCLUSIONS

119. The commencement of IOFS Secretariat's operations in March 2018 will add the required momentum to intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of agriculture and food security. This is more so considering the effect, which the expeditious implementation of IOFS 5-Year

Plan of Action will have in addressing the pressing and serious challenges to agriculture and food security in OIC member states.

120. The OIC Ministerial Conferences on Agriculture and Food Security, and Transportation, which are scheduled for 2019, will further strengthen intra-OIC cooperation in these important sectors. The outcomes of these conferences are vital for further consolidating intra-OIC cooperation in such critical sectors as developing tourism; promoting productive employment and decent work for all; developing sustainable agriculture and enhancing food security, and improving transport and logistics connectivity within OIC region, among others. These new initiatives are aimed at consolidating on the gains realized during the implementation of the various regional developmental projects, including the Special Programme for the Development of Africa and the OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia.
121. Furthermore, the continuation and expansion of OIC trade and investments related activities remains an effective tool for increasing intra-OIC trade as well as facilitating the integration of OIC member states in the global economy. In the same vein, development assistance by well-endowed OIC member states to needy OIC member states contributes to their economic growth, thus becoming an important component of intra-OIC cooperation and solidarity.
122. It is, therefore, important for member states to make adequate use of OIC cooperation framework, timely accede to its many multilateral instruments and avail themselves of its various activities, aimed at promoting social and economic growth and sustainable development among OIC member states and their peoples.
123. In addition, the creation of a permanent OIC investment dispute settlement mechanism in line with Article 17 of the OIC Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments will also promote foreign direct investments and trade in the Member States of the OIC.

OIC General Secretariat
Department of Economic Affairs,
13 March 2019

LIST OF MEMBER STATES
WHO SIGNED/ RATIFIED THE DIFFERENT AGREEMENTS AND STATUTES ON
ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES

NAMES OF MEMBER STATES	General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation		Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments		Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System		Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS)		TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM (TPS)-OIC Rules of Origin		Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council		Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union		Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC)		Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)		Statute of OIC Labour Centre (OICLC)	
	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1/8-E of the 8th ICFM Tripoli/Libya 16-22/05/1977</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 7/12-E of the 12th ICFM Baghdad/Iraq 1-5/06/1981</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 6th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 7-10/10/1990</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 21st COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 22-25/11/2005</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No. 1 of the 23rd COMCEC Istanbul, Turkey 14-17/11/2007</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 16/13-E of the 13th ICFM Niamey/Niger 22-26/08/1982</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 17/15-E of the 15th ICFM Sana'a/Yemen 18-22/12/1984</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 1st COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 1-4/11/1998</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.3/40-E of the 40th CFM Conakry/Guinea 9-11/12/2013</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.2/43-E of the 43rd of CFM Taskkent /Uzbekistan 18-19 10/2016</i>	
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify
Afganistan	8/10/2010	4/2/2018-	8/10/2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/2/2018	-	-	-	-	-	10/12/2013	20/7/2016		
Albania	-	-	16/11/1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Algeria	20/05/1980	19/03/2007	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01/12/2007	-	23/10/2007	-	-			
Azerbaijan	20/06/2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/06/2006	-	20/06/2006	-	-	23/11/2017	01/10/2018	
Bahrain	21/05/1980	30/08/1980	-	-	25/11/2005	01/06/09	-	29/06/2009	12/09/2013	05/06/2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Bangladesh	05/12/1977	18/04/1978	04/11/1997	-	04/11/1997	17/01/04	24/11/2006	02/11/2009	15/02/2011	23/06/2011	10/09/1983	05/12/2001	-	16/04/1988	-	-	28/4/2016	4/7/2017		
Benin	13/8/2012	-	13/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	11/02/2015	-		
Brunei Darussalam	20/5/2015	2/11/2017-	-	-	20/5/015	2/11/2917-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Burkina Faso	23/12/1985	-	-	19/05/1992	14/9/1993	-	10/6/2009	-	10/6/2009	-	21/10/2001	-	-	-	21/10/2001	-	10/12/2013	26/1/2016		
Cameroon	23/01/1978	11/07/1983	25/10/1994	26/09/1995	24/10/1994	26/09/1995	24/11/2006	20/4/2015	17/11/2007	-	-	-	-	-	07/07/2000	28/4/2016	-			
Comoros	28/04/1978	16/01/1981	30/06/2012	-	7/10/2010	-	7/10/2010	-	7/10/2010	-	30/06/2012	-	30/06/2012	-	30/06/2012	-	10/12/2013	-		
Cote d'Ivoire	07/11/2009	-	07/11/2009	-	07/11/2009	-	17/9/2012	-	17/9/2012	-	-	-	12/4/2016	-	12/4/2016	-	12/4/2016	-		
Djibouti	21/04/1979	-	25/08/1982	-	25/01/2012	2/12/2012	25/01/2012	-	25/01/2012	-	18/05/2010	-	18/05/2010	02/12/2012	18/05/2010	-	10/12/2013	-		
Egypt	08/11/1977	06/06/1978	-	16/12/1978	15/11/1996	31/12/1999	24/11/2005	-	-	-	-	-	11/06/1987	07/05/1988	-	-	26/2/2016	2018		
Gabon	23/01/1978	21/01/1908	-	21/01/2008	-	21/01/2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/04/2012	-	-	-		
Gambia	21/05/1980	11/08/2009	04/09/1993	11/08/2009	05/09/1993	11/08/2009	-	31/1/2013	11/08/2009	31/1/2013	08/11/1995	29/10/2012	08/11/1995	27/4/2011	24/11/2006	30/08/2012	10/12/2013	27/11/2016		
Guinea	26/12/1977	10/02/1981	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	17/11/2007	-	12/09/2007	-	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	-	20/06/2003	10/12/2013	-		
Guinea-Bissau	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	10/12/2013	-		
Guyana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Indonesia	30/04/1979	08/01/1980	01/05/1983	03/12/1983	04/02/1992	14/07/2011	6/09/2011	-	6/09/2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Iran	08/11/1995	07/11/1995	08/11/1995	15/09/1994	08/11/1995	12/05/1993	27/04/2009	22/12/2010	-	11/11/2012	08/11/1995	-	04/09/1993	06/10/1993	-	-	10/12/2013	-		
Iraq	02/07/1978	1978	-	9/7/2015	24/10/2001	15/12/2011	-	-	-	-	-	27/10/2002	21/11/2001	09/02/2014	-	9/2/2016	-	-		
Jordan	29/12/1977	10/05/1979	04/11/1998	25/02/1999	01/02/1993	21/12/1998	24/11/2005	13/02/2007	12/09/2007	9/10/2007	26/10/1994	-	12/03/1988	08/04/1989	24/11/2005	13/02/2007	-	-		
Kazakhstan	25/11/2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10/12/2013	21/11/2014		
Kuwait	05/12/1977	10/05/1980	18/11/1981	12/04/1983	26/11/2004	17/04/2013	20/10/2011	29/12/2014	20/10/2011	29/12/2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15/5/2016		

NAMES OF MEMBER STATES	General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation		Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments		Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System		Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS)		TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM (TPS)-OIC Rules of Origin		Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council		Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union		Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIC)		Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)		Statute of OIC Labour Centre	
	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1/8-E of the 8th ICFM Tripoli/Libya 16-22/05/1977</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 7/12-E of the 12th ICFM Baghdad/Iraq 1-5/06/1981</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 6th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 7-10/10/1990</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 21st COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 22-25/11/2005</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No. 1 of the 23rd COMCEC Istanbul, Turkey 14-17/11/2007</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 16/13-E of the 13th ICFM Niamey/Niger 22-26/08/1982</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 17/15-E of the 15th ICFM Sana'a/Yemen 18-22/12/1984</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 14th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 1-4/11/1998</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.3/40-E of the 40th CFM Conakry/Guinea 9-11/12/2013</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.2/43-E of the 43rd of CFM Taskkent /Uzbekistan</i>	
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify
Kyrgyz Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	15/11/1996	26/11/2003	15/11/1996	06/03/2005	15/11/1996	11/7/2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	18/11/2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	05/12/1977	15/04/1978	25/10/1994	13/02/1996	05/02/1992	02/11/1992	-	-	-	-	-	-	04/01/1989	-	15/12/2008	15/04/2014	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	18/05/1978	14/01/1981	30/09/1987	-	30/06/2004	23/08/2004	27/03/2006	20/05/2006	17/11/2007	14/10/2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maldives	17/12/1977	-	-	-	-	11/04/2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mali	27/04/1978	08/08/1981	-	24/05/1982	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/10/2011	-	-	-	-	03/05/2005	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Mauritania	08/11/1977	09/05/1979	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	-	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	29/10/2014	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	10/12/2013	-	02/03/2019	-
Mozambique	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28/4/2016
Morocco	23/01/1978	16/04/1979	02/11/1981	07/05/1990	29/09/1993	25/7/2006	24/10/2008	07/03/2013	24/10/2008	07/03/2013	26/10/2000	25/07/2006	30/12/1985	-	-	31/07/2006	-	-	-	-
Niger	18/05/1978	07/08/1978	10/09/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	08/12/1984	-	-	10/9/2010	-	10/9/2010	10/12/2013	12/12/2015	-	-
Nigeria	04/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	-	09/11/2009	-	09/11/2009	-	4/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	-	09/11/2009	-	-	-	-	-
Oman	15/04/1980	28/04/1981	25/10/1994	10/12/1994	06/05/2007	08/07/2007	24/10/2008	20/01/2009	24/10/2008	20/01/2009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pakistan	14/01/1978	1978	20/12/1981	10/07/1982	25/10/1994	11/10/1993	17/02/2007	20/11/2007	03/09/2008	13/04/2012	-	1989	-	30/04/1986	16/7/2010	16/7/2010	-	-	-	-
Palestine	28/04/1978	18/03/1980	15/03/1982	15/03/1982	10/09/1992	12/07/2011	27/12/2010	20/12/2011	27/12/2010	20/12/2011	22/05/1983	16/04/2013	03/01/1987	11/11/1986	07/11/1999	19/8/2014	10/12/2013	8/3/2016	-	-
Qatar	24/9/1978	09/09/1980	26/10/2000	05/11/2002	26/11/2004	11/03/2007	23/10/2008	27/10/2009	07/11/2009	02/09/2009	21/10/2001	05/11/2002	-	-	-	-	28/4/2016	26/12/2017	-	-
Saudi Arabia	14/01/1978	27/06/1979	23/06/1985	17/09/1984	10/09/1992	01/01/2007	02/06/2008	08/06/2009	09/11/2009	11/08/2010	-	11/04/2004	-	-	-	-	15/03/2016	30/09/2018	11/11/2018	-
Senegal	25/12/1977	28/02/1979	17/06/1987	30/06/1994	09/09/1991	30/06/1994	-	-	-	-	17/06/1987	04/02/1989	17/06/1987	04/02/1989	17/11/2007	-	11/7/2017	-	-	-
Serra Leone	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	09/11/2009	-	09/11/2009	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Somalia	24/12/1978	-	19/12/1983	25/11/1984	08/11/2009	13/05/2010	08/11/2009	13/5/2010	08/11/2009	13/5/2010	09/11/2009	13/05/2010	09/11/2009	13/05/2010	08/11/2009	13/05/2010	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Sudan	14/01/1978	-	20/12/1981	30/05/2002	13/05/1992	-	18/03/2013	-	18/03/2013	-	04/09/1993	26/08/2006	04/09/1993	26/8/2006	26/10/2000	28/01/2003	10/12/2013	-	02/03/2019	-
Suriname	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10/12/2013
Syria	04/06/1978	15/07/1980	21/10/2001	04/01/2010	26/11/2004	27/11/2005	23/05/2006	30/07/2008	24/10/2008	15/04/2010	-	02/04/2002	-	-	07/11/1999	-	-	-	-	-
Tajikistan	04/11/1997	-	04/11/1997	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28/4/2016	-	-	-
Tchad	27/04/1978	-	-	-	14/01/1992	-	-	-	-	-	06/02/2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Togo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tunisia	27/01/1979	13/04/1980	10/06/1982	11/11/1983	21/01/1993	31/07/2000	25/11/2005	-	12/09/2007	-	06/01/1983	11/11/1983	08/11/1995	14/02/2000	18/09/2001	27/03/2006	-	-	-	-
Turkey	29/12/1977	02/07/1982	16/07/1987	09/02/1991	23/09/1991	28/11/1991	24/11/2005	02/05/2008	12/09/2007	02/11/2009	-	-	-	-	07/11/1999	15/07/2010	10/12/2013	-	11/7/2017	-
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U. A. E.	29/12/1977	1979	12/02/1989	14/01/1989	26/11/2004	15/08/2005	24/11/2006	12/10/2008	12/09/2007	12/10/2008	30/05/1989	21/03/1989	30/05/1989	21/03/1989	24/11/2006	05/04/2009	12/01/2015	25/10/2017	-	-
Uganda	08/08/1978	14/11/2001	26/11/1987	10/02/1987	05/09/1993	14/11/2001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Uzbekistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yemen	29/12/1977	-	12/06/1982	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25/10/1994	26/3/2008	25/10/1994	-	14/11/2006	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :	49	32	38	29	40	31	31	18	30	18	25	17	24	19	24	17	31	12	5	1

10 March 2019