

**SPECIAL SESSION**

**“Development Challenges of Islamic Countries and Post-2015 Development Agenda”**

<i>Brief Note</i>	<p>After series international conferences and meetings, in September 2000 world leaders came together at United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration. They committed their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of time-bound targets, known as MDGs, with a deadline of 2015. Despite major improvements have been recorded in terms of alleviating poverty under the MDGs, the achievements have been uneven among and within countries. Although significant developments have been achieved so far, many developing countries including the OIC Member Countries have lagged behind the 2015 MDG targets.</p> <p>The UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in July 2012 defined MDGs as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for post-2015 period. In this framework, the outstanding issues are “poverty”, “women’s empowerment”, “health”, “environmental sustainability”, “education”, “food security, water supply &amp; sanitation”, “economic development” and “peace and good governance”.</p> <p>The finalization of SDGs for the post-2015 period and the modalities and mechanisms for their realization are being considered by the relevant international fora. The OIC Member Countries’ development issues need to be reflected into the global development agenda. Furthermore, their contribution to the implementation of the post-2015 SDGs would also play a key role for global cooperation and solidarity. Therefore, the OIC member countries should actively take part in these discussions through which the post-2015 development agenda will be determined.</p>
<i>Objectives and Expected Outcome</i>	<p>A special session entitled <b>“Development Challenges of Islamic Countries and Post-2015 Development Agenda”</b> will be held on November 28th, 2014 on the sidelines of the 30th Session of the COMCEC. The main aim of this Session is to discuss the achievements of MDGs in the OIC Member Countries and to deliberate on the development challenges of Member Countries in light of the SDGs perspective and to dwell on how to contribute to the UN Post-2015 Development Goals as the OIC Member Countries and to create awareness in the Member Countries.</p> <p>The Session will be attended by Ministers, academicians, delegations attending the 30<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session. During the special event, the participants will have the opportunity to raise their questions and to express their views.</p>

<i>Program Format</i>	The special session will include the keynote speech of H.E. Ahmet DAVUTOĞLU, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey and Alternate Chairman of the COMCEC. After that, the speakers will present their views on the discussion topics given below. The Special Session will be finalized with the questions and answers.
<i>Issues and Topics</i>	<p>Possible points of discussion include but not limited to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent the MDGs have been achieved in the OIC Member Countries so far?</li> <li>• What have been and will be the role and contribution of civil society, government bodies, the media, and the private sector in achieving development goals in the Member Countries?</li> <li>• What could be the effective methods of extending global partnership and coordination for the Member Countries?</li> <li>• To what extent SDGs, being considered by the international fora, provide solutions to the development challenges of the Islamic Countries?</li> <li>• What could be the contribution of the Islamic countries to the implementation of the SDGs?</li> <li>• How can the multilateral cooperation platforms of the Islamic Countries be benefited in this process?</li> <li>• What might be the particular suggestions of Islamic countries for poverty eradication? What are the instruments that the Islamic world might offer?</li> <li>• How can an inclusive development be achieved for all segments of society in Islamic countries? (Youth , women, entrepreneurship )</li> <li>• How can the SDGs address the issue of unemployment in order to ensure sustainable development in the Member Countries?</li> </ul>
<i>Participation</i>	All delegations of the OIC Member States attending the Ministerial COMCEC Session are invited to participate in the special session. The representatives of the OIC Institutions, various International Organizations, civil society, businessmen, academicians and other relevant stakeholders are also invited to attend this Session.
<i>Venue &amp; Date</i>	<p>Istanbul Congress Center, Turkey, 28 November, 2014  For more information, please contact:  Mustafa Adil SAYAR, Expert,  COMCEC Coordination Office, Necatibey cd. No:110 CANKAYA- ANKARA  Ph: +90 312 294 57 20 E-mail: <a href="mailto:msayar@comcec.org">msayar@comcec.org</a></p>