



COMCEC

**REPORT
THIRTY SEVENTH MEETING
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF
THE COMCEC**

08-09 June 2021



**COMCEC Coordination
Office Ankara, June 2021**

COMCEC
Standing Committee for Economic and
Commercial Cooperation of the Organization
of the Islamic Conference

REPORT
THIRTY SEVENTH MEETING
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
OF THE COMCEC

(Virtual-Only Meeting, 8-9 June 2021)

COMCEC Coordination Office
June 2021

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R E P O R T

**THIRTY SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC COOPERATION**

(8-9 June 2021)

REPORT
THIRTY SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR
ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (COMCEC)
(Virtual-Only Meeting, 8-9 June 2021)

1. The Thirty Seventh Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 8-9 June 2021 in a virtual-only format.

2. The representatives of the following Member States of the Committee attended the Meeting:

- Republic of Turkey : (Chairman, Permanent),
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia : (Vice Chairman, Permanent Member),
- State of Palestine : (Vice-Chairman, Permanent Member),
- State of Kuwait : (Vice-Chairman, Representing the Arab Region),
- Republic of Nigeria : (Vice-Chairman Representing the African Region),
- Republic of Indonesia : (Vice-Chairman, Representing the Asian Region),
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan : (Rapporteur),
- State of Qatar : (Member of the Previous Bureau),
- Malaysia : (Member of the Previous Bureau)
- Republic of Gabon : (Member of the Previous Bureau)

3. The Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC), and the Organization of the Islamic Shipowners' Association (OISA), Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) also attended the Meeting.

(The list of participants is attached as Annex I.)

Agenda Item 1: Opening Session

4. Following recitation from the Holy Qur'an, H.E. Abdullah Rıdvan AĞAOĞLU, Vice-President of Strategy Budget of the Presidency of Republic of Turkey, inaugurated the Meeting.

5. At the outset of his statement, H.E. AĞAOĞLU expressed his condolences over the demise of Palestinians who were the victims of the recent relentless attacks of the occupying Israeli forces and wished a speedy recovery for those injured. H.E. AĞAOĞLU underlined the commitment of the Republic of Turkey to stand by the Palestinian people and support them in their just cause.

6. H.E. AĞAOĞLU pointed out that the present global pandemic has brought unprecedented crises throughout the world. Besides its devastating effects on every aspect of human life, COVID-19 has significantly disrupted global economy and international trade. In 2020, the contraction in the world economy is estimated as a minimum 3.2 percent, and the economic contraction in the OIC region is unfortunately higher than the global economy with more than 5 percent. He emphasized that together with the already existing economic and social difficulties of the Islamic World, the problems caused by pandemic necessitates a much higher level of cooperation within the OIC family in order to meet its challenges.

7. In this respect, H.E. AĞAOĞLU expressed that TPS-OIC is as a golden opportunity for our brotherly Islamic Countries to expand existing commercial cooperation and solidarity among our nations based on the power stemming from our common historical and cultural values. He also expressed his appreciation to the TPS-OIC Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) for taking a historical decision pertaining to the implementation of the System. With reference of decision of the TNC Meeting, he underlined that TPS-OIC will be fully operationalized by 1 July 2022 and called upon the concerned member states to expedite the completion of their internal procedures by that date.

8. H.E. AĞAOĞLU also touched upon another important project of the COMCEC, that of the OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul. Expressing the establishment of the OIC Arbitration Center as one of the most important projects of the COMCEC, he underlined the necessity of expediting efforts for rendering the Center operational as soon as possible.

9. Furthermore, concerning the other important initiatives in the domain of financial cooperation, H.E. AĞAOĞLU stressed that OIC Gold Exchange, S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index, and COMCEC Real Estate Securities are of great importance due to

their potential for significantly enhancing trade volume and tighten the commercial ties among the member countries.

10. Underlining the successful organization of the COMCEC Working Group Meetings in a virtual-only format during the pandemic, H.E. AĞAOĞLU indicated that the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism (CPF) is a useful instrument for implementing the policy recommendations formulated by the Working Groups.

11. H.E. AĞAOĞLU also touched upon the projects to be implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding, COMCEC COVID Response (CCR) and COMCEC Al-Quds Program. He pointed out that more than 40 projects in total will be implemented this year by member countries and relevant OIC Institutions with the active contributions of other project partners.

12. H.E. AĞAOĞLU concluded his remarks by wishing that all the deliberations during the 37th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

(The text of the Statement of H.E. Abdullah Rıdvan AĞAOĞLU is attached as Annex II.)

13. The message of H.E. Dr. Yousef AL-OTHAIMEEN the Secretary General of the OIC, was read out by H.E. Dr. Ahmad SENGENDO, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC. In his message, H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN expressed his deepest appreciation to the Government and the friendly people of Republic of Turkey and the COMCEC Coordination Office for the arrangements made for arranging this virtual meeting.

14. H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN mentioned that the intra-OIC cooperation becomes more important not only to slowdown and eradicate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic but also to establish effective policies and measures in order to mitigate its subsequent effects. H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN underlined that the organization of various OIC sectoral ministerial level meetings on agriculture and food security, tourism and labor later this year will give another impetus for adoption and elaboration of new projects and programs in these sectors.

15. Furthermore, H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN underlined that OIC General Secretariat and its relevant institutions to continue to work closely with the member states to further collaborative response in order to facilitate economic recovery in member countries. Lastly, H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN commended the relevant OIC institutions, which have continued to collaborate with the General Secretariat for the execution of the various projects under the socio-economic agenda of the OIC.

(A copy of the text of the message of H.E. Dr. Yousef AL-OTHAMEEN is attached as Annex III.)

16. On behalf of all members of the Committee, the meeting was also addressed by the Head of Delegation of the State of Palestine, Mr. Rafat RAYYAN, Director of International Organizations Department, Ministry of National Economy. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting and COMCEC Coordination Office for organizing the Meeting . He conveyed his condolences for all the victims who lost their lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He underlined the importance of the COVID Response Program initiated under the COMCEC. He lastly expressed his special thanks and appreciation to all the member states for their continuous support for Palestine and the Holy City of Al Quds Al-Sharif.

Sideline Event

17. The 38th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held virtually on June 3rd, 2021.

(Report of the 38th Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex IV.)

Working Sessions

18. The working sessions of the Meeting were chaired by H.E. Ambassador Mehmet Metin EKER, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC.

- The agenda of the Meeting was adopted by the Committee.

(A copy of the Agenda is attached as Annex V.)

Agenda Item 2: The COMCEC Strategy and its Implementation

19. The Committee **welcomed** the Report on the Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy and **commended** the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to the implementation of the Strategy . The Committee also **requested** the Member States and OIC Institutions to continue their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

20. The Committee **welcomed** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 36th Session of the COMCEC and **also** welcomed the research reports conducted by the COMCEC Coordination Office for enriching the discussions in each COMCEC Working Group Meeting.

21. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their fields of competence.

22. The Committee **welcomed** the endeavors of the Working Groups for elaborating the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 on the cooperation areas of the COMCEC in various aspects.

23. The Committee also **commended** the OIC Institutions' efforts in offsetting the negative impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic through activities/projects/programs and other sort of support mechanisms to the member countries. The Committee highlighted the importance of promotion of these programs and activities for raising awareness as well as their broader utilization.

24. The Committee **welcomed** the interest of the member countries to the new COMCEC COVID Response (CCR) Program launched by the CCO with a view to address existing and potential ramifications of the COVID-19 Pandemic on member country economies and also **welcomed** the initiation of nine projects to be implemented within the CCR.

25. **Commending** the efforts of the Member Countries and OIC Institutions towards the realization of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, the Committee **invited** all Member Countries to exert every effort, to the extent possible, to implement the policy recommendations and **urged** relevant OIC Institutions to support the Member States in this regard.

26. The Committee **welcomed** the significant increase in the 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 programs wherever feasible for the member countries.

27. **Commending** the valuable outcomes of projects previously financed by COMCEC since 2014, the Committee **welcomed** the initiation of twenty-seven projects to be implemented in 2021 and **invited** Member Countries to intensify their efforts to harness the benefits of COMCEC Project Funding, particularly with a view to materialize the Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

28. The Committee **called on** the COMCEC National Focal Points and Working Group focal points to work more closely with the COMCEC Coordination Office for effective coordination and communications.

29. The Committee **also called upon** the Working Group Focal Points to be actively involved in knowledge production efforts of the COMCEC through, among others, assisting in collection and verification of country specific data and providing feedback to research studies.

30. The Committee **invited** the Member Countries to ensure the participation of the COMCEC National Focal Points and COMCEC Working Group Focal Points to the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings and the COMCEC Sessions.

31. While commending the Member Countries for reporting their progress regarding the implementation of the COMCEC policy recommendations to the COMCEC Policy Follow-Up System, the Committee **called upon** the Member Countries, who have not done so far, to make use of this electronic follow-up platform for reporting the progress with respect to the implementation of COMCEC policy recommendations by September 30th, 2021.

32. The Committee **encouraged** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Working Groups to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the relevant Working Groups.

33. In line with the relevant resolutions of the last three COMCEC Sessions, which underline the role of COMCEC in ensuring the overall coordination of the activities of the OIC relating to economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States, in accordance with its mandate, the Committee **emphasized** the role of COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) in undertaking activities with the Member States, the OIC Institutions and other international organizations in order to realize the objectives of the COMCEC as outlined in its Statute.

34. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the CCO, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, and SMIIC for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

35. The Committee **requested** the concerned Member States to actively participate in the activities to be organized by the CCO, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ITFC, ICIEC, ICD, ICCIA, and SMIIC in the cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy and **called upon** these institutions to convey invitations to the Member States sufficiently in advance of the meetings so as to ensure their participation.

36. The Committee welcomed that the COMCEC Coordination Office will organize the Eighth Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points in August, 2021 in a virtual-only format and called upon the Working Group Focal Points and National Focal Points to actively participate in the meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Implementation of the OIC-2025: Program of Action (TYPOA)

37. The Committee **took note of** the report presented by the OIC General Secretariat on the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the OIC-2025: Program of Action.

38. **Underlining** the importance of the active follow up of the economic and commercial section of the OIC 2025: Program of Action by the COMCEC, the Committee **requested** the OIC General Secretariat to continue to submit comprehensive progress reports on the implementation of the Program to the COMCEC Sessions and Follow-up Meetings in line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC.

39. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, the Committee **requested** the Member States who have not done so yet to sign and ratify the agreements in the economic domain to further economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.

Agenda Item 4: Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade

40. **Took note with appreciation of** the convening of the 16th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on 20 May, 2021, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Counter-measures to Sustain Trade Facilitation During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic in the OIC Member Countries.”

41. The Committee **called upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to actively participate in its 17th Meeting to be organized with the same theme of the 16th Meeting on 30 September 2021.

42. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Trade Working Group.

43. The Committee **welcomed** the activities organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ITFC, ICIEC, ICD, ICCIA, and SMIIC in the area of trade aligned with the COMCEC Strategy since the 36th Session of the COMCEC.

44. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to ICDT, SMIIC and ICIEC for organizing several webinars on the impact of COVID-19 on intra-OIC trade and investment flows in collaboration with relevant OIC and international institutions.

45. The Committee **commended** the efforts of The Maldives, Sudan, Turkey, ICCIA and SMIIC for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “Digital Transformation for Enhancing Trade Facilitation” to be implemented by ICCIA in partnership with 25 member countries,
- The project entitled “Improve Food Import-Export Control System” to be implemented by The Maldives in partnership with Turkey and Malaysia,
- The project entitled “Efficient Border Management through One Stop Border Post (OSBP)” to be implemented by Sudan in partnership with Chad, Egypt and Tunisia,
- The project entitled “OIC/SMIIC Halal Foundation Training for Africa Region” to be implemented by SMIIC in partnership with 14 Member Countries,
- The project entitled “Developing Human Capital in OIC Countries for Technical Halal Auditing based on SMIIC Halal Certification System and Halal Quality Infrastructure” to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan.

46. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Lebanon and Palestine for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 within the scope of COMCEC COVID Response:

- The project entitled “Digital Transformation of the Ministry of Economy and Trade” to be implemented by Lebanon in partnership with Turkey
- The project entitled “Modernizing the Electronic Infrastructure of the Ministry of National Economy” to be implemented by Palestine.

47. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to ICDT for organizing the following studies and activities intrade domain:

- ICDT’s recent data on “Trade among the OIC Member States” which indicated that due to COVID-19 Pandemic,, intra-OIC Trade will decrease about 15.7% from \$350.4 billion in 2019 to US\$ 295.4 billion in 2020 and a drop of intra-OIC Trade share by 5.53% from 18.95% in 2019 to 17.91% in 2020;
- Virtual Meeting of TISC Leaders in order to adopt a joint three-year action plan program in the field of trade and investment on 28 January, 2021;

- Virtual Training Workshop on Data Collection and Analysis on Trade-in-Services among the OIC Member States on 23-25 March 23th - 25th, 2021 in cooperation with SESRIC and IsDB;
- Webinar for French Speaking Countries TPOs in order to adopt an action plan for boosting intra-OIC Trade promotion on April 6th, 2021;

48. The Committee **welcomed the offer of** ICDT to organize a Virtual Business Forum between Arab and African Countries of Agribusiness Products in collaboration with BADEA on 6-8 July, 2021 and **encouraged** OIC Member States and Institutions to actively participate in this event. The Committee also **welcomed the offer of** ICDT to organize doing business webinars for enhancing intra-OIC Trade and investment by OIC Countries.

49. The Committee **requested** the Member States to keep providing the ICDT with data relating to trade and investment statistics and regulations and entrusts IDB and ICDT to follow up the issue of the expansion of intra-OIC trade and investment and report to the COMCEC and to other OIC fora.

• ***TPS-OIC***

50. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the Republic of Turkey for hosting and COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT for organizing TNC Meeting in virtual-only format on 1-2 June, 2021, with the participation of 11 Participating States having ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements and submitted their concession lists, and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on behalf of its six member countries namely; Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman.

51. The Committee **welcomed that** the TNC agreed upon July 1st, 2022 as the cut-off date for the effectuation of the system and **requested** the concerned member states to expedite the completion of their internal procedures and other preparations until that date.

52. The Committee took note the decision of the TNC that the GCC Secretariat, on behalf of its six members, will convey their observation(s) as soon as possible, if any, on the date of effectuation of the System.

53. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the ICDT for conducting a study on the potential economic impact of TPS/OIC on 13 Participating States which was submitted to the TNC Meeting.

54. The Committee took note with appreciation the decision of the TNC that ICDT would conduct a reflection study on scenarios for implementing and updating this system, especially in light of the current international health situation (COVID-19 crisis), and its impact on intra-OIC trade.

55. The Committee **commended** the COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT for organizing a Virtual Training Meeting on April 12th, 2021, for the TNC Participating Member States on issues related to the implementation of the TPS-OIC Agreements.

56. Recalling the relevant decision of the TNC, the Committee requested the CCO and ICDT, as the Co-Secretariat of TNC, to continue their efforts towards widening TPS-OIC membership and organize capacity building activities on the technical issues related to the implementation of the TPS-OIC.

(Report of the TNC Meeting is attached as Annex)

57. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have not yet signed or ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, PRETAS and the Rules of Origin, to do so at their earliest convenience.

58. **Commending** the efforts of TNC Secretariat for finalizing the completion of updated concession lists process, the Committee **called upon** the concerned Member States to expedite their efforts for the submission of the concession lists in the same format for the operationalization of the TPS-OIC at the earliest.

59. The Committee **requested** the Participating Member States who have not done so yet 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.

60. The Committee **commended** the role played by the COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT as the Secretariat of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) in supervising the Trade Negotiations and providing capacity building activities related to the TPSOIC.

61. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host a workshop on the raising awareness of the importance of TPS OIC and impact on the private sector.

- *Islamic Trade Fairs*

62. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the following Member States to host Islamic Trade Fair and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT and **requested** Member States to actively participate in the following events:

- The Republic of Senegal to host the 17th OIC Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in Dakar on 6-9 December, 2021;
- The Republic of Turkey to host the “8th OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 25-28 November, 2021 in collaboration with ICDT and SMIIC;
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host 14th OIC Agri-industries Expo in Jeddah on 1 -4, October, 2021;
- The Tunisian Republic to host the 2nd OIC Organic Expo in Tunis on 26-31 October, 2021;
- The Kingdom of Morocco to host the 1st OIC Plastic Expo in Casablanca on 2-6 June, 2022;
- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 18th OIC Trade Fair in cooperation with ICDT in 2022;

63. The Committee **took note that** the World Expo “EXPO 2020 Dubai” is scheduled to be hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai from 1 October 2021 to 31 March, 2022 and **invited** the member states and the OIC Institutions to actively participate in this event;

64. The Committee **reiterated** its request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

65. The Committee also **reiterated** its request to ICDT to continue holding sector specific fairs in cooperation with the Member States and submit regular progress reports on the fairs to the COMCEC Sessions.

66. The Committee **requested** ICDT to submit on regular basis, progress reports on the Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries and the other specialized fairs as well as exhibitions to the COMCEC Sessions and other related OIC fora.

67. The Committee **requested** ICDT to organize investment promotion activities such as high-level forums and capacity building programs at national and regional level in order to enhance intra-OIC Investment.

- ***WTO Related Technical Assistance***

68. The Committee **expressed** its thanks and appreciation to the IDB Group and ICDT for organizing WTO-related training courses and seminars for the benefit of the Member States and underlined the need for more effectively disseminating information on training courses among all Member States.

69. The Committee **called upon** IDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to Member States on WTO-related issues and to enhance their efforts in sensitizing the Member States to the impact of WTO trade negotiations on their economies and **requested** IDB and ICDT to continue synergizing and coordinate their efforts to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on an equitable and fair basis.

70. The Committee **called upon** the WTO members of the OIC to assist non-WTO Members of the OIC in their accession process to WTO.

71. The Committee **also called upon** the Member Countries and the relevant OIC institutions to extend support to the Member Countries who need technical assistance on trade facilitation practices towards the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

72. The Committee **called upon** the IDB Group and ICDT to monitor matters relating to WTO activities and report them to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other concerned fora.

73. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and the IsDB Country Strategy and Cooperation Department and ICDT for organizing a training workshop on trade in services negotiations techniques in the OIC Countries on 12-13 February, 2020, in Casablanca.

74. The Committee **took note that** the ICDT will organize a virtual workshop on the state of trade negotiations within WTO on 21- 23 June, 2021.

- ***Trade Financing Activities***

75. The Committee **appreciated** the trade finance, promotion and development and capacity building activities of ITFC and the mobilization of funds from the international market and development partners for funding trade finance operations in the Member States, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 25 percent.

76. The Committee **took note with appreciation** that ITFC's cumulative approvals and disbursements in trade financing reached, since its inception in 2008 until the end of 2020, USD54.8 billion and USD44.9 billion, respectively, and its trade finance approvals and disbursements since the beginning of the year till the end of May, 2021 amounted to USD\$2.2 billion and US\$1.7 billion, respectively.

77. The Committee **commended** the efforts of ITFC in financing SMEs, Least Developed Member Countries and intra-OIC trade and **took note** of its efforts to diversify its portfolio and extend more financing for agriculture sector that has direct and prominent impact on improving productivity, job creation, increasing export revenues and alleviating poverty.

78. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts of ITFC for conducting special programs to mitigate the adverse implications of COVID-19 pandemic in the OIC Member Countries on trade and business development and **commended** ITFC's approval of US\$604.7 million to Member States as an immediate response (R1) to mitigate the impact of pandemic and approval of additional US\$227 million to support Member States in purchasing the COVID-19 vaccine and SME recovery (R2).

79. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to complete their membership requirements for the institutions of the IDB Group (ITFC and ICIEC) so that the IDB Group implements its mandate successfully.

80. The Committee **took note of** the trade promotion and capacity development initiatives being implemented by ITFC under its various flagship programs including Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS), Special Program for Central Asia (SPCA), Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program (AATB), Trade Development Fund, West Africa SMEs Program.

81. The Committee **took note of** the efforts of the ITFC in implementing Integrated Trade Solution Programs, including Indonesian Coffee Development Program, Guinean Reverse Linkage Program, the Cotton Bridge Program, Program for the Development of Dates Sector in Medina Region, Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment of Iraq, Senegalese Trade Integrated Solutions and various programs for Tunisia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, CIS Countries, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Comoros and Djibouti.

82. The Committee **also took note of** ITFC's efforts for the diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments, supporting training programs on Islamic finance and promoting Islamic Finance solutions at international fora.

83. The Committee **took note** of the efforts of the ICIEC as the only multilateral export credit and investment insurance Corporation in the world that provides Shariah-Compliant insurance and reinsurance solutions.

84. The Committee **took note with appreciation** of the ICIEC's volume of business insured in 2020, which stood at USD 9.86 billion to bring its cumulative amount of business insured since inception to USD 73.86 billion.

85. The Committee **took note with appreciation** the ICIEC's role in supporting USD 4,468 billion of Intra-OIC business insured involving 46 countries in 2020, compared to USD 4,385 as Intra-OIC business insured, involving 45 countries in 2019. This brings the cumulative amount of Intra OIC business insured since inception to end-2020 to USD 28.519

86. The Committee **took note of** the launching of new edition of the ICIEC's Annual Development Effectiveness Report (ADER) which encompass the ICIEC performance throughout the last 27 years and congratulate ICIEC in achieving six SDGs; namely SDG 2, SDG3, SDG7, SDG 8, SDG9, SDG 17.

87. The Committee also **took note of** the progress report submitted by the ICIEC on OIC Business Intelligence Program and requested the ICIEC in collaboration with SESRIC to complete the technical preparations for launching the Program at the earliest.

88. **Taking note of** the limited responses to the questionnaire conducted by the ICIEC with SESRIC on OIC Business Intelligence Program, the Committee **requested** the ICIEC, in collaboration with the SESRIC, to continue their efforts to increase the number of the responses as well as submit their assessment on the outputs of the questionnaire to the 37th COMCEC Session.

89. The Committee **welcomed** the proposal made by ICIEC and SESRIC for organizing capacity building activities for potential beneficiaries of the program, in the areas covered under the core business areas of the program, and in collaboration with ICDT and other OIC organs.

- ***Trade Related Activities of SMIIC***

90. The Committee **welcomed** the activities of Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in the area of standardization, metrology and accreditation and their impact on trade facilitation and capacity building.

91. The Committee **welcomed** that Bangladesh, Chad, and Yemen have become the new members of SMIIC. The Committee also **invited** the concerned Member States who have not yet done so to become a member of SMIIC to do so and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Councils.

92. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the SMIIC for organizing capacity-building activities in its field of competence and **invited** Member States to support to further increase its visibility in international fora, particularly through its accession as an observer to the WTO-Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

93. The Committee **invited** the Member Countries to adopt and use the OIC/SMIIC Standards as their national standards in order to help the harmonization of standards and eliminate the technical barriers to trade among the Member Countries and called upon the relevant Member Countries, which use OIC/SMIIC Standards to officially adopt the standards according to SMIIC adoption guidelines.

94. The Committee **took note with appreciation** the development of the SMIIC Strategic Plan 2021-2030 and the OIC Global Halal Quality Infrastructure.

95. The Committee **commended** the efforts of SMIIC for conducting training programs on the OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards in order to facilitate the common use of standards within the OIC.

96. The Committee **welcomed** the signing of a cooperation agreement between the SMIIC and ICCIA with the aim of deepening already existing cooperation and exchange of information and expertise in the Halal industry as a significant step towards providing a new impetus and momentum to OIC cooperation in halal-related issues.

97. The Committee **took note with appreciation** that the 8th OIC Halal Expo and 7th World Halal Summit will be organized by the ICDT and SMIIC, on 25-28 November, 2021, in Istanbul and **invited** all the member countries to actively participate in these important events.

Agenda Item 5: Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation

- *Private Sector Meetings*

98. The Committee **took note of** the efforts of the ICCIA in organizing Forums, Training Program, B2B Meetings, Seminars and Workshops in order to galvanize the

role of the Private Sector to expand their network and increase their trading and investment opportunities.

99. The Committee **encouraged** the Chambers of Commerce of the Member States to be actively involved in the ICCIA's activities.

100. The Committee expressed its appreciation to ICCIA for organizing online International Conference entitled 'Tackling the Covid-19 Pandemic: Health, Economic, Diplomacy, and Social Perspectives' in collaboration with the Padjadjaran University Alumni Association (IKA UNPAD), Padjadjaran University (UNPAD), the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN).

- ***OIC Arbitration Center***

101. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC and Council of Foreign Ministers and the relevant decision of the 35th Meeting of General Assembly of the ICCIA, the Committee **welcomed** the efforts towards the operationalization of the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul.

102. The Committee **requested** the ICCIA and TOBB to finalize the preparations for rendering OIC Arbitration Center fully operational before the 37th Session of the COMCEC. On the occasion of launching of the Center, the Committee also welcomed the proposal of ICCIA and TOBB to organize a grand inaugural event on the sidelines of the 37th COMCEC Session.

103. The Committee **requested** the Member Countries to encourage their Chambers to actively participate in the activities of the Arbitration Center.

- ***Financing Private Sector Development***

104. The Committee **took note with appreciation** of the efforts of the ICD, which efficiently works towards financing private sector projects in Member Countries.

105. The Committee **requested** the ICD to regularly submit comprehensive reports regarding its efforts on financing private sector to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings under a separate sub-item titled "Financing Private Sector Development."

Agenda Item 6: Improving Transport and Communications

106. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 16th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on 31 May 2021, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Mitigation Strategies for Transport Service Providers During and After COVID-19 in the OIC Member Countries.”

107. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to actively participate in its 17th Meeting to be organized with the same theme of the 16th Meeting on 14 October, 2021. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet to register to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group.

108. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Cameroon, The Maldives, Nigeria and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “Monitoring Lagos-Abidjan Transport Corridor” to be implemented by Nigeria in partnership with Benin, Togo and the Gambia.
- The project entitled “Establishing Maritime Transport Archives” to be implemented by Cameroon in partnership with Cote d’Ivoire and Chad in 2021.
- The project entitled “Implementation of International Maritime Conventions” to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with Algeria and Tunisia in 2021.
- The project entitled “Enhancing ICT Skills: Empowering the Youth” to be implemented by The Maldives in partnership with the Gambia and Turkey.

109. **Taking note of** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat and the IDB Group to operationalize the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor, the Committee **requested** the General Secretariat and the IDB Group to regularly inform the concerned Member States about the progress in the realization of the Project in the relevant OIC fora.

Agenda Item 7: Developing Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector

110. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 16th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group on 25 May, 2021, in a virtual-only format with the theme of “Mitigation Strategies for Tourism After COVID-19”.

111. The Committee **called upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in its 17th Meeting to be organized with the same theme of the 16th Meeting on 23 September, 2021. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

112. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Uganda, and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “Capacity Building of Destination Management Organizations (DMO) Stakeholders,” to be implemented by Cameroon in partnership with Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Senegal,
- The project entitled “Community-Based Tourism through the Promotion of Heritage Sites,” to be implemented by Uganda in partnership with Gambia, Malaysia, Mozambique, and Nigeria,
- The project entitled “Revitalizing Mevlana's Travel Route” to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with Afghanistan and Iran,
- The project entitled “Capacity Building on Crisis Impact Assessment Method for Destination Recovery” to be implemented by Burkina Faso in partnership of Mali, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia.

113. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso and Suriname for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 within the framework of the COMCEC COVID Response:

- The project entitled “Supporting the Accommodation Business in Implementing Hygiene Standards” to be implemented by Azerbaijan,
- The project entitled “Rejuvenation of Small Businesses Affected By COVID-19: A Case On Tour Operators” to be implemented by Bangladesh,
- The project entitled “Developing Health Protocols For Tourism Industries To Fight Against COVID-19” to be implemented by Burkina Faso,
- The project entitled “COVID-19 Awareness and Resilience for Tourism and Hospitality Businesses” to be implemented by Lebanon.

114. The Committee **invited** the Member Countries to encourage their relevant institutions, tourism companies and tour operators etc. to further their efforts through, among others, organizing promotion campaigns and additional tours to Quds al-Sharif for supporting Palestinian residents of Al-Quds and to demonstrate solidarity with them.

115. The Committee **welcomed** the Al-Quds Program initiated by the CCO in 2020 in order to improve the tourism infrastructure with the ultimate aim of improving the image of Al- Quds and preserving Palestinian-Arab identity in the city and the finalization of two projects in 2020 under the Al Quds Program implemented by the CCO in collaboration with the Ministry of National Economy of Palestine;

- The Project entitled “Analyzing the Tourism Infrastructure and Developing a Tourism Destination Road Map for Al-Quds,”
- The Project entitled “Supporting the Institutional Capacity of Al-Quds Tourism and Heritage Council.”

116. The Committee **also welcomed** the initiation of six new interrelated tourism projects to be implemented by the Ministry of National Economy of Palestine under the COMCEC Al-Quds Program with the following project titles:

- “The Artists’ Identity Path: Tracing Heritage in Al-Quds”
- “Jerusalemites: Because We Are the Place and Time”
- “Enjoy the Hidden Jewels of Al Quds”
- “Old City Bakeries: Food Tourism and Heritage”
- “Al-Quds: Secrets and Narratives to Unfold”
- “Promoting Palestinian Heritage”

117. The Committee **took note with appreciation of** the efforts of the SESRIC for organizing training courses and seminars in tourism sector, particularly on halal tourism and tourism statistics within the framework of the OIC Capacity Building Program (OIC-CaB).

118. The Committee requested ICDDT to elaborate a study on the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic on OIC Medical and Halal Tourism and organize with OIC Institutions and partners trainings and promotional events to support the rapid recovery of both sectors.

Agenda Item 8: Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security

119. **Took note with appreciation of** the convening of the 16th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group on 27 May, 2021, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “How to Ensure the Sustainability of Food Supply Chains in Turbulent Times: The Case of COVID-19.”

120. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in its 17th Meeting to be organized with the same theme of the 16th Meeting on 16 September, 2021. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group.

121. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Benin, Iran, Niger, Surinam, COMSTECH and SESRIC for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “Enhancing Capacity for Warehousing and Storage of Cereals and Cowpeas” to be implemented by Benin in partnership with Niger, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire,
- The project entitled “Capacity Building on Cereals and Cowpeas Storage” to be implemented by Niger in partnership with Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria,
- The project entitled “Capacity Building on Irrigation Systems in Vegetable Crops” to be implemented by Suriname in partnership with Indonesia and Turkey,
- The project entitled “New Breeding Technologies for Food and Nutritional Security” to be implemented by COMSTECH in partnership with six Member States,
- The project entitled “Enhancing Food Security through National Food Balance Sheets” to be implemented by SESRIC in partnership with twelve Member States.
- The project entitled “Contract Farming for Linking Small Farmers to Markets within OIC Member Countries” to be implemented by Iran with the partnership of Turkey, Oman and Malaysia.

122. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Indonesia, Iran and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 within the framework of the COMCEC COVID Response:

- The project entitled “Facilitating Poor, Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups’ Access to Food in West Java Province” to be implemented by Indonesia,
- The project entitled “Acceleration of Transformation of Digitalization in Agriculture Sector for Ensuring Sustainable Food Security” to be implemented by Turkey,
- The project entitled “Investigating the Effects of COVID-19 and Related Policies on Iranian Agricultural Sector” to be implemented by Iran.

123. The Committee **took note of** the SESRIC’s activities on agriculture, including the virtually held training courses on Enhancement of Cotton Productivity, Food Safety Analysis and Water Saving Analysis.

124. The Committee **also took note of** the efforts of the IDB Group in agriculture sector including the launch of the 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 and the support for the Regional Soil Fertility Mapping Project of West Africa involving six

OIC counties (Cote D'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone) in West Africa with the aim of improving crop production and productivity in the targeted areas.

125. The Committee took note of the effort of ICCIA for launching the Green Waqf initiative, to achieve the Islamic Chamber's Awqaf strategy for agricultural and social economy.

126. The Committee took note of the effort of ICCIA for the project entitled "Agricultural Commodity Exchange Markets" to promote and enhance the quality and competitiveness of the agriculture and its related products in OIC Member States.

127. The Committee took note of the effort of the ICCIA for project entitled "Entrepreneurial Mix Farming" to encourage the development of sustainable agricultural practices through utilizing technology and advocating entrepreneurial activities.

Agenda Item 9: Alleviating Poverty

128. **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 16th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group on 24 May, 2021, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of "COVID-19 and its Adverse Effects on Socio-Economic Inequalities in the OIC Member Countries.

129. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to actively participate in its 17th Meeting to be organized with the same theme of the 16th Meeting on 7 October, 2021. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States which have not done so yet to register to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

130. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the Benin, The Gambia, and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project entitled "TVET Piloting in the Selected OIC Countries" to be implemented by Benin in partnership with the Gambia, Niger, and Turkey,
- The Project entitled "Infusing Entrepreneurship Education in School Curricula" to be implemented by The Gambia in partnership with Sierra Leone and Nigeria,
- The Project entitled "Strengthening Health Human Capacity and Creating Intervention Task Force" to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with Sudan, Somalia, and Niger.

131. The Committee **took note** of the efforts of ICCIA to establish Microfinance entities in the G5 Sahel Region in Africa, namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger which aims to improve financial inclusion and capacity building for economically active youth, women and emerging MSME in the Sahel Region.

- *Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for the Development of Africa (SPDA)*

132. **The Committee reiterated its request** to the Member Countries, which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and **requested** the ISFD to increase its efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including governmental, non-governmental resources and the private sector in the Member States.

133. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the recent COMCEC Sessions on the observations of Member Countries for improving the performance of the ISFD in serving the purpose of poverty alleviation through, among others, augmenting the project base and outreach of the Fund by focusing on greater number of projects, especially grant based small/medium sized projects, the Committee **reiterated its request** to the ISFD to take these observations into consideration during planning its future programs and activities.

134. **Taking note of** the reports of the IDB on ISFD and SPDA, the Committee **acknowledged** the progress achieved in SPDA and **requested** IDB to prepare evaluation reports on SPDA, upon completion of its projects, providing details about the targets, partners, beneficiaries, outcomes, lessons, learned, etc. and submit them to the relevant OIC fora including forthcoming meetings of the COMCEC.

135. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for mobilization of resources from different financing institutions for more effective implementation of the SPDA.

- *OIC-VET Program*

136. **Taking note with appreciation** of the efforts of SESRIC for the implementation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025, the Committee **requested** SESRIC to submit progress reports on the implementation status of the Road Map to the COMCEC Sessions and Follow-up Committee Meetings.

137. The Committee **appreciated** the continuous efforts of SESRIC with a view to enhancing the capacities and quality of human resources in the member countries and **called upon** SESRIC to mobilize more financial resources towards the program.

138. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to participate in and support the various capacity building programs of SESRIC under the OIC-VET Program.

139. The Committee **requested** the SESRIC to conduct more training programs focusing on entrepreneurship including women entrepreneurship within the framework of the OIC-VET.

- *Implementation of the SDGs*

140. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the last two Sessions of the COMCEC, the Committee **requested** SESRIC to prepare annual reports on the progress towards achievement of the prioritized SDGs in the OIC Member Countries and submit to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions.

141. The Committee **requested** SESRIC to continue to carry out statistical training activities with a focus on prioritized SDGs for the benefit of National Statistical Offices of the Member States within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Program.”

142. **Also recalling** the relevant resolution of the 36th Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to compile the relevant OIC Institutions’ activities aligned with the prioritized SDG areas and submit the list to the 37th Session of the COMCEC.

Agenda Item 10: Deepening Financial Cooperation

143. **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 15th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group on 6 April 2021, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “The Role of Islamic Finance in Supporting Micro-enterprises and SMEs against COVID-19.”

144. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively participate in its 16th Meeting to be organized with the same theme of the 15th Meeting on 9 September, 2021. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet to register to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.

145. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Afghanistan, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “Capacity Building Program on Sukuk, ESG Sukuk and Islamic Fintech” to be implemented by Brunei Darussalam in partnership with Indonesia and Malaysia,
- The project entitled “Advancing Islamic Capital Market through Financial Technology” to be implemented by Malaysia in partnership with Turkey and Brunei Darussalam,
- The project entitled “Improving Takaful in the OIC Member States” to be implemented by Nigeria in partnership with Sudan and Mozambique,
- The project entitled “Facilitating Women Entrepreneurs' Access to Islamic Finance” to be implemented by Sierra Leone in partnership with Malaysia and Nigeria,
- The project entitled “Development of Takaful Market” to be implemented by Afghanistan with the partnership of Malaysia and Turkey.

- ***OIC Exchanges Forum***

146. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the OIC Exchanges Forum and its Task Forces and **invited** the Member States to actively participate in the activities organized under this Forum.

147. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of Borsa Istanbul, as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, to host the 15th Meeting of the Forum in September 2021, and **requested** the Member States to actively participate in these important events.

148. The Committee **requested** the Member States to actively support the Forum’s Task Force on Indices towards active promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah 50 Index and the Fund to the investors and the finance community in their respective countries by informing them directly or through public events and press releases as well as publishing the Index on the official websites of their Exchanges. The Committee also **invited** the Member States to support the Forum’s Task Force in finding investors for the Fund and increasing the Fund’s assets under management.

149. **Taking note** of the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts towards establishing OIC Gold Exchange among volunteer Member States, the Committee **requested** the Forum’s Secretariat to expedite their technical preparations for the establishment of the OIC Gold Exchange and report to the 37th Session of the COMCEC.

150. The Committee **invited** the interested member states to actively support Forum's Task Force on Precious Metals by designating focal points in their respective countries to lead the OIC Gold Exchange Project.

151. The Committee **also invited** all Exchanges, Central Banks, OIC Central Banks Forum, and other relevant parties of interested Member States to contribute to the formulation of the business model for a well-functioning OIC Gold Market.

152. **Taking note** of the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts towards advancing the sustainability agenda in the exchanges of the Member States, the Committee **requested** the Forum's Secretariat to work on technical preparations for the projects that may help support OIC Exchanges to take further action in sustainability, including working with S&P on assessing the feasibility of a sustainability index for the OIC Exchanges Forum.

- ***COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum***

153. The Committee **also welcomed** the offer of the Capital Markets Board (CMB) of the Republic of Turkey, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the 10th Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum in September-October 2021 and **requested** the Member States to actively participate in this important event.

154. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts carried out by the Task Forces of COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum namely Capacity Building, Market Development, Islamic Finance and Financial Literacy and **called upon** the Member States to support the efforts of the Forum through participating in its meetings and contributing to the accomplishment of the mandates of the Task Forces.

155. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 35th and 36th Sessions of the COMCEC, the Committee **took note of** the briefing by the Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum on the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange among the interested OIC Member States and **requested** the Forum/the Forum's Secretariat to expedite the advancement of the necessary legal, administrative and technological preparations for the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate Electronic Platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange and report to the 37th Session of the COMCEC.

156. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 36th COMCEC Session, the Committee **called upon** interested Member States to actively participate in the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange and

invited them to identify their authorized bodies as well as notify them to the Forum's Secretariat for enhancing coordination.

- ***OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum***

157. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Secretariat of OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum for updating and improving the Financial Vulnerability Index for OIC countries.

158. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of Central Bank of Turkey as the Secretariat of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum, to host the 3rd Meeting of the Forum in September, 2021 and **requested** Member States to actively participate in this meeting.

159. The Committee **commended** the training and capacity-building programs organized by the SESRIC towards the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of Member States and **requested** SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for relevant institutions of Member States.

Agenda Item 11: Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “The Role of Islamic Finance in Supporting Microenterprises and SMEs against COVID-19”

160. The Committee **took note of the** efforts within the framework of preparations towards the Ministerial Exchange of views Session of the 37th COMCEC Meeting and **requested** the Member Countries to actively participate in the 16th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group to be held on 9-10 September, 2021, which will also deliberate on the preparations for the Exchange of Views Session and develop a set of policy recommendations to be submitted to the 37th COMCEC Ministerial Session.

161. The Committee **invited** the Ministers of the Member Countries in charge of finance and economy to participate in the 37th COMCEC Ministerial Session along with the Ministers in charge of COMCEC.

162. The Committee **encouraged** the Member States to prepare their country reports on the mentioned theme and to convey them electronically to the CCO by October 20th, 2021, at the latest.

- ***Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 38th COMCEC Session***

163. The Committee **took note** of the following possible themes of the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 38th Session of the COMCEC:

Theme 1: Facilitating Trade: Guidelines for Improving Internal Border Management for OIC Member States

Theme 2: Standardization Efforts in Islamic Finance

Theme 3: Developing Livestock Production and Animal Husbandry to Foster Food Security

Theme 4: The Economic and Social Impacts of Transport Infrastructure: An overview of the OIC Member Countries

Theme 5: Health Tourism: Developing Thermal & Spa Tourism in the OIC Member Countries

Theme 6: Decent Housing for the Poor in the OIC Member Countries

164. The Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to circulate a questionnaire among the Member States to explore their views on the above-mentioned themes and report the outcomes to the 37th Session of the COMCEC.

Agenda Item 12: Draft Agenda of the 37th Session of the COMCEC

165. The Committee **prepared** and **decided** to submit the Draft Agenda to the 37th Session of the COMCEC.

(A copy of the Draft Agenda of the 37th Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex XII.)

Agenda Item 13: Any Other Business

166. The Committee highlighted that Israel is fully responsible for the recent escalation in Palestine including the forced evictions in Sheikh Jarrah, the expansion of illegal settlements, destruction of Palestinian homes, as well as restrictions imposed on the freedom of worship at Al Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan. The Committee condemned the excessive, disproportionate, and indiscriminate use of force by Israel against Palestinian civilians and civilian targets.

167. The Committee requested the CCO to convey a message expressing the full support of the Follow-up Committee to the Palestinian people and the Islamic World would always stand by them in their just cause.

168. Taken into consideration the economic destruction caused by the recent escalation, the Committee called on the member states to provide all kinds of economic support to Palestine especially for rebuilding the destroyed infrastructure, houses and workplaces in Gaza, and to support the Palestinian people, and especially the affected families.

Closing Session

169. At its Closing Session chaired by H.E. Ambassador Mehmet Metin EKER, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC, the Committee adopted its Report together with its Annexes.

170. Mr. Abdulaziz ALSAKRAN, Head of Delegation of Saudi Arabia, expressed the importance of benefitting from various communications channels and social media for further enhancing the coordination among the OIC Institutions as well as the Member Countries.

171. Afterwards, Mr. Rafat RAYYAN, Head of Delegation of the State of Palestine, thanked all the participants for their solidarity with the Palestinian people.

172. Mr. Barthelemy NGOULAKIA, Secretary General, Ministry of Commerce of Gabon congratulated the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting and COMCEC Coordination Office organizing this important meeting. He conveyed his thanks and appreciation to the Chairman and all delegations for their contributions to the successful conclusion of the meeting.

173. Mr. NGOULAKIA also highlighted that the active participation and fruitful deliberations of the delegations have enabled the Committee to reach a set of robust and forward-looking recommendations for the 37th COMCEC Ministerial Session to be held in November, 2021.

174. H.E. Dr. Ahmad SENGENDO, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC, expressed his special thanks and appreciations all delegations for their active participation and successful conclusion of the 37th Follow-up Committee Meeting the COMCEC. He also thanked the Republic of Turkey and the COMCEC Coordination Office for excellent preparations and to all OIC Institutions for excellent presentations contributing to the success of the meeting.

175. Dr. SENGENDO highlighted that in spite of adverse impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic, continuing to hold meetings like this is a refusal by the OIC family to allow the COVID-19 pandemic to completely disrupt cooperation activities of the Islamic

Community. Recalling the mega challenges disrupting the entire world ranging from COVID-19 to climate change and unending wars to enormous numbers of displaced people, Dr. SENGENDO underlined the importance of revisiting the paradigm and enhancing international cooperation including intra-OIC Cooperation with a common sense and shared vision.

176. In his closing statement, H.E. Mehmet Metin EKER expressed his heartfelt thanks to all the delegates for their active participation and valuable contributions.

177. H.E. EKER stated that as many other countries around the world, the OIC member countries have taken various measures and initiated support programs towards mitigating the negative impacts of the pandemic on their economies. Meanwhile, the OIC institutions have also initiated several programs with a view to contribute to the member states' efforts in combating against the adverse effects of the Pandemic. He thanked all the OIC Institutions for their sincere efforts in assisting the member states in these difficult times.

178. Reminding the determination of cut-off date as 1st July, 2022 for the effectuation of TPS-OIC, H.E. EKER invited concerned member states to complete the necessary preparations to that end. He also expressed his gratitude that the preparations for the operationalization of the OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul are at the final stages.

179. H.E. EKER concluded his speech by reiterating his thanks and appreciations to all the Members of the Follow-Up Committee for their active participation and precious inputs. He also expressed his thanks to the representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, Rapporteur, the COMCEC Coordination Office, representatives of the OIC Institutions, interpreters, translators and other staff taking part in organization of the Meeting for their valuable contributions and efforts which helped render this meeting a success.

(A copy of the text of the Closing Statement by H.E. Mehmet Metin EKER is attached as Annex XIII.)

A N N E X E S

ANNEX

I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**THE THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF
THE COMCEC
(8-9 June 2021)**

A. MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OIC

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

- Mr. SAHAR ALMANNAI
Director of Social Assistance, Ministry Of Labor and Social Development
- Mr. ABDULLA ALKHALIFA
Chief, International Relations & Organizations, Ministry of Finance & National Economy
- Ms. RAJA KHALIFA
Head of Department, Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication
- Mr. RASHAD ALSHAIKH
Counselor, Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

REPUBLIC OF GABON

- Mr. BARTHELEMY NGOULAKIA
Secretary General, Ministry of Commerce

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

- Ms. AYU WULAN SAGITA
Deputy Director, Ministry of Trade
- Ms. PANDE NYOMAN LAKSMI KUSUMAWATI
Acting Director, Ministry of National Development Planning
- Mr. DEDY EKA JANUARDI
Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia
- Mr. MOHAMAD ZAENI TASRIPIN
Agriculture Focal Point, Ministry of Agriculture
- Mr. YUDANTO WIBOWO
Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

THE STATE OF KUWAIT

- Mr. SAAD ALRASHIDI
Acting Director, Ministry of Finance
- Ms. FATMA ALKANDARY
First Economic, Ministry of Finance
- Mr. HANADI ALENEZI
Researcher, Ministry of Finance

MALAYSIA

- Ms. NOR HASNAH BADRODDIN
Senior Director, Ministry Of International Trade and Industry (MITI)
- Mr. WAN AHMAD FARHAN WAN AHMAD SHABRI ZAINUDDIN
Assistant Director, Ministry Of International Trade and Industry (MITI)

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

- Ms. HAJARA USMAN
Assistant Director, Federal Ministry of Industry Trade & Investment
- Mr. GARBA ALIYU
First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

- Mr. BILAL KHAN PASHA
Consul General, Consulate General of Pakistan in Istanbul

THE STATE OF PALESTINE

- Mr. RAFAT RAYYAN
Director International Organizations Dept., Ministry of National Economy
- Ms. ISRAA MILHEM
Head Division of International Organization, Ministry of National Economy

STATE OF QATAR

- Mr. SALEEM ADEL ALKATHIRY
Manager, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

- Mr. ABDULAZIZ ALSAKRAN
General Manager, Saudi General Authority of Foreign Trade

- Mr. NADA ALHATHOL
Manager, Saudi General Authority of Foreign Trade
- Mr. FAWAZ ALGHAMDI
Commercial Attaché, Saudi General Authority of Foreign Trade

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

- H.E. M. METİN EKER
Ambassador, OIC Permanent Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. A. RIDVAN AĞAOĞLU
Vice President of the Presidency Strategy and Budget
- Mr. CENK URAZ
Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. MAHMUT AYDOĞMUŞ
Manager, BORSA ISTANBUL
- Ms. NESLIHAN DİNİZ
Manager, Turk Eximbank
- Ms. PINAR YAVUZKANAT
Head of Department, Ministry of Family and Social Services
- Ms. DAMLA TUFAN
Deputy Director General, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
- Ms. İREM ŞAFAK ŞİMŞEK
EU Expert/Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Mr. BAHATTİN DOĞANAY
Culture and Tourism Expert, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Mr. BAŞAK YILMAZ
Expert, Turkish Standards Organizations
- Mr. HASAN UMUR ALSANCAK
Engineer, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
- Mr. KUBİLAY ŞİMŞEK
Deputy Director General, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey

- Ms. AYŞEGÜL DEMİR
Expert, Ministry of Trade
- Ms. BAŞAK ÖNSAL DEMİR
Multilateral Relations / Coordinator, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Ms. TUĞÇENAZ UĞURLU CİHANGİR
Deputy Director General, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
- Ms. SILA KOZANLI
Assistant Expert, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey

B. THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC TRADE FINANCE CORPORATION (ITFC)

- Mr. HOJAMUROD HOJAEV
Manager, Relationship Management, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation
- Mr. AMADOU CIRE SALL
Senior Associate, Trade Development, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation
- Mr. HARUN CELIK
Regional Head, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation

THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

- Mr. AHMAD KAWESA SENGENDO
Assistant Secretary General
- Mr. MOHAMMED ELIAS
Professional Officer
- Mr. NAGHI JABBAROV
Professional Officer

C. THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

ISLAMIC CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)

- Ms. LATIFA ELABDELLAOUI
Director General
- Mr. MAMOUDOU SALL
Delegate

**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER
FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)**

- Mr. MAZHAR HUSSAIN
Director
- Mr. ONUR ÇAĞLAR
Acting Director

D. SPECIALIZED ORGANS OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (ISDB)

- Mr. HASAN HİLMİ SAMANCIOĞLU
Senior Strategy Associate
- Mr. IMED DRINE
Lead Economist
- Mr. NAZAR DIAB
Senior Market Integration Specialist
- Mr. OMAR ALIEU TOURAY
Lead Resource Mobilization
- Mr. NEDZAD AJANOVIC
Senior Executive Coordinator
- Mr. OMAR MEHYAR
Lead Transport
- Mr. KHALID O. M. AHMED
Economic Empowerment Specialist
- Mr. OUGFALY BADJI
Lead Food Security Specialist

E. AFFILIATED ORGANS OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE (ICCIA)

- Ms. AALIA JAFAR
Director, ICCIA – Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture
- Ms. SAMRAH QURESHI
Management Trainee, ICCIA – Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture

ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION (OISA)

- Mr. MOHAMMAD ZAFAR BHATTI
Director Finance, Organization of the Islamic Shipowners' Association (OISA)

STANDARDS AND METROLOGY INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SMIIC)

- Mr. İHSAN ÖVÜT
Secretary General, SMIIC

F. OIC STANDING COMMITTEES

THE ISLAMIC CORPORATION FOR THE INSURANCE OF INVESTMENT AND EXPORT CREDIT (ICIEC)

- Mr. AL-TAYEB FADLALLAH
Associate, Strategic Planning & Communication, the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) – IsDB Group
- Mr. MOHAMAD ELSAYED
Associate, Strategic Planning & Communication, the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) – IsDB Group

ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Mr. KHEMAIS EL GAZZAH
Lead Resource Mobilization, Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development

G. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

- Mr. FATİH ÜNLÜ

Director General, Head of COMCEC Coordination Office

- Mr. SELÇUK KOÇ

Head of Department

- Mr. MEHMET ARSLAN

Head of Department

- Mr. DENİZ GÖLE

Head of Department

- AYTEN AKMAN

Expert

- Mr. GOKTEN DAMAR

Expert

- Mr. MUSTAFA ADİL SAYAR

Expert

- Mr. NİHAT AKBALIK

Expert

- Mr. MEHMET AKİF ALANBAY

Expert

- Ms. BİLGE ÖZBAY

Expert

- Mr. CAN AYGÜL

Expert

ANNEX

II

Original: English

**OPENING STATEMENT BY H.E. ABDULLAH RIDVAN AĞAOĞLU,
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDENCY OF
STRATEGY AND BUDGET
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

**THIRTY SEVENTH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE
COMCEC
(Ankara, 8 June, 2021)**

As-Selamu Alaikum,

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Esteemed Members of the Follow-up Committee,

Distinguished Guests,

It is a great pleasure for me to meet with you on the occasion of the 37th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC. I would like to welcome you all with my heartfelt regards.

At the outset, we would like to put on record our solidarity and support with noble citizens of Palestine who were the victims of the recent relentless attacks of the occupying Israeli forces. We will continue to stand by the Palestinian people and support them in their just cause. May Allah shower his endless Mercy upon those who lost their lives and bestow a speedy recovery to the injured.

Esteemed participants,

The work of the Follow-up Committee is always critical for us as it reviews and monitors the implementation of the COMCEC resolutions, programs and projects, and sets the agenda of the COMCEC Ministerial Session.

As was the case for the previous Follow-up Committee, unfortunately, we are organizing this Meetings again amidst the sufferings and difficulties caused by COVID-19 Pandemic.

Since the onset of the Pandemic, the total confirmed COVID-19 cases have exceeded 170 million, and the total deaths approached to 3.7 million precious lives.

Besides its devastating effects on health, the COVID-19 has significantly disrupted global economy and international trade. In 2020, the contraction in World economy is calculated by IMF as 3.2 percent and unfortunately the case in the OIC region is much worse with more than 5 percent contraction.

When added to already existing economic and social difficulties in the Islamic World like unemployment that contraction made things harder for us. Most efficient solution to our existing problems as well as emerging negative repercussions of the pandemic is only higher levels of cooperation within the OIC family.

In that sense, keeping our trading links vibrant is extremely crucial for supporting our cooperative activities in all fields. Enhancement of trade and intra OIC trade has always been one of the fundamental objectives of the COMCEC. Under this platform, pertinent initiatives have been successfully realized like longer term trade financing scheme, Investment and Trade Guarantee Corporation ICIEC and SMIIIC to encourage, enhance and facilitate trade.

In this framework, TPS-OIC (Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States), as the flagship project of the COMCEC in the field of trade is a golden chance for Islamic Countries to expand their existing commercial ties. It would also be token of solidarity among our nations based on our shared values and common historical and cultural values.

It is really heartening to see that last week concrete progress has been achieved in TPS-OIC Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Meeting held virtually on 1-2 June. At the meeting, TNC has taken a crucial decision by determining the 1st July 2022 as the cut-off date for the effectuation of TPS-OIC.

Insha'Allah, by 1 July 2022 the TPS-OIC will be fully operationalized. Seizing this opportunity, I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation for all the member countries of the Trade Negotiating Committee for their cooperation and efforts in bringing the TPSOIC to this stage.

We hope its effectuation to be a milestone for the beginning of a new era for our economic relations and for expanding the existing present cooperation. I would like to once more invite other OIC members to join the TPS-OIC so that we can reap its fruits collectively.

Distinguished Guests,

I would like to also touch upon briefly some other important ongoing initiatives under the COMCEC. The establishment of the OIC Arbitration Center is one of the most important projects of the COMCEC at present. We need to expedite our efforts for rendering the Center operational at the earliest.

Another important and collective responsibility of us is to enhance our cooperation in field of halal food. In that sense, I sincerely welcome the recent cooperation agreement signed between SMIIC and ICCIA with the aim of deepening the relations and exchange of information and expertise in line with the new developments and updates in Halal industry. I hope that this will give a new momentum and provide new opportunities in halal issues for both institutions as well as for all the Islamic world.

I also welcome the work done for the realization of our initiatives in the domain of financial cooperation such as OIC Gold Exchange, S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index, and COMCEC Real Estate Securities. All of these projects bear great importance since each of them has the potential for significantly enhancing the trade volume and tighten the commercial ties among the member countries.

Esteemed Members of the Follow-up Committee,

The COMCEC Working Groups have successfully held their first round of 2021 Meetings virtually with the active participation of the member countries as well as the

relevant OIC Institutions. The Working Groups devoted their efforts on COVID-19 related themes this year. I am sure that the final outcome of these efforts, the policy recommendations will significantly help the member countries in their struggle towards alleviating the negative effects of the COVID in the respective fields.

I would also like to touch upon the efforts under the COMCEC Project Funding briefly. There are 27 projects to be implemented this year some of which have been re-scheduled due to the Pandemic. In addition to them, we will implement various projects under our new programs namely the COMCEC COVID Response (CCR) and Al-Quds Program. Insha'Allah, in total we will implement more than 40 projects this year with your active contributions.

We attach high value and importance to Al-Quds Program designed by the COMCEC Coordination Office together with the counterparts in Palestine. The Program will contribute to the economic and social development of Palestine through promoting Al-Quds Al-Sharif especially its Islamic and Arabic identity.

With these words, I would like to thank you all for your attendance and wish you every success in your deliberations during the 37th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

Esselamu alaikum ve Rahmetullah.

May the Peace, Mercy and Blessing of Allah be Upon You.

ANNEX

III

Original: Arabic

**MESSAGE OF H.E. DR. YOUSEF BIN AHMAD AL-OTHAIMEEN
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION
OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)**

**THIRTY SEVENTH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP
COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(VIDEOCONFERENCE PLATFORM, 8-9 JUNE 2021)**

**H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Shenel, President of the Strategy and Budget of the Presidency
of the Republic of Turkey,**

Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegations,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Aleykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakatihu.

It is indeed a great pleasure, for me to address the 37th Follow-up Committee Meeting of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC). Allow me to, first and foremost, express my deepest appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the COMCEC Coordination Office for the arrangements made for this virtual meeting.

I am particularly pleased to note the measures taken for mitigating the effects of the pandemic in our OIC Member States. As you all know, we are still facing severe challenges to overcome socio-economic and humanitarian crises occasioned by the COVID 19 pandemic. The pandemic has had, and will continue to have, very serious effects on the economies of our Member States, including the transactions in goods, services, technology transfer, and project financing, technical assistance, financial capital, direct foreign investment, international banking and exchange rates. In response to the pandemic, OIC Member States have taken strict measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic, to ensure the proper functioning of the healthcare system as well as

support the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME). Further, the public-private partnerships are also essential for promotion of local private sectors and creating reliable business environment in OIC countries during this period.

In this regard, the OIC has mobilized the full capacity of the Organisation and its institutions to support our countries in developing and implementing national plans and programmes to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and to mobilize OIC-wide coordinated and coherent response to the pandemic. It is in this context that I would like to commend the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group for launching a US\$2.3 billion Strategic Preparedness and Response Programme for COVID-19 pandemic, which is aimed at supporting our member states' efforts to prevent, contain, mitigate and recover from the impact of the pandemic. The IsDB Group's **R2 "Restore Program"** in the area of Line of Finance transactions, which will also assist OIC member countries to restore their economies and recover from the impact resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Second Phase of the Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States is also another important program in mitigating the negative effects of COVID-19 pandemic.

The SESRIC, ICDT, ISF, COMCEC Coordination Office, IOFS, SMIIC and ICCIA have also implemented several projects and training and capacity building programmes on various economic aspects for the benefit of our countries. I wish therefore to inform that the SESRIC has released several research papers, including the 2020 Edition of the Report entitled "**Agriculture and Food Security in OIC Member Countries**". This edition presents the recent state as well as the impacts of the pandemic on agriculture and food security in OIC member states through the analysis of a wide range of latest available data.

In addition, the OIC prioritized mobilization of resources for the needs of our Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in order to enable them cope with the pandemic and facilitate economic recovery. In this regard, I would like to point out that the OIC General Secretariat is continuously urging OIC countries with available sufficient sources to assist other OIC countries, especially the LDCs in order to enhance their

capabilities to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 during the COVID-19 pandemic and post pandemic era. In this regard, the convening of the OIC Investment Forum in Africa later this year will highlight the investment potential of Africa and is aimed at attracting investments to the OIC African member countries. Suffice it to add, Africa has a lot of investment opportunities that we believe OIC Member States and private sectors should utilize in a win-win intra-OIC cooperation spirit.

However, I wish to mention that the intra-OIC cooperation becomes ever more needed not only to slowdown and eradicate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic but also to establish effective policies and measures to mitigate its after effects. The organization of various OIC sectoral ministerial level meetings on agriculture and food security, tourism and labour later this year, will give another impetus for adoption and elaboration of new projects and programmes in these sectors. Also later this year, we hope to hold an OIC Private Sector Forum on the sidelines of the next CFM.

Accordingly, OIC General Secretariat and its relevant institutions will continue to work closely with its member states to further a collaborative response to facilitate economic recovery in our countries. I wish therefore to express my sincere appreciation to the relevant OIC institutions, which have continued to collaborate with the General Secretariat for the execution of the various projects under the socio-economic agenda of the OIC.

I wish you a very successful meeting and look forward to the outcome of your deliberations.

Wassalamu Alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakatihu.

ANNEX

IV

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

- The 38th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on June 3rd, 2021, in a virtual only-format, on the sidelines of the 37th 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.]
- Furthermore, the CCO informed the Committee about the current developments regarding the projects supported by the COMCEC Coordination Office under the COMCEC Project Funding and also informed the participants that upon the request of project owners, most of the projects were postponed to 2021 for implementation. The Committee appreciated the efforts of the relevant OIC Institutions in submitting projects through the COMCEC Project Funding in the 8th project call made in September 2020. Moreover, 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 dates for the said event.

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.
- The Committee took note the necessity of the publicizing the facilities and activities of the relevant OIC Institutions regarding the support measures (vaccine, etc.)

provided to the member countries for offsetting the negative impacts of COVID-19. In line with these needs, the Committee requested the CCO to consult with the OIC General Secretariat about the possibility of producing and publicizing a report on COVID-19 related activities/projects/programmes of the concerned institutions for the sake of member countries. 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 36th 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 37th COMCEC Session.
- In accordance with the decision of the previous Sessional Committee Meeting, the Committee requested the SESRIC and CCO to continue their consultations towards establishments of an online platform to better follow-up of the SDG-related activities of the OIC Institutions.
- The Committee took note that the CCO would consult with the OIC General Secretariat on the possibility of publicizing the SDG-related activities of the concerned OIC Institutions in a single and concise report.

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 took note of the short and medium term plan of actions of the ICIEC aimed at completion of the Programme.
- Taking note of the limited responses to the questionnaire conducted by the ICIEC with SESRIC, the Committee requested the ICIEC with the 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 37th 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 should 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.

ANNEX

V



**AGENDA OF THE 37th MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC**

(8-9 June 2021, Virtual Meeting)

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation
3. The Implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action
4. Intra-OIC Trade
5. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
6. Improving Transport and Communications
7. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
8. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
9. Alleviating Poverty
10. Deepening Financial Cooperation
11. Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “The Role of Islamic Finance in Supporting Microenterprises and SMEs against COVID-19”
12. Draft Agenda of the 37th Session of the COMCEC
13. Any Other Business
14. Adoption of the Report

ANNEX

VI

Original: English

**REPORT OF MEETING OF THE
TRADE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE (TNC) of TPS-OIC
(Virtual, 1-2 June 2021)**

1. The Meeting of TNC was held virtually on 1-2 June, 2021.
2. The Meeting of TNC was chaired by Ms. Aylin BEBEKOĞLU, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Turkey.
3. Delegations of the following Member States of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) attended the meeting:
 - Kingdom of Bahrain
 - People's Republic of Bangladesh
 - Islamic Republic of Iran
 - Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
 - Malaysia
 - Kingdom of Morocco
 - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 - Sultanate of Oman
 - Islamic Republic of Pakistan
 - Republic of Turkey
 - The State of the United Arab Emirates
4. The following OIC Institutions also attended the meeting:
 - Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
 - COMCEC Coordination Office (as the co-Secretariat of TNC)
 - The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) (as the co-Secretariat of TNC)
 - Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)(Copy of the List of Participants is attached as Annex I.)

Opening Session

5. H.E. Sezai UÇARMAK, Deputy Minister of Trade of the Republic of Turkey made an inaugural statement.
6. In his statement, H.E. UÇARMAK stressed that implementation of Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC) at the earliest bears utmost importance both economically and politically.

7. In his statement, H.E. UÇARMAK expressed that COVID-19 global pandemic adversely hit the global economy and foreign trade including Islamic countries. H.E. UÇARMAK also drew attention to the fact that trade volume of the OIC Member Countries declined above the world average in terms of both exports and imports.

8. In his statement, H.E. UÇARMAK pointed out that after the implementation of the TPS-OIC and recovery of the global trade hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, scope of the agreement should be broadened.

(Copy of the inaugural statement of H.E. Sezai UÇARMAK is attached as Annex II.)

9. In his inaugural speech, H.E. A. Rıdvan AĞAOĞLU, Deputy President, Presidency of Strategy and Budget of Turkey, drew attention to the fact that one of COMCEC's main objectives is to enhance the intra-OIC trade and COMCEC has initiated several projects and programmes to enhance economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC member countries. In this context, H.E. AĞAOĞLU recalled that the establishment of a trade preferential system among the member countries was on COMCEC's agenda since its inception and highlighted the significance of the implementation of TPS-OIC to reach the 25 percent intra-OIC trade target by 2025 as envisaged in OIC 10 year Programme of Action.

(Copy of the text of the speech of H.E. Rıdvan AĞAOĞLU is attached as Annex III.)

10. On behalf of the H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-OTHAIMEEN, Secretary General of The OIC, Mrs. Latifa El Bouabdellaoui, Director General of ICDT, made a statement. In her statement, Mrs. El Bouabdellaoui stated that Trade Preferential System among the Member States of OIC (TPS-OIC) is an important project to foster intra-OIC Trade and it will be more beneficial and works effectively if others join the system. She also mentioned that OIC General Secretariat and ICDT made efforts to speed up the implementation of the agreement and its protocols by organizing capacity building programs and impact studies.

11. The meeting was then addressed by the heads of delegations of the participating countries. The head of delegations stated that TPS-OIC is a significant instrument in enhancing intra-OIC Trade. They further showed their readiness for the implementation of the TPS-OIC.

Adoption of the Agenda

12. The TNC adopted the agenda and the work program of the Meeting.

(Copy of the agenda is attached as Annex IV.)

Presentations by the Secretariat of the TNC

13. The COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), as the co-secretariat of the TNC, made a presentation on the historical background of and the recent developments regarding the TPS-OIC. Having underlined the 35 years history of TPS-OIC, the CCO stated that increasing the intra-OIC trade and building a strong framework for commercial cooperation among the member countries are the main goals of the TPS-OIC. The CCO underlined that the legal basis of the system was completed by August 2011 and as of December 2014, the required number of countries having met the necessities of the System has been reached.

14. Concerning the way forward, the CCO explained that completing the necessary internal procedures for incorporating the concessions into the national system, designating the competent authority for issuing the TPS-OIC Certificate of Origin, providing the TNC Secretariat with a sample of certificate of origin as well as with specimen impression of stamps of the competent authority and publishing guidelines and organizing training seminars for the relevant stakeholders are all crucial for rendering the System operational.

15. Under this agenda item, Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), as the co-secretariat of the TNC, also made a presentation on the potential economic impacts of TPS-OIC on the concerned Participating States. ICDT stated that the objective of this study is enhancing trade through preferential concessions, helping bilateral negotiations between participating countries, and studying the impact of tariff reduction of PRETAS Scheme, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Regional Trading Agreements (RTAs) on intra-OIC Trade, investment, consumption, prices and GDP. The preliminary study outcomes revealed that the TPSOIC Agreement and its protocols have a positive impact on GDP, outputs, consumption, exports, imports and investments of the 13 participating countries.

16. Mentioning the status of FTAs and RTAs of thirteen participating countries, ICDT underscored that many of these countries apply low or zero tariff with their FTAs and RTAs and have effects on intra-OIC Trade flows. ICDT also drew attention to the fact that TPS-OIC should be revised and adapted with the new generation of agreements and the impact will be more significant and when Member Countries (MCs) participates in the System. ICDT also underlined that the FTAs and RTAs of the Member States, ratified with some third parties are more advanced than TPS-OIC and hamper intra-OIC Trade, investment, consumption and output.

(Text of presentations are attached as Annex V.)

Roadmap for the Implementation of TPS-OIC

a. Current status of the updated concession lists

17. The Committee underlined the importance of the most updated and uniform concession lists of the Participating States for the smooth operationalization of the TPS-OIC. In this respect, the Committee call upon the Gulf Cooperation Council to convey the most updated and uniform concession lists to the TNC Secretariat at the earliest convenience, on behalf of its six member countries namely; Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman. Regarding this issue, GCC informed that the process of updating the concession lists on behalf their members is underway, afterwards it will be conveyed to the TNC Secretariat in due course. The representative of the delegation of the Sultanate of Oman stated that the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council has been provided by Oman with evidence that the Sultanate does not have a list of goods exceeding 10% customs duties.

18. As the Co-Secretariat of TNC, COMCEC Coordination Office underlined that the TPS-OIC lists can be updated to comply with the recent WCO HS Coding. That will not be an impediment for the implementation.

19. Regarding the format of concession lists, CCO and ICDT, as Co-Secretariats of TNC, will provide training as and when needed.

20. The Trade Negotiating Committee welcomed the proposal of Morocco that ICDT could conduct a reflection study on scenarios for implementing and updating this system, especially in light of the current international health situation (COVID-19 crisis), and its impact on intra-OIC trade.

21. The Trade Negotiating Committee noted with appreciation the proposals of Morocco that the CCO and ICDT as co-Secretariat of TNC would continue to promote the efforts regarding future joining to this system by other Member States and organise a several activities in term of capacity building in order to clarify the technical issues regarding the updating and the implementation of the TPS-OIC.

b. Discussing internal procedures for the implementation of the Agreement

22. COMCEC Coordination Office updated the Trade Negotiating Committee that Bangladesh, Morocco, Jordan, Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait have already notified CCO of their relevant internal measures for the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin. CCO informed that the notifications from Bahrain, Iran, Malaysia and United Arab Emirates are expected to be received.

23. Delegation of Malaysia confirmed that they would provide the necessary information regarding the internal procedures for the implementation TPS-OIC.

24. Delegation of I.R. of Iran after stating that they have already conveyed the sample of certificate of origin as well as with specimen impression of stamps of the competent authority to the CCO eight years ago, asked whether conveying electronic certificate of origin is possible or not. CCO requested Iran delegation to re-send the relevant most updated documents through official channels to CCO. Further it is stressed that although electronic certificate of origin is not practicable for the time being as it necessitates convenient infrastructure, it can be evaluated as a separate agenda item in the future as part of trade facilitation related initiatives.

25. With respect to the question of Delegation of United Arab Emirates, CCO highlighted that notification of relevant internal measures comprises the following steps (1) conveying Certificate of Origin and (2) conveying Specimen impressions of stamps to TNC Secretariat and (3) informing CCO regarding the required legislative measures (these measures may include issuing secondary legislation and regulations) for the implementation of TPS-OIC at national level in each participating state.

c. Determining a cut-off date for the implementation of the Agreement

26. Commending all the Participating States' efforts to fully operationalize the TPS-OIC System, the Committee agreed upon 1st July 2022 as the cut-off date for the effectuation of the system and requested the concerned member states to expedite the completion of their internal procedures and other preparations until that date.

27. The Committee also agreed that GCC members of the TNC will convey their observation(s) as soon as possible, if any, on the date of effectuation of the System mentioned above.

d. Clarifying the LDC status issue at TPS-OIC Framework Agreement

28. Under this item, it was underlined that COMCEC Ministerial Sessions have the sole authority to review resolutions and decisions under its competence. Therefore, “unless otherwise decided by the COMCEC” phrase in TPS-OIC agreements actually directly refers to the authority of the COMCEC and provide a flexibility to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions to review the definition of LDCs in the relevant agreements in case it is needed.

29. Based on the mandate given by the 36th COMCEC Ministerial Meeting to the TNC to provide interpretation of article 1.6 of TPS-OIC Framework Agreement especially the phrase "unless otherwise decided by the COMCEC" before the operationalization of TPS-OIC, TNC decided to adopt UN definition of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Any Other Business

30. No issue was raised under this item.

Closing Session

31. The Committee adopted the Report and annexes of the Meeting of the TNC.

32. The Committee underlined the importance of encouraging the participation of other OIC member countries into the TPS-OIC for enhancing the system taking into account its positive trade impact.

33. The Committee agreed that date of the next meeting of the TNC would be determined by the TNC co-Secretariats in consultation with the participating States.

34. The participating delegations wholeheartedly thanked the Government of the Republic of Turkey, as the chair of the Meeting and the co-Secretariats of the TNC for the excellent arrangements made for this important virtual meeting.

ANNEX

VII

Original: English



**DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE 37th SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(22-25 November 2021)**

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation
3. The Implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action
4. World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the OIC Member States
5. Intra-OIC Trade
6. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
7. Improving Transport and Communications
8. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
9. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
10. Alleviating Poverty
11. Deepening Financial Cooperation
12. Exchange of Views on “The Role of Islamic Finance in Supporting Microenterprises and SMEs against COVID-19”
13. Date of the 38th Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Resolutions

ANNEX

VIII

Original: English

CLOSING SPEECH
BY AMBASSADOR M. METIN EKER, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY TO THE OIC
THIRTY SEVENTH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE
COMCEC
(Virtual-Only Format, 9 October 2021)

Distinguished Members of the Follow-up Committee, Esteemed Delegates,

After intensive deliberations, we have successfully completed the 37th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-Up Committee. Although organized in a virtual environment, productive deliberations we conducted made our meeting very fruitful. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you all for your active participation and valuable contributions.

Esteemed Colleagues,

Around 3.7 million people lost their lives worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic and hundred thousand of others are still struggling with the virus. May Allah the Almighty shower His endless blessings on our brothers and sisters who lost their lives due to the Pandemic and bestow a speedy recovery for the patients.

In this respect, world community including our member countries have taken various measures and initiated support programs towards mitigating the negative impacts of the pandemic on their economies. Meanwhile, the OIC institutions have also initiated several programs with a view to contribute to the member states' efforts in combating against the adverse effects of the Pandemic. I would like to thank all the OIC Institutions for their sincere efforts in assisting the member states in these difficult times.

Esteemed Delegates,

During our Meeting, we have dwelt on various critical issues. I would like to just briefly highlight some of these points: We have welcomed the crucial agreement reached in

Trade Negotiating Committee Meeting on the cut-off date as 1st July 2022 for the effectuation of TPS-OIC. We all invite concerned parties to complete the necessary preparations to that end.

Regarding the OIC Arbitration Center, we have learned that preparations are at the final stages and the Center will be fully operational before the 37th COMCEC Session. This is a most welcome development indeed. It is also a proof that OIC and COMCEC can deliver concrete results for the governments as well as the private sector.

Distinguished Delegates,

We are very pleased to observe that the cooperation efforts under the auspices of COMCEC particularly the Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding continue uninterrupted despite heavy circumstances and restrictions stemming from the pandemic. I would like to express my special thanks and appreciation to the member countries, the CCO and the other relevant partner institutions for their endeavors towards this end.

I also welcome the new programs that have been initiated by the COMCEC Coordination Office namely the COMCEC COVID Response (CCR) and COMCEC Al-Quds Program. In fact, in the development of one of these programmes that is Al-Quds Programme, I have been personally involved, then as CCO Director General. Therefore, I am eagerly waiting for the positive results. I wish every success to all partners in the implementation of these programs.

As I conclude my speech, I would like to reiterate my thanks and appreciations to all the Members of the Follow-Up Committee for their active participation and precious inputs to our work. I would also like to express my thanks to the representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, ICDT, ICCIA, SMIIC, IDB Group including ITFC, ICIEC, ICD, ISFD for their participation and valuable contributions to the meeting.

I would also like to thank our colleagues in the COMCEC Coordination Office, the staff on duty in this organization, interpreters, revisers and translators and all other colleagues taking part in the organization of the meeting for their untiring efforts, which really helped us in rendering this virtual meeting successful.

Thank you. Esselamu alaikum ve Rahmetullah.

ANNEX

IX

Original: English

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS
CONSIDERED AND/OR PRESENTED AT
THE THIRTY SEVENTH MEETING OF
THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(Online, 8-9 June 2021)**

1.	Report on the Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy - Progress Report.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(1)-CCO
2.	Report of the OIC General Secretariat on the Implementation of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(2)-OIC
3.	Brief on Trade.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(3)-CCO
4.	Reports of ICDT on the OIC Fairs and Exhibitions.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(4)-ICDT
5.	Executive Summary: Annual Report on Trade Between the OIC Member States.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(5)-ICDT
6.	Report of the ICDT on the Issues Relating to the Activities of the WTO	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(6)-ICDT
7.	ITFC Progress Report on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(7)-ITFC
8.	Report on the Activities of SMiIC.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(8)-SMiIC
9.	Report on the Activities of ICCIA.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(9)-ICCIA
10.	Brief on Transport and Communications.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(10)-CCO
11.	Brief on Tourism	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(11)-CCO
12.	Brief on Agricultural Cooperation.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(12)-CCO
13.	Brief on Poverty Alleviation	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(13)-CCO
14.	Brief on Financial Cooperation	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(14)-CCO
15.	SESRIC Activity Report Towards the Implementation of COMCEC Strategy.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(15)- SESRIC
16.	PROGRESS REPORT Towards the Implementation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025.....	OIC/COMCEC-FC/37-21/D(16)-SESRIC

Reports are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org)