

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 33rd MEETING OF
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(İstanbul, 25 November 2018)**

1. The 33rd Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on November 25th, 2018 in İstanbul, on the sidelines of the 34th Session of the COMCEC.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. M. Metin EKER, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), the following OIC Institutions attended the Meeting:

- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
- Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group
- International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)-IDB Group
- Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)- IDB Group
- Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD)- IDB Group
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
- Organization of Shipowners Association of the OIC (OISA)
- Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)

3. 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
- Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the SDGs in OIC Member States
 - Results of the “Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries”
 - Activities of the OIC Institutions Serving to the Implementation of the SDGs
- Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action
- The Proposal on the “Business Intelligence Center”

- Trade Related Statistics
- Any Other Business

Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy

4. Emphasizing the significance of 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 for the relevant OIC Institutions, aligned with the COMCEC Strategy for the periods of December 2017- November 2018 and December 2018-November 2019 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation. The Committee was also briefed by the relevant OIC Institutions on their planned activities.

(The list of activities organized and to be organized by the OIC Institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy between November 2017 and November 2019 is attached as Annex 1.)

5. The Committee was informed by the CCO that out of 205 activities of the OIC Institutions listed in completed activities since the 33rd Session of the COMCEC, 39 percent of the activities were implemented in poverty alleviation area followed by trade (%33) and financial cooperation (%9). The Committee was also informed that with respect to types of the activities, the Institutions specially focused on trainings and technical assistance programs (%34.1), fairs, exhibition, forums (%19.5) and workshops (%13.2).

6. The Committee welcomed the proposal of the ICIEC (IDB Group) to add brief notes of the OIC Institutions regarding their achievements, programmes and activities since the previous COMCEC Session as an annex to the Report of the Sessional Committee Meetings. The Committee requested the CCO in collaboration with the ICIEC (IDB Group) to prepare a template for the abovementioned brief notes and circulate it to the OIC Institutions for receiving their feedbacks and comments. The Committee also requested the OIC Institutions to submit brief notes on their main achievements in line with this template to the next Meeting of the Sessional Committee.

7. For sensitizing the OIC Institutions on the programs and activities of each other, the Committee requested all the OIC Institutions to inform/invite each other to their relevant activities.

8. The Committee highlighted the importance of the works of the COMCEC Working Groups where detailed research reports, specific policy recommendations and capacity

needs of the member countries are discussed by the Member Country experts in the specified themes. With a view to better addressing the needs and challenges of the Member Countries, the Committee requested the IDB Group to benefit more from the COMCEC research reports, which includes various field studies and the outcomes of the Working Group Meetings in designing their programmes, activities and drafting their country partnership strategies. The Committee welcomed the IDB Group's offer to the CCO for making a study visit to the IDB Headquarters for discussing a methodology for sharing the outcomes of the COMCEC Working Group Meetings and research reports.

9. The Committee underscored that the OIC Institutions shall give due regard to the Ministerial Policy Recommendations as well as the Working Group themes for the period 2019-2021 in planning their future cooperation activities and programs. With a view to better reflecting the activities of the OIC Institutions aligned with COMCEC Strategy and Policy Recommendations adopted at the Ministerial level, the Committee requested the OIC Institutions to indicate specifically the relevance between the activities and the policy recommendations in their lists of activities.

10. The CCO informed the Committee about the sectoral themes to be supported by the COMCEC Coordination Office in the 7th Project Call to be made in September 2019, under the COMCEC Project Funding. In this regard, the Committee underlined the importance of the submission of the project proposals by the OIC Institutions through COMCEC Project Funding for the realization of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations. The Committee also underscored that the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations should be utilized by the OIC Institutions in planning their future cooperation activities and programs.

11. The Committee welcomed the proposal of the ICIEC (IDB Group) to establish an e-platform to monitor the implementation of the planned activities of the OIC Institutions. The Committee requested the ICIEC (IDB Group) in collaboration with the SESRIC to prepare the details of this proposal and submit it to the next Sessional Committee Meeting to be considered as a separate agenda item.

Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the SDGs in the OIC Member States

12. The Committee was informed by the SESRIC on the results of the "Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries" circulated to the Member Countries in line with the relevant resolution of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC. It was noted that 36 member countries have communicated their completed or partial responses to the SESRIC. The SESRIC informed the participants that the Member Countries prioritized the following eight SDGs respectively:

1. SDG-1 titled “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”,
2. SDG-3 titled “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”,
3. SDG-2 titled “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”,
4. SDG-4 titled “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”,
5. SDG-5 titled “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”,
6. SDG 8 titled “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”,
7. SDG 9 titled “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”,
8. SDG-13 titled “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.”

13. The Committee was also informed that SESRIC has prepared a report on the Member Countries’ survey responses to be submitted to the 34th COMCEC Ministerial Session.

14. The Committee was informed by the CCO of the “List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Related to the SDGs for the period of 2018 and 2019” which was compiled by the CCO in line with the relevant resolution of the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session. The Committee requested the OIC Institutions to give due regard to the needs and priorities of the Member Countries, which was presented by the SESRIC via the SESRIC’s above-mentioned tendency survey, while planning their activities related to the SDGs and report to the CCO their activities directly related to the SDGs.

(The list of activities organized and to be organized by the OIC Institutions related to the SDGs between 2018-2019 is attached as Annex 2.)

15. The Committee underlined that the OIC-UN Coordination Meetings can be utilized for informing the UN bodies about the SDG-related efforts of the OIC Institutions.

Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action

16. The OIC General Secretariat informed the Committee about the recent developments towards the implementation of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action. The Committee highlighted the importance of effective cooperation and coordination among the OIC Institutions concerning realization of the goals defined by the OIC-2025:

Programme of Action. It was noted that the 4th Meeting of ACMOI will be held on 3-4 December 2018 with the participation of the OIC Organs/Institutions.

The Proposal on the “Business Intelligence Center”

17. The ICIEC (IDB Group) made a presentation on “Draft Final Report for Business Intelligence Center”. The Committee took note with appreciation of the proposal and the efforts of the ICIEC (IDB Group) on realization of the project. The Committee highlighted the importance of and need for further elaboration regarding its organizational structure, legal framework and other technical details. The issue will be elaborated during the 34th COMCEC Session.

Trade Related Statistics

18. The Committee highlighted the importance of harmonizing the trade related statistics in the publications of the OIC Institutions. In this regard, the Committee requested the CCO, ICDT and SESRIC to utilize the possible venues, including the next COMCEC Trade Working Group Meeting to study and elaborate on the methodologies used for calculating OIC trade data with a view to harmonizing them.

Any Other Business

19. The Committee Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

