

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 35th MEETING OF
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(Istanbul, November 24th, 2019)**

1. The 35th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on November 24th, 2019 in İstanbul, on the sidelines of the 35th Meeting of the COMCEC.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. M. Metin EKER, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to the 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 (IsDB) Group
 - 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, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
 - Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)
 - Organization of the Islamic Shipowners' Association (OISA)
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
 - Establishing an e-platform to monitor the implementation of the planned activities of the OIC Institutions
 - 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
 - Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action
 - The Proposal on the “OIC Business Intelligence Programme”
 - 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 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 2018-November 2019 as well as for the period November 2019-November 2020 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 and Annex 2 respectively.)

5. The Committee was informed by the CCO that in terms of Group A, 89 activities were reported as completed by the OIC Institutions. In terms of cooperation areas, approximately 70 percent of the activities were implemented in trade domain followed by tourism (9%) and financial cooperation (8%). The Committee was also informed that with respect to types of the activities, the Institutions specially focused on trainings and technical assistance programs (37 %), workshops (28%) and meetings (15%).

6. In terms of Group B activities, CCO representative informed the Committee that 156 activities have been completed since the 34th Session of the COMCEC and 114 activities are planned to be organized in the upcoming period by the respective OIC Institutions. Most of the completed and planned activities were reported in the area of trade.

7. The Committee underlined the importance of contributions of the OIC Institutions to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations as well as realization of the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy. In this respect, the Committee commended the efforts of SESRIC in contributing to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations through specifically designed activities such as capacity building and training programmes in the six cooperation areas. The Committee requested the relevant OIC institutions to do the same for the implementation of the policy recommendations and also continue reporting their list of activities in two groups in accordance with the agreed template/forms.

8. The CCO informed the Committee about the sectoral themes to be supported by the COMCEC Coordination Office in the 8th Project Call to be made in September 2020, under the COMCEC Project Funding. The Committee appreciated the efforts of SESRIC in submitting projects in six cooperation areas through the COMCEC Project Funding in the 7th project call in 2019. Moreover, the Committee underlined the importance of the submission of the project proposals by the OIC Institutions through COMCEC Project Funding and invited the relevant OIC Institutions to utilize this mechanism more efficiently for the realization of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

9. Regarding the proposal for establishing an e-platform to monitor the implementation of the planned activities of the OIC Institutions, the Committee was informed by the CCO representative of the preparations for launching such platform.

The CCO representative briefed the Committee that CCO has already launched the COMCEC Policy Follow-up System for the benefit of Member Countries and similar window will be opened for the benefit of the OIC Institutions with a view to simplifying and standardizing the reporting process. The Committee requested the CCO to complete the preparations before the 36th Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

10. Furthermore, the Committee discussed the ways and means of improving the mentioned e-platform. The Committee appreciated the efforts of the CCO and requested the CCO to incorporate a section on the major programmes/projects/activities of OIC Institutions which are not within the scope of the COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations to the mentioned e-platform.

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

11. The Committee was informed by the SESRIC of 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 35th Ministerial Sessions of the COMCEC.

12. The Committee was informed by the CCO that in line with the relevant resolution of the 34th COMCEC Session, “the List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Related to the SDGs for the period of 2019 and 2020” have been compiled by the CCO and submitted to the 35th COMCEC Session.

(The List of Activities of the OIC Institutions related to the SDGs for the period of 2019 and 2020 is attached as Annex 3)

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

13. The importance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the implementation of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action was highlighted.

The Proposal on the “OIC Business Intelligence Programme”

14. The Committee was informed by the ICIEC (IsDB Group) and SESRIC on the preparations towards the launching of “the OIC Business Intelligence Programme” initiative. The Committee noted the recent efforts and requested the ICIEC in cooperation with SESRIC to finalize the technical preparations for the operationalization of the Program.

Any Other Business

15. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the previous COMCEC Sessions and Sessional Committee Meetings, the SESRIC and IsDB Group informed the Committee of the recent developments regarding the finalization of the OIC Cotton Programme and stressed the establishment of a constructive dialogue between the relevant parties. The Committee reiterated its request from the IsDB Group to expedite the process towards the realization of the project.

16. The CCO raised the issue of possible contributions of the OIC Institutions for the benefit of Palestinian people and Al-Quds Sharif and proposed to discuss the ways and means of doing this under a separate agenda item in the forthcoming Meetings of the

Sessional Committee. The Committee welcomed the proposal of the CCO and extended it to include the distant OIC member countries such as Guyana and Suriname and Observer Countries. The Committee decided to include the issue as a separate agenda item in the next Sessional Committee Meeting.

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

