

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 36th MEETING OF
THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(October 15th, 2020, Virtual Meeting)**

- The 36th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on October 15th, 2020, in a virtual only-format, on the sidelines of the 36th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.
- The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ, 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 Organization for Food Security (IOFS)
 - Organization of the Islamic Shipowners' Association (OISA)
- 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
 - The e-platform (<http://activities.comcec.org>) established by the CCO for the activities of the OIC Institutions
 - 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
 - Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action
 - 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

- 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 2019-October 2020 as well as for the period November 2020-November 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, 70 activities were reported as completed by the OIC Institutions. In terms of cooperation areas, approximately 35% of the activities were implemented in trade domain followed by tourism and financial cooperation. The Committee was also informed that with respect to types of the activities, the Institutions specially focused on trainings and technical assistance programs (33 %), workshops (22%) and meetings (18%).
- In terms of Group B activities, CCO representative informed the Committee that 114 activities have been completed since the 35th Session of the COMCEC and 116 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.
- 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 also appreciated the efforts of other OIC institutions for the implementation of the policy recommendations and requested them to intensify their efforts and consider the possibility of organizing joint activities to that end.
- The Committee also noted the proposal that enhancing production capacity and innovation in the Member Countries should be the overarching goal of OIC institutions in their activities e.g. among others, by launching new windows for providing concessional loans to production and trade of hi-tech and technology intense products in OIC member countries.
- 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.

- Regarding the recently established e-platform (<http://activities.comcec.org>) to monitor the implementation of the planned activities of the OIC Institutions, the Committee was informed by the CCO about the details of this e-platform. In this respect, the Committee commended the efforts of the CCO and welcomed the launch of the said e-platform. Underlining the importance of the e-platform for simplifying and standardizing the reporting process, the Committee requested the CCO to prepare a brief guideline and organize a training session for the OIC Institutions. Furthermore, the Committee requested the OIC Institutions to convey their further feedbacks regarding the e-platform to the CCO and continue reporting their activities through the said platform.

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 commended the efforts of the OIC Institutions, particularly, among others, “the COMCEC COVID-19 Response Program” launched by the CCO; publication titled “Socio-Economic Impacts of Covid-19 Pandemic in OIC Member Countries,” and various training and capacity building programs conducted by SESRIC; “Strategic Preparedness and Response Program for the COVID-19 Pandemic” initiated by the IsDB Group; the webinars on the impact of Covid-19 on intra-OIC trade and investment flows organized by the ICDT in collaboration with OIC and International Institutions; various activities (financing support, webinars, support for equipment and capacity development, harmonization of standards, etc.) undertaken by ITFC to assist Member Countries’ fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

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 35th COMCEC Session, “the List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Related to the SDGs for the period of 2020 and 2021” will be compiled by the CCO and submitted to the 36th COMCEC Session. The Committee requested the OIC Institutions to convey their realized and planned activities related to the SDGs to the CCO well in advance of 36th COMCEC Session. The Committee also requested the SESRIC and CCO to consider the possibility of establishing an online platform to better follow-up of the SDG-related activities of the OIC Institutions.

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

- 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”

- The Committee was informed by the ICIEC (IsDB Group) 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.

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 and programmes.

Any Other Business

- The Committee Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.
