

Original: English

**REPORT OF
THE 39th MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(November 15th, 2021, Virtual Meeting)**

- The 39th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held virtually on November 15th, 2021.
- The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to 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)
 - 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-December 2021 as well as for the period December 2021-December 2022 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation.
- The Committee was informed by the CCO that in terms of Group A activities, the majority of the activities/programmes have been implemented in the field of trade during this year. Under Group A, the Esteemed Institutions have conducted mostly training and technical assistance activities.
- On the other hand, the Committee was informed by the CCO that under the Group B activities, a great majority of the activities were implemented in trade and poverty alleviation cooperation areas.
- The Committee commended the efforts of the concerned institutions for their specifically designated activities in 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 to that end.
- The Committee welcomed the growing number of activities conducted by OIC institutions for the realization of the COMCEC Strategy especially through video-conferencing facilities and requested the OIC institutions to continue to organize virtual training programmes wherever feasible for the member countries.
- Furthermore, the CCO informed the Committee about the current developments regarding the projects supported by the COMCEC Coordination Office under the COMCEC Project Funding. CCO informed the participants that during six implementation years, 83 projects have been implemented successfully by 24 Member Countries and 3 OIC Institutions. 53 Member Countries have benefited from these projects as partners. Moreover, in 2021, 25 projects are being implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding.
- Furthermore, under the framework of the 9th Call for Project Proposals under the CPF, the number of the short-listed project proposals of the OIC Institutions have increased. In this regard, the Committee commended the remarkable interest shown by the Member Countries and OIC Institutions to benefit from this mechanism.
- 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 in reporting their relevant activities. The Committee requested the OIC Institutions to continue reporting their activities through the said platform.

- The Committee welcomed that in line with the decision of the previous Sessional Committee Meeting, a special consultative session on effective implementation of the COMCEC Policy Recommendation (PRs) was held virtually on September 28th, 2021, with the participation of the concerned OIC Institutions. The Committee welcomed the following decisions of the aforementioned Consultative Meeting:

- Within COMCEC Funding Mechanism, the relevant OIC Institutions would be able to implement two projects instead of one project each year under each cooperation area of the Strategy.
- COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) in collaboration with some OIC Institutions will formulate a new tailored capacity enhancement program for the Member Countries,
- The CCO will open a special window on the COMCEC Policy Follow-up System (PFS) for the relevant OIC Institutions in order to enable them to insert progress in their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC PRs,
- For the effective implementation of the COMCEC PRs, the relevant OIC Institutions will consider to conduct events and activities in margin of the high level OIC and COMCEC Meetings.

OIC Institutions' Efforts in combatting COVID-19 Pandemic

- The Committee was informed by the OIC Institutions about their financing activities / programs aiming to help member countries in their efforts towards mitigating the adverse effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In this regard, the CCO informed the Committee that 9 projects of the Member Countries are being implemented under the COMCEC COVID Response (CCR) Program in 2021. Moreover, 2nd Call for Project Proposals under the CCR have also started in October 2021.

- Regarding the proposal made during the previous Sessional Committee Meeting on publishing the activities conducted and financing facilities offered by the relevant OIC Institutions for offsetting the negative impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic in the member countries as a concise electronic/ published booklet, the Committee, noting that CCO has already initiated consultations with OIC General Secretariat on the issue, requested the CCO to continue its consultations with the OIC General Secretariat about the possibility of producing and publicizing the aforementioned booklet.

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

- The Committee was informed by SESRIC 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 37th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC.

- The CCO briefed the Committee about the compiled “List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Related to the SDGs for the period of 2021 and 2022” that will be submitted to the 37th COMCEC Session.

- Taking note of the consultation between CCO and SESRIC on the establishment of the online platform to better follow-up of the SDG-related activities of the OIC Institutions, the

Committee requested CCO, in collaboration with SESRIC, to finalize the technical preparations and launch this online platform before the next Sessional Committee Meeting.

- Recalling the relevant decision of the previous Sessional Committee Meeting on publicizing the SDG-related activities of the concerned OIC Institutions in a single and concise booklet/pamphlet, the Committee, noting that CCO has already initiated consultations with OIC General Secretariat in this regard, requested CCO, as the Chair of the Sessional Committee, to continue its consultations with the OIC General Secretariat about the possibility of producing such a booklet/pamphlet.

The Proposal on the “OIC Business Intelligence Programme”

- The Committee was informed by the ICIEC (IsDB Group) on the proposal prepared by the ICIEC, SESRIC and ICDT for organizing a Capacity Building Activities for potential beneficiaries of the OIC Business Intelligence Programme in the areas covered under the core business of the Programme and requests the ICIEC, SESRIC and ICDT to implement the Capacity Building Activities at the earliest. In the same regard, the Committee took note of the progress made towards the launching of “the OIC Business Intelligence Programme” initiative, especially the comprehensive implementation plan, and the Committee requested the ICIEC, in cooperation with SESRIC and ICDT, to finalize the technical preparations for the operationalization of the Programme at the earliest.

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 continue their efforts including the possible joint activities, projects, and programmes.
- Afterwards, the CCO informed the Committee that under the COMCEC Al-Quds Program, which was initiated in cooperation with the Ministry of National Economy of Palestine, 2 projects were successfully completed in 2020 and 6 projects are being implemented in 2021.

Any Other Business

- The Committee Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

