



**Standing Committee  
for Economic and Commercial Cooperation  
of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC)**

## **Proceedings of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group**



**COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE  
October 2015**



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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMCEC POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
WORKING GROUP**

**(10-11 September 2015, Ankara, Turkey)**

**COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE  
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## Introduction

The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on 10-11 September 2015 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Improving Basic Services Delivery in the OIC Member Countries”.

The Meeting was attended by the representatives of 27 Member States namely, Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Niger, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Turkey, Uganda and Uzbekistan. Representatives of COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, Islamic Development Bank, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN), Society for Community Strengthening and Promotion of Education, Balochistan (SCSPEB) and some other guests have also attended the Meeting.<sup>1</sup>

After the opening remarks of Mr. Mehmet Metin EKER, the Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), and Mr. Harapan Lumban GAOL, Head of Program and Report Division, Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and the Chairman of the Meeting, the representative of the CCO made a presentation on “COMCEC Poverty Outlook 2015”. During the presentation of the COMCEC Poverty Outlook 2015, the participants were informed about the state of poverty and efforts on poverty alleviation in the world and in the OIC Member Countries.

The Meeting considered the current delivery systems of the basic services as well as possibilities to improve them particularly for the poor in the OIC Member Countries and the analytical study titled “Improving Basic Services Delivery for the Poor in the OIC Member Countries” which was prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office especially for the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions.

The Representatives of the member countries have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in delivery systems of basic services in their respective countries. During the second day of the Meeting the Joint Study reflecting the perspective of OIC on the implementation of the SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda has been presented. Furthermore, the Meeting deliberated on the preparations regarding the Exchange of Views Session of the 31st COMCEC Ministerial Meeting and came up with some policy recommendations to be submitted to the 31st COMCEC Session.

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<sup>1</sup> The list of participants is attached as Annex 4.

## 1. Opening Session

In line with the tradition of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Afterwards, Mr. M. Metin EKER, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office welcomed all participants. Thereafter, Mr. EKER explained the detailed programme of the Meeting.

Subsequently, Mr. Harapan Lumban GAOL, Head of Program and Report Division, Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, was chosen as the chairman of the Meeting and he thanked all participants for electing him as the Chairman and welcomed them all to the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group. Afterwards, Mr. GAOL invited Mrs. Hande HACIMAHMUTOĞLU to make her presentation on Poverty Outlook in the OIC Member Countries.

## 2. The COMCEC Poverty Outlook 2015

Ms. Hande HACIMAHMUTOĞLU, Expert from the COMCEC Coordination Office has presented some of the key findings of the COMCEC Poverty Outlook 2015.

In her presentation, Ms. HACIMAHMUTOĞLU explained the state of poverty in the world and in the OIC Region by emphasizing monetary and non-monetary and efforts on poverty alleviation, with a special focus on achievements on the MDGs in the OIC member countries. She shared some figures that were created by using the data from the World Bank, the UNDP and IFPRI and demonstrated the similarity between the progress of the monetary and the non-monetary poverty indicators.

With regards to the state of monetary poverty in the world, Ms. HACIMAHMUTOĞLU stated that significant decrease had been experienced on the ratio of people who live under US\$1.25 a day in all the income group countries between 1990 and 2011, and the highest fall was experienced in the upper-middle income group with 88 percent decrease. On the other hand, she pointed out that poverty levels are still high for a considerable population group, since 47 percent of the population in the low-income and 22 percent of the population in the lower-middle income countries live under US\$1.25 a day.

To understand the extent of the poverty situation, Ms. HACIMAHMUTOĞLU focused on two of the various measures that are used to examine poverty in non-monetary terms: Human Development Index (HDI) and Multidimensional Poverty Index. She explained that HDI reveals the human development levels of the countries by utilizing four indicators, namely life expectancy at birth, means years of schooling and expected years of schooling and GNI per capita. She addressed that income levels affect other dimensions of human-development for majority of countries. Hence, 94 percent of the countries which are in very high human development category is high income countries while only 7 percent of this category is high income countries. Similarly, 68 percent of the countries which are in low human development category is low income countries, while only 5 percent of this category is low income countries.

Ms. HACIMAHMUTOĞLU explained that MPI has been calculated for measuring poverty in a much broader context, since 2010, and it considers multiple deprivations of the population and their overlap by utilizing the dimensions of health, education and standard of living. She pointed out that, among the 91 countries in the MPI poor group, 34 of them experience severe multidimensional poverty which is more than 20 percent of their total population. She briefly explained that while 1 percent of the MPI poor group is from high income countries, this ratio is 27 percent for upper-middle income, 42 percent for lower-middle and 30 percent for low income

countries. This picture shows that income level cannot be defined as the only determinant of well-being.

In the second section of her presentation, she addressed the GDP levels of the OIC member countries in order to explain the monetary poverty situation in these countries. In this context, she pointed out that although the total population of the member countries accounts for more than one-fourth of the world's total population, the total GDP of these countries accounts for 9 % of the World's total GDP. She stated that GDP per capita levels of the OIC countries display a highly dispersed composition; varying from USD 967 in Niger to USD 140.000 in Qatar. While in high income counties the lowest GDP per capita level is higher than USD 46.000, in low income group it changes between USD 967 and USD 2.200. The number of people who live under US\$1.25 a day in the OIC Region is nearly 375 million, and the share of the poor population in the low income member countries account nearly for the third of their total population.

Ms. HACIMAHMUTOĞLU mentioned that looking at the state of poverty in non-monetary terms in the OIC countries, it is seen that human development levels of the countries demonstrate slight differences. Almost all of the OIC countries in the very high human development category are the high income countries. Similarly, most of the upper-middle income countries are in the high human development category and most of the low income group countries are in the low human development category. However, the situation of the lower-middle income group is slightly different, because more than one-fifth of these countries take part in the low human development category.

Regarding the state of multidimensional poverty in the OIC Member Countries, it is seen that while no high income OIC country exist in the MPI poor group, 23% of the countries in this group are upper-middle income countries, 44% is lower-middle and 33% is low income countries. She added that almost 26 percent of the OIC population live under multidimensional poverty. She also addressed that deprivation in the dimensions of the multidimensional poverty varies significantly among the member countries. For instance, while in the upper-middle income group the contribution of deprivation in education to overall multidimensional poverty ranges between 4.3 and 50.1, in the low income group the same contribution ranges between 18 and 45.6.

In the third section of her presentation, Ms. HACIMAHMUTOĞLU talked about the efforts on poverty alleviation in the World and in the OIC countries. As the efforts on poverty alleviation in the World, she mentioned about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Post-2015 Development Agenda, Poverty Reduction Strategies of The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and Official Development Assistance. Afterwards she focused on the achievements on the MDGs. She expressed that since the adoption of United Nations Millennium Declaration by the world leaders in 2000 the nations have committed to the new global development agenda to reduce extreme poverty, and with this global development agenda eight targets were set with a deadline of 2015, namely the MDGs. She addressed the findings of the progress reports, which demonstrates that many significant achievements have been realised. For instance, according to the last progress dated at July 2015, the world's population living in extreme poverty has fallen from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015; the proportion of undernourished people in the developing regions has fallen from 23 percent in 1990-1992 to 13 percent in 2014. On the other hand, despite such noteworthy achievements, there are still significant challenges on the way to reach the MDGs. She also explained the achievements on the MDGs in the OIC Member Countries based on the evaluation in the 2015 Poverty Outlook. Regarding the first goal she emphasised that, in general, more than half of the member countries are going to halve the proportion of people whose income is less than 1.25 dollar a day, and nearly one-third of them are upper-middle income countries. The general picture for the second goal is discouraging, since only one-



fifth of the member countries are likely to increase their net enrolment ratio in primary education to 100 percent. Regarding the third goal, the ratio for girls to boys in primary education, the picture is not promising. Approximately one-fourth of the OIC countries are expected to achieve this goal on time, of which nearly 39 percent is lower-middle and 31 percent is low income countries. The performance in the fourth goal is not promising, because in the overall picture for the OIC Member Countries, only less than one-third of the member countries are expected to achieve reducing under-five mortality rate by two-third. Regarding the fifth goal, the progress in the maternal mortality ratios is very discouraging in general, since in the OIC level nearly 90 percent of the member countries are expected to fail, and only six countries are expected to achieve on time. The progress in the antenatal care coverage is much better, but still 58 percent of the member countries are expected to fail. Regarding the sixth indicator, only one-fourth of the member countries are expected to halve HIV prevalence, none of them can be defined as either successful or on-track on providing a full access to antiretroviral drugs for the population with advanced HIV infection. Related to the same goal, the progress in the prevalence rate associated with tuberculosis is not promising, since only 35 percent of member countries are either successful or on-track. Related to the seventh goal, more than half of the OIC countries are expected to be successful in increasing the proportion of land area covered by forest. In the general picture, the progress in the proportion of total water resources used is not promising, since only 32 percent of the member countries are likely to decrease their proportion of water resources usage. The proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected is very encouraging since more than 90 percent of the member countries are expected to increase the proportion of protected terrestrial and marine areas. And related to the same goal, in the overall picture, more than half of the member countries are expected to decrease the proportion of people who do not have access to safe drinking water at least by half. Regarding the eight goal, in the general picture, 61 percent of the member countries can be classified as successful in increasing debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services. Looking at the fixed-telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants the general picture reveals that that 81 percent of the member countries are successful. Related to the mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, all member countries are likely to be successful. And related to the internet users per 100 inhabitants, it is seen that all countries have increased their internet use.

Afterwards, Ms. HACIMAHMUTOĞLU briefly explained the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals process. She mentioned that post-2015 development agenda has been initiated by the UN since 2010. A 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly was assigned to prepare a proposal on the SDGs and the group adopted a document with 17 goals and 169 targets. The SDGs aim to complete the unfinished work of the MDGs and to break new ground for the global development agenda including issues like inequalities, economic growth, decent jobs, cities and human settlements, industrialization and energy. In addition to these new issues, implementation means for the SDGs and global partnership for sustainable development were defined under the Goal 17 as: Finance, technology, capacity building, trade, systemic issues such as policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, data, monitoring and accountability. The post-2015 agenda and the new development framework are expected to bring a shared responsibility to countries and organizations to follow up the process. This includes working together at national, regional and international levels to achieve sustainable development for all and embrace the next development agenda through 2030.

Afterwards, Ms. HACIMAHMUTOĞLU explained the efforts on poverty alleviation in the OIC Member Countries. She briefly explained the poverty alleviation component in the COMCEC strategy by expressing the strategic objective of this component and its output areas, as well as

the project cycle management tool of COMCEC strategy and the projects that have been supported via this tool.

In the last section of her presentation, Ms. HACIMAHMUTOĞLU summarized some important remarks related to poverty alleviation in the region as follows:

- While monetary poverty is still relevant in many OIC Member Countries non-monetary poverty is devastating for a significant number of countries.
- 26 percent of the OIC population live under multidimensional poverty and highest deprivations are experienced in living conditions.
- Progress in the delivery of the MDGs differs among the goals and the income groups. However, lack of data is an obstacle on realising the exact picture.
- Unfinished work of the MDGs highlights the importance of commitment to the SDGs as well as cooperation and partnership for the SDGs, partnership between nations as well nations and international organisations in order to support the nations on their development efforts. She highlighted that financing poverty alleviation efforts and monitoring them via accurate and reliable data also gain high importance.

### **3. Improving Service Delivery for the Poor in OIC Member Countries**

#### **3.1. Overview of OIC Member Countries in Basic Services Delivery**

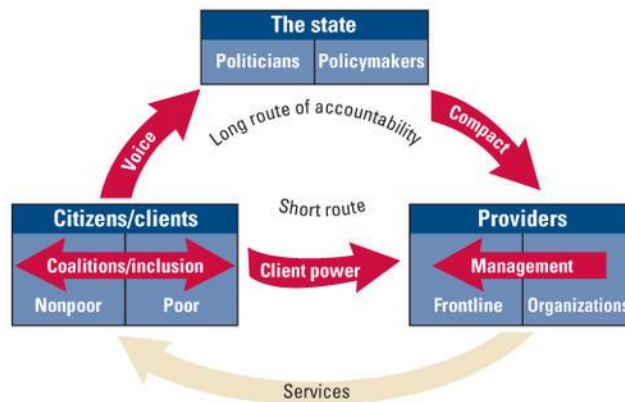
Dr. Meltem ARAN, Director of Development Analytics, presented the key concepts and main findings of the report on “Service Delivery for the Poor in OIC Member States” which was commissioned by the CCO and carried out by Development Analytics.

Dr. ARAN first explained the link between poverty and access to basic services and the conceptual framework with regards to the service delivery. She then moved on to present an overview of the OIC Member States with regards to access to basic services, financing mechanisms, service delivery models and common challenges.

She started with explaining the relation between access to basic services and poverty. Poverty is an important challenge for the OIC countries and it has multiple dimensions. Pointing out that lack of access to basic services constitutes another aspect of poverty; Dr. ARAN stated that when access problems are not addressed properly by the governments, lack of access to basic services and material poverty would reinforce each other and turn into a vicious cycle for the citizens.

Dr. ARAN continued with describing the basic services that the report focuses on, namely education, health care, water, sanitation and electricity. She explained that government has a role in basic services delivery in order to make access more equitable and in order to absorb externalities that the private markets are not able to absorb. She underlined that although governments have an important role with respect to service delivery, doing more of the same will not be enough. In this respect increasing public spending might not necessarily achieve improved results and in fact public spending might not even be reaching the poor.

Figure 1 The Accountability Framework in Service Delivery



Source: World Bank, World Development Report 2004 “Making Services Work for the Poor”

After outlining the basic services, their importance and the role of the governments, Dr. ARAN introduced the accountability framework to illustrate how service delivery chain works and how it might fail (See Figure 1). This model which was set out by the World Bank in the World Development Report of 2004 is composed of three sets of actors, namely the citizens, the state and the service providers and accountability relationships in between them. Citizens receive the services through two paths which are the long route of accountability which links the citizens with service providers through the state and the short route of accountability in which the citizens are directly linked with service providers. For the services to work well for the citizens, the accountability relationship between the citizens and the state and the accountability relationship between the state and the service providers must both be strong. When these relationships fail, strengthening the accountability relationship between the citizens and the service providers gains importance.

Dr. ARAN continued the conceptual framework with introducing different models of service delivery each of which fit differently in the accountability framework, having their own strengths and weaknesses. These models are central government provision, decentralization, contracting out, community participation and private provision. Dr. ARAN underlined that no one model is the best but their success might depend on the country context and the sector that they are employed in.

Wrapping up the conceptual part, Dr. ARAN moved on to presenting the overview of the OIC countries with respect to basic services delivery. She firstly mentioned that according to the indices that were constructed by the World Bank voice (accountability relationship between the citizens and the state) and compact (accountability relationship between the state and the service providers) are on average weak in the OIC countries compared to the World.

Afterwards, Dr. ARAN moved on to present the main findings of the report with respect to access to basic services. She showed that OIC countries generally lag behind World averages in the indicators showing access to basic services, yet with large disparities existing in between countries. On average, in the OIC countries, primary school enrolment rate is lower, under-5 child mortality rate is higher, access to improved drinking water source and access to electricity are both lower than the World average. Only access to an improved sanitation facility is almost equal to the World average, which is already low. Specifically she mentioned that country averages

mask disparities between the poor and the rich and between the rural and urban populations. She showed that in many of the member countries the poor lag behind in terms of access to education and basic health care services such as measles vaccination and births attended by health care staff. In addition, in many of the member countries rural population is at a disadvantage compared to the urban population in terms of access to an improved water source, improved sanitation facilities and electricity.

Next, Dr. ARAN moved on to describing the financing mechanisms of the basic services in the OIC Member Countries. On average the share of government spending on education is close to the World average for OIC Member States while the share of government spending for health is lower. In contrast, regarding health expenditures the average share of out of pocket expenditures in total health care spending was found to be considerably higher than the World average, pointing out to a negative aspect of health care systems in the OIC. Additionally, aid is found to be an important source of financing in the OIC Member States in the sectors education, health and water and sanitation for which there is available data. Lastly, Dr. ARAN showed that government subsidies are an important source of financing for the electricity sector in many of the OIC Member Countries.

As an important aspect of the report Dr. ARAN highlighted the comprehensive literature review that was carried out in order to identify the service delivery models employed in member countries in five different sectors. She mentioned that as a key point all kinds of service delivery models are found to be implemented in the member countries in different sectors without necessarily following a regional or income level trend.

As the last part of the OIC overview section of the presentation, Dr. ARAN explained the common challenges that occur in the member states. In the education sector, she mentioned a lack of human resources, low quality of human resources, poor quality of education, absenteeism of teachers and informal payments to be the common challenges observed. She pointed out to the fact that although governments spend similar shares of their budget on education in the OIC compared to the World average, the returns to the spending are poor as evidenced by the results of PIRLS 2011 which is an international reading achievement test for 4th graders. The results of this test show that all of the 8 OIC Member States that participated in the test rank together at the bottom of a list of 42 countries from around the World that participated in the test. Next, in the health care sector, Dr. ARAN pointed out to common challenges such as staff shortages, low levels of quality in public services and work force absenteeism. She continued with challenges observed in the water and sanitation sector, listing the first problem as the low level of access of the poor and of the people living in the rural areas. She also added clientelism, intermittent water supply, lack of a central authority responsible for sanitation services and lack of subsidizing or regulating on-site sanitation as other common challenges observed in the sector. Dr. ARAN finished this part with mentioning the common challenges observed in the electricity sector in the member countries. These challenges can be listed as low level of access of the people living in rural areas, frequent blackouts and low financial viability of electricity utility companies. She underlined that all of the challenges observed in the sectors are also associated with failures in the accountability framework through a combination of a weak voice, weak compact and weak client power affecting service delivery.

Dr. ARAN finished with making recommendations for the countries to improve basic services delivery. She underlined the importance of strengthening the accountability relationships in order to achieve better service delivery. Lastly, Dr. ARAN pointed out to the importance of strengthening the client power through mechanisms that would increase the citizens' choice, participation, and level of information.

## Questions and Remarks

**Question:** Mr. Nevzat KUNDURACI, representative of Turkey, asked whether there are appropriate models for delivery of basic services according to the income level groupings.

**Answer:** Dr. ARAN expressed that it is difficult to argue that there are definite delivery models for the each income grouping. Rather, proper delivery models can be determined according to the specific conditions of each country.

**Q:** Mr. Gadson ABEMIGISHA, representative of Uganda, stated that high spending does not mean well service delivery since the allocated funds can be misused or monitoring mechanisms are lacking. Regarding the basic service delivery in Uganda, Mr. ABEMIGISHA expressed that the statistics in the report does not reflect the real situation in Uganda. Therefore,, he asked which datasets are used while preparing the analytical report.

**A:** Dr. ARAN mentioned that the report was prepared in light of the World Development Indicators, UNESCO datasets and OECD statistics. She also indicated that the national statistics were not used since the comparable data was needed to analyse all the member countries. In this regard, she stated that the data and statistics of the international institutions were used to be able to compare the member countries in the same time period.

### 3.2. Basic Services Delivery in Case Countries

As part of the main report, four case studies have been conducted as well, depicting the situation with regards to basic service delivery in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lebanon and Turkey. Ms. Kimberly COLOPINTO and Ms. Nazli AKTAKKE from Development Analytics presented the findings of the report on basic services delivery in the case countries.

In the first part of the presentation, cases of Bangladesh and Indonesia were presented by Ms. Kimberly COLOPINTO, a Research Associate in Development Analytics. In her presentation Ms. COLOPINTO made an outline of the water and sanitation and education sectors of Bangladesh and education and health care sectors of Indonesia.

#### Bangladesh

Ms. COLOPINTO started her presentation by giving an overview of Bangladesh which she described as one of the most populous and poorest countries in the World. Given this background, Ms. COLOPINTO moved on to describing the situation of the country regarding access to water and sanitation. She explained that 31% of the country is connected to treated piped water supply, while most households are using ground water for drinking and cleaning. Regarding access to sanitation she emphasized that the access is still limited but it improved over the last two decades. The access to improved sanitation facilities increased from 24% in 1990 to 57% in 2010. In addition to the problems with regards to access she explained that, in the sector, the two major challenges are operations and maintenance problems and water pollution.

Ms. COLOPINTO explained that the water and sanitation sector is primarily managed by the central government in Bangladesh but service delivery is provided through locally-based semi-autonomous authorities (WASAs) or by municipalities. She added that in the sector operations and maintenance are financed by tariffs collected from customers, but capital improvements are financed by the central government.

She underlined that community participation is used as a key to improve sanitation outcomes in the country via Community Led Total Sanitation, a notable programme led by the NGO WaterAid to stop open defecation in Bangladesh. WaterAid, worked closely with the communities and local

governments to change attitudes towards open defecation through community meetings and awareness campaigns. Additionally, the NGO sold latrines at a low cost.

Ms. COLOPINTO emphasized that weak government capacity and ineffective management has led to inadequacies in the sector and to overcome this, the compact between WASAs, local government, central government, and citizens should be improved. She also added that the government showed some effort to improve accountability relationships by starting an initiative to benchmark performance of water providers and in 2009 data was published for 11 water providers as a result. Ms. COLOPINTO emphasized that this type of initiatives should continue and hopefully efforts like this will strengthen accountability.

Ms. COLOPINTO continued her presentation with the education sector of Bangladesh. She explained that Bangladesh has had many successes in the sector over the past two decades increasing primary school enrolment rate from 72 percent in 1990 to 96 percent in 2010. However she pointed out that the quality of education is low in the country and this is evidenced by high levels of dropout rates and low levels of educational achievement in the country. Additionally, a lack of human resources and poor maintenance of school buildings constitute important challenges.

Ms. COLOPINTO explained that public education service delivery is centralized in Bangladesh. Regarding financing of the education services, she stated that the share of government spending on education as a percent of GDP or as a share of total government expenditures are low. However an increase has been observed in these shares in the last two decades. She also added that the education financing has a positive aspect by providing funding for schools favouring regions with a poorer population.

Ms. COLOPINTO described a number of programs in the education sector of Bangladesh as notable. Nationalization of schools, meaning registering the unregistered schools for instance enabled them to receive government funding free textbooks, and curriculum support. Another program is Primary Education Stipends Program providing grants to rural children. She also mentioned that there are several smaller-scale programs provided by NGOs or by the government to reach out-of-school children.

## Indonesia

Ms. COLOPINTO continued with the case of Indonesia. Mentioning that Indonesia is also a populous country she explained that Indonesia faces similar challenges in service delivery. In the country, primary school enrolment rates increased in the last two decades while regional differences continue to exist. She explained that a major challenge for the sector is the low level of quality such that student performance depends on the region and drop-out rates are higher in poorer and more rural communities.

She explained that Indonesia recently transitioned to a school-based management system in which an education board, chaired by the principal and composed of teachers, manages the schools. In addition, starting in 2001, Indonesia devolved several responsibilities related to education provision to district governments. As a result, education financing is shared among all levels of government with the highest share coming from the district governments. Ms. COLOPINTO also added that in Indonesia, 20% of government's budget is spent on education by a government mandate which is very important in increasing government financing in the sector.

Ms. COLOPINTO stated that Bantuan Operasional Sekolah (BOS), a national school grant program was introduced in 2005. This program provided grants to 228,000 schools based on student population and served as vehicle to transition to school-based management. Another notable

program mentioned by Ms. COLOPINTO was PNPM Generasi which was introduced in 2007 to provide block grants to rural communities to make improvements in education and maternal health. Ms. COLOPINTO explained that the program was linked with positive impacts including decrease in malnutrition, increase in maternal health, and increase in primary school enrolment.

Ms. COLOPINTO concluded that Programs like BOS and PNPM Generasi helped schools through the transition to school based management system by providing financial incentives. Yet many schools and communities, particularly in remote areas where capacity is low, do not indicate a full understanding of the school-based management system and are not taking advantage of its possibilities. Ms. COLOPINTO concluded that full potential of school-based management has not been realized yet in many districts and emphasized that this is an improvement area for the country.

Health care sector of Indonesia was the last sector that Ms. COLOPINTO outlined in her presentation. She explained that health of Indonesians has improved substantially over the past two decades with decreasing under-5 mortality, and maternal mortality and increasing vaccination rates. However challenges are observed in the sector such as substantial disparities in access existing between income groups, and an unequal geographical distribution of the skilled staff and facilities.

Ms. COLOPINTO explained that in Indonesia, health care provision is decentralized but the Ministry of Health retains considerable control over staff allocations and planning. Regarding financing, she explained that health spending as a percent of GDP is low compared to other OIC countries while out of pocket expenditures constitute a higher share of overall health care spending at 45.5 percent. She added that in the country, a series of reforms were implemented after the 1999 constitution establishing the right to universal health care. And recently in 2014, BPJS Kesehatan was introduced as a single umbrella insurance provider.

She emphasized that the partial decentralization of health care has led to a lack of accountability among health care providers in Indonesia. She also added that compact is weak since the doctors are not incentivized to provide better quality services. Lastly, she emphasized the importance of improved targeting of the poor to improve coverage of insurance scheme and make better use of government funds.

Ms. Nazlı AKTAKKE, Lead Quantitative Researcher in Development Analytics, continued with the cases of Lebanon and Turkey. Ms. AKTAKKE made an outline of electricity and water and sanitation sectors of Lebanon and health care and electricity sectors of Turkey.

## Lebanon

Ms. Nazlı AKTAKKE explained that Lebanon is a country with 3.8 million Lebanese citizens, facing challenges of poverty, political instability and most recently the Syrian refugee crisis. Pointing out that Lebanon achieved universal electricity connection to its population; Ms. AKTAKKE mentioned that this did not translate into continuous supply, with the problem of frequent blackouts in the country. The number of blackout hours depends on the region of the country and the shortest number of blackouts is observed in the richest part, Beirut. Ms. AKTAKKE mentioned that this further exacerbates the already existing regional inequalities. One of the main reasons behind the frequent blackout problem is a shortage in the electricity supply. In the country, new power generation capacity was last added in the 1990s. Ms. AKTAKKE described another challenge in the sector as the low financial stability of the electricity utility company. Due to the low level of current tariffs and a high rate of losses, the utility company needs to be heavily subsidized by the government resulting in a continuous financial burden on the government's budget.

Ms. AKTAKKE explained that the main actor in the sector is the Electricite du Liban (EdL) which is the vertically integrated national utility company responsible for generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. Apart from EdL, small concessionary distribution companies and unregulated private generators supplying to a large number of consumers exist in the market. Ms. AKTAKKE mentioned that electricity services are financed by customers and the government. While there are substantial transfers to EdL from the government budget and there is a nominal tariff freeze for the consumers, she mentioned that households are actually willing to pay more for 24-hour service delivery.

Ms. AKTAKKE explained that a legal framework already exists for restructuring the sector which calls for unbundling and privatizing the utility company. Since inefficiencies in the sector continued, a policy paper was later issued that calls for the corporatization of EdL. Ms. AKTAKKE emphasized that implementing the electricity law or the policy paper would likely improve the accountability relationship between the state and the service provider in the delivery of electricity services. She emphasized that the solutions to the problems of the sector already exist as legal framework and they only need to be implemented.

Ms. AKTAKKE continued with the water and sanitation sector of Lebanon. She informed that 100 percent access to improved water source and improved sanitation facility is achieved while access to the piped water or sewerage network is at lower rates. She pointed out that in the country while water resources are abundant water supply does not meet the demand due to the inefficiencies in the sector and governance problems. She added that low quality in access to water is a major problem for the country showing itself as regional disparities in access, discontinuities in water supply and a perception of the citizens that the water is not drinkable.

She explained that while legally Regional Water Establishments (RWEs) are responsible for operations and maintenance of drinking water, wastewater and irrigation, de facto municipalities and local communities operate the network in some areas. In addition, she added that due to the intermittency of the water supply, many households rely on private providers. Ms. AKTAKKE explained that water and sanitation services are financed by customers and the government. She mentioned that water consumption is not metered in Lebanon, and flat fees are applied. She added that while RWEs are supposed to be financially autonomous they are currently unable to cover their costs, except the one in Beirut.

Ms. AKTAKKE mentioned that Law 221 enacted in 2000 regulates the sector establishing the 4 RWEs as autonomous entities. Yet, due to the continued inefficiencies in the sector recently a strategy document was approved by the Council of Ministers in 2012. Ms. AKTAKKE suggests that applying what is suggested in the strategy document would likely improve the outcomes in the sector. The strategy document calls for measures such as increasing the number of metered consumers, increasing tariffs, strengthening the central capacity and oversight mechanism and introducing more public private partnerships.

## Turkey

Ms. Nazlı AKTAKKE presented the case of Turkey as the last case study of the report. She explained that Turkey is one of the largest economies in the World while it ranks low on human development measures. In 2013, the country was ranked 69th in the Human Development Index, out of 187 countries.

Ms. AKTAKKE continued with the health care sector of Turkey. She emphasized that health care provision and utilization has increased over time for all regions in Turkey. Infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate decreased over time while vaccination rates and births attended by



skilled health staff increased. She added that the patient satisfaction rates also increased in the last 10 years due to improved outcomes.

She explained that health care sector in Turkey is centralized and managed by the Ministry of Health. Private sector also has a role in the country having 13.9 percent of the total bed capacity and 20.3 percent of medical doctors. In the last two decades as positive achievements in the sector, health spending as a percent of GDP increased while out of pocket expenditure as a percent of total health care expenditures decreased.

She informed that these achievements are largely due to the Health Transformation Programme which started to be implemented in 2003. Under this programme a number of reforms were implemented including a performance based payment system, giving more choice to patients in selecting their family doctors, initiating contracts with private sector to give a choice to citizens to utilize their services for small fees and introducing mechanisms for patients to report their complaints. She emphasized that the health transformation program primarily aimed to improve the client power between the providers and the citizens. This was achieved for instance by linking the revenues of the providers to the number of patients served and also by the mechanisms established for the patients to report their complaints.

Finally, Ms. AKTAKKE outlined the electricity sector of Turkey. She explained that Turkey achieved 100 percent connection rate without any disparities regarding urban-rural household location.

She explained that there are multiple actors in the sector. There are three separate publicly owned companies responsible for generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. While there is a publicly owned distribution company, this company only holds the assets of the distribution network. 21 private companies are responsible for operations and maintenance of the system. There is also a considerable amount of private participation in the electricity generation. Private generation companies produce 60 percent of the total electricity produced in the country. Ms. AKTAKKE added that Energy Market Regulatory Authority is another important actor in the sector responsible for regulating the market, authorizing entry, imposing sanctions and setting the selling price to the consumers.

Ms. AKTAKKE explained that the distribution companies are not subsidized by the government in Turkey while cross subsidization exist, due to one price set by the regulating agency for all regions. Ms. AKTAKKE emphasized that the current structure of the electricity market in Turkey is a results of a three decade long process of reforms which started in 1984, by introducing private participation in electricity generation. Many reforms followed such as unbundling the electricity company and privatizing the distribution companies. As a result of all these reforms power sector ownership shifted significantly from public to private. This eventually improved the compact, since these companies are working under operations contracts.

While the electricity sector in Turkey works quite successfully, Ms. AKTAKKE underlined some improvement areas. Since electricity generation in Turkey is largely dependent on imported natural gas, this needs to be diversified in order not to be affected by supply outages. Secondly, loss and non-payment is an issue for Turkey. A high level of loss and non-payment, translates into inefficiencies in the sector. This in turn loosens the accountability relationship between the client and service provider.

## Questions and Remarks

**Question:** Mr. Morie MOMOH, representative of Sierra Leone, asked how the electricity supply chain works between the three levels namely generation, transmission and distribution.

**Answer:** Ms. AKTAKKE mentioned that some of the electricity generating companies are state-owned and some of them are private. These companies sell the generated electricity to the publicly owned transmission company. Then, the transmission company (TEIAS) sells the electricity to the distribution companies. And the distribution companies sell the electricity to the consumers. High level of losses and non-payments are the challenges that the distribution companies face.

## 4. Policy Discussion Session

The session was moderated by Mr. Gadson ABEMIGISHA, Senior Economist at Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development of Uganda. At the outset, Mr. ABEMIGISHA stated that “the Room Document for the Moderation Session of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group”, prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office in light of the findings of the analytical study prepared specifically for the Meeting and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions which have already been sent by the CCO, would serve as the basis for the discussions in the moderation session.

At the beginning of the session, Mr. Mehmet Akif ALANBAY, Expert from the COMCEC Coordination Office, made a brief presentation on the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questions on basic services delivery sent to the Poverty Alleviation Working Group focal points by the CCO. In his presentation, Mr. ALANBAY gave brief information on policy questions. Afterwards, he presented the policy advices provided in the room document.

After the presentation, Mr. ABEMIGISHA gave the floor to all delegations asking their opinions and comments for each policy advices as well as the experience of their respective countries in this regard. The participants agreed on the policy advices given in the room document. Based on intensive deliberations, the participants have highlighted the following policy advices:<sup>2</sup>

- Enhancing governance in basic services delivery chain through information campaigns, improving monitoring and evaluation of the ongoing/future programs, and providing direct citizen involvement in service provision by utilizing community-participation models, cooperatives and complaint mechanisms
- Diversifying basic services providers through contracting private companies and NGOs, ensuring competition among providers under the supervision of the central government and utilizing Public-Private Partnership mechanisms

## 5. Member State Presentations

In this section, member country representatives had chance to present the basic services delivery systems being implemented in their respective countries. Participants from Cameroon, Indonesia and Turkey made presentations.

### 5.1. Cameroon

The presentation of Cameroon was made by Mr. Luc Andre BAYOMOCK, Project Coordinator in Ministry of Social Affairs of Cameroon. Mr. BAYOMOCK touched upon main programs implemented by the government for increasing the access of the poor to the basic services.

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<sup>2</sup> Please find the Room Document attached as Annex 3 for further information regarding the rational of the policy advices.

At the beginning of his presentation Mr. BAYOMOCK mentioned that primary education is free in Cameroon and primary and secondary schools are built at every 15 kilometres to reduce expenditures of poor people. He also stated that disabled persons and children of handicapped parents are exempted from examination fees. He added that registration of these people to school has been facilitated.

In the health sector, Mr. BAYOMOCK indicated that medical assistance is ensured for people carrying HIV/AIDS virus. In addition, he expressed that free vaccination campaigns are organized for children under 5 years. Mr. BAYOMOCK also briefed the participants on the programs for street children enabling them to turn to their families and schools.

Regarding drinking water supply especially for the poor segments of the population, Mr. BAYOMOCK stated that water wells have been drilled in many villages by the central government. Lastly, Mr. BAYOMOCK mentioned that, the government pursue a low cost policy regarding the electricity consumption of people living in rural areas. He indicated that the government does not make out any invoice for the consumptions below 50 kilowatt.

## 5.2. Indonesia

Ms. Sus Eko Zuhri ERNADA, Senior Advisor at Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, made a presentation on poverty alleviation programmes being implemented in Indonesia.

After mentioning about how the poor and disadvantaged groups are determined, Mr. ERNADA touched upon the conditional cash transfer program titled Program Keluarga Harapan (Family Hope Programme). Mr. ERNADA briefed the participants on the conceptual framework and the coverage scheme of the program.

Thereafter, Mr. ERNADA expressed that through the Raskin Program rice is delivered to the poor at subsidized prices. He indicated that the program was established upon the Asian financial crisis in 1998 to deliver rice at subsidized prices, primarily to the poor. Raskin provides subsidised rice to 15.5 million low income household (poor and near poor) in order to reduce the financial burden on targeted households in meeting their basic needs. He stated that monthly rice need of a family is nearly 38 kg and each beneficiary receives 15 kg of rice per month at Rp1.600,-/kg from Raskin distribution points. This corresponds to 39.5 percent of monthly needed rice for a family.

Mr. Ernada continued his presentation explaining the Family Welfare Card (Kartu Keluarga Sejahtera-KKS). He stated that the KKS is a card that is issued by the government for disadvantage households. As a marker of poor households the KKS is useful for accessing governmental social assistances.

Mr. ERNADA also briefed the participants about the Healthy Indonesia Card (Kartu Indonesia Sehat-KIS) which is being implemented through the National Health Insurance (JKN) system under the Social Security Management Agency (BPJS). He expressed that the JKN guarantees and ensures the provision of healthcare services with a universal coverage approach to include vulnerable populations.

Later on, Mr. ERNADA touched upon the Smart Indonesia Card (KIP) which guarantees and ensures that all school aged children from disadvantaged families receive financial assistance for education up to the completion of high school/vocational school. KIP also covers the school-age children who are not enrolled in schools, such as street children, child labour, orphans and disabled ones.

Lastly, Mr. ERNADA expressed that there are also some other programs for elderly and disabled people including social pension and cash transfer programs and rehabilitation services.

### 5.3. Turkey

Mr. Nevzat KUNDURACI, Head of Department in General Directorate of Social Assistance of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP) of Turkey, made a presentation on basic service delivery in three sectors in Turkey namely electricity, education and health.

Mr. KUNDURACI firstly stated that there is a hundred percent accessibility to electricity in all urban and rural areas. He indicated that electricity sector has been regulated by the central government. The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and the Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EPDK) are main regulatory institutions while state-owned Turkish Electricity Transmission Company (TEIAS) is responsible for production and transmission of electricity.

Afterwards, Mr. KUNDURACI mentioned that distribution of electricity was privatized in Turkey through the transfer of operating rights. The electricity grid, under the patronage of the Turkish Electricity Distribution Company (TEDAS), was divided into 21 regional distribution companies in 2006. He added that the privatization process of the electricity distribution companies was finished in 2013. In addition, Mr. KUNDURACI expressed that the share of the private sector in electricity generation increased from 52 percent in 2006 to 72.1 percent in 2014. He underlined that clients do not have any option to choose the provider. However, government has the authority to choose among different service providers.

Regarding education sector, Mr. KUNDURACI stated that Ministry of National Education (MoNE) is responsible for the education system at the national level for different aspects of education and policy compliance, such as basic education, secondary education, vocational education, special education, guidance and counselling. He also indicated that basic education is obligatory in Turkey and government extended compulsory education to 12 years in 2012.

Mr. KUNDURACI stated that education is publicly funded in Turkey, but schools can receive voluntary contributions from parents through their school-parent associations. Government spending on education as a share of GDP has increased (4 %) in the last two decades but it remains low compared to developed countries. The central and provincial administrations are responsible for personnel and financial management of schools. Moreover, MONE develops and distributes textbooks for free to all students for all types of primary, secondary and high schools. Furthermore, lunches are provided by MONE for students who go to school on foot.

Mr. KUNDURACI expressed that private schools are also available for all levels of education (pre-school, primary school, secondary, high school and university). One out of twenty students registered to private schools and one out of ten schools are private schools.

Mr. KUNDURACI also touched upon health sector in Turkey. Turkey's public health sector is centralized. Ministry of Health is the main provider of health care services and the Social Security Institution (SSI) is the main purchaser of health care services in both the public and private sectors.

Afterwards, Mr. Kunduracı mentioned that there are three types of hospitals in Turkey; public hospitals that are owned by the Ministry of Health, hospitals owned by the private sector and the hospitals affiliated with universities. Ministry of Health's public hospitals have 68.1 percent of total bed capacity and 67.2 percent of the medical doctors in the country. The private sector has 13.9 percent of the total bed capacity and 20.3 percent of medical doctors. 26 percent of the

patient operations are conducted by private hospitals whereas 14.4 percent of operations are conducted by hospitals affiliated with universities.

Then, Mr. KUNDURACI gave information about the Family Medicine Programme (FMP). At the end of 2010 Family Health Centers (FHC) were established throughout the country with the aim of assigning each patient to a specific doctor under the umbrella of FMP. Furthermore, Community Health Centers (CHC), which provide free-of-charge logistical support to family physicians for priority services such as maternal and child health and family planning services, were established. Both FHCs and CHCs are under the supervision of Provincial Health Directorates (81 provinces), which are responsible for planning and provision of health services at the provincial level and are accountable to the Ministry of Health.

Lastly, Mr. KUNDURACI informed the participants about the Universal Health Programme. He expressed that all primary care services have become free regardless of social security status as of 2006 for extending services to the poor.

## Questions and Remarks

**Remark:** Mr. Gadson ABEMIGISHA, representative of Uganda, mentioned that high electricity price is a reason for non-payments of bills. He expressed that the government of Uganda faces similar challenges. In this regard, he pointed out that a pre-payment system can be established in order to address the problems of non-payments..

**Question:** Mr. Harapan Lumban GAOL, Chairman of the Meeting asked how the poor people in Turkey contribute to health insurance system.

**Answer:** Mr. KUNDURACI stated that government pays health insurance premiums for the poor.

## 6. Experiences of Non-governmental Organizations in Basic Services Delivery: Society for Community Strengthening and Promotion of Education, Balochistan (SCSPEB)

Mr. Irfan Ahmed AWAN, Managing Director, Society for Community Strengthening and Promotion of Education, Balochistan (SCSPEB), made a presentation regarding the experiences of SCSPEB on Education Programmes in Balochistan, Pakistan.

At the outset, Mr. AWAN briefly introduced SCSPEB. He expressed that it is an NGO working in Balochistan since 1992. He stated that the SCSPEB initially focused on promoting education of girls and community participation. Mr. AWAN underlined that it is important to focus on the areas where the indicators related to education are weak.

Mr. AWAN expressed that the government established a new strategy in 1992 and included the civil society to improve education services particularly for girls. He stated that the education services in Balochistan were delivered mainly by the central government. In this connection, SCSPEB has assisted the Government by opening more than 2000 school for girls in the province since 1992. He expressed that with new schools the gender gap in education has been narrowed and female employment has increased. He stated that the enrolment rate of girls in total has increased to 39 percent in 2014.

Afterwards, Mr. AWAN touched upon another challenge in education in Pakistan which is high number of drop-outs from primary and secondary schools. He mentioned that the children who dropped out of school become unskilled and unemployed. In this regard, Mr. Awan underlined the importance of compulsory education particularly at low levels of education.

Mr. Awan, lastly, enumerated some recommendations to improve the education services. Among others, he stated that, besides allocating more resources to education programs, youth engagement and technical/vocational education programs should be developed and linked with education system.

## Questions and Remarks

**Question:** Representative of Senegal stated that effectiveness in service delivery becomes higher when an NGO involves in the delivery chain. She asked about the main factor behind this.

**Answer:** Mr. AWAN mentioned that NGOs can implement their programmes more effectively since they firmly pursue monitoring and supervision mechanisms. Furthermore, NGOs can integrate civil society in their activities more easily than government. He added that monitoring and supervision mechanisms as well as the civil society engagement enhance the accountability.

**Q:** Mr. Roozbeh KARDOONI, representative of Iran, asked whether the NGOs are always seen as positive actors in service delivery.

**A:** Mr. AWAN mentioned that this is not the situation all the time since the NGOs are separate entities apart from the government and they have different agendas. He expressed that the NGOs are sometimes criticised by governments since they do not carry on their activities in accordance with the governments' policies. However, governments cannot have sufficient capacity for all the necessary projects or activities in all domains particularly in rural areas. In this regard, Mr. AWAN argued that having different agendas should not be seen as a mismatch, rather it should be considered as a complementary mechanism.

## 7. The Way Forward: Utilizing the COMCEC Project Cycle Management (PCM)

The last presentation was made by Mr. Ali ORUÇ, Expert at the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), on the COMCEC Project Funding introduced by the COMCEC Strategy.

At the beginning of his presentation, Mr. ORUÇ informed the participants about where the COMCEC Project Funding stands in the COMCEC Strategy. Mr. ORUÇ underlined the basic qualifications of the COMCEC Project Funding as "simple and clearly defined procedures and financial framework", and mentioned that CCO provided continuous supports to the member countries during the all stages of the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism. He stressed that all funds provided in the Project Funding Mechanism are grant based. Therefore, project owners do not need to make any repayment for the funds received.

After briefly explaining the Project Cycle Management (PCM) concept, Mr. ORUÇ highlighted the potential project owners. It was emphasized that relevant ministries and other public institutions of the Member Countries and the OIC Institutions operating in the field of economic and commercial cooperation could submit projects. He also underlined that member countries have to register first to relevant working groups in order to submit their project proposals.

He clarified "Project Selection Criteria" namely, compliance with Strategy's Principles, targeting strategic objectives of the Strategy, focusing on output areas and pursuing multilateral cooperation among the OIC Member Countries. He mentioned that the CCO had revised project selection criteria for the third call for project proposals and regular participation of member countries and OIC institutions to relevant working group meetings has been added as a new dimension. Mr. ORUÇ also emphasized that the project proposals submitted by the member

countries should be compliant with the sectoral themes for the third call stated in the Program Implementation Guidelines.

Mr. ORUÇ also remarked the importance of the multilateralism for project appraisal and stated that project proposals should focus on common problems of at least two member countries and also should offer joint solutions for these problems.

During the presentation, three key actors and their responsibilities under the COMCEC Project Funding were identified; Project Owner (Project Submission and Implementation); the CCO (Program Management) and the Intermediary Bank (Project Monitoring and Financing). Moreover, steps and roles of these key actors throughout the project application process were defined.

Monitoring of projects was another issue explained in the presentation. Mr. ORUÇ stated that the Bank would be mainly responsible for financial and technical monitoring of projects while the CCO would oversee the overall implementation of the PCM.

With respect to the financial framework, Mr. ORUÇ emphasized that the funds are grant in nature and would be provided by the COMCEC Coordination Office. From the illustration of the indicative grant limits and co-finance rates for the COMCEC projects, it was seen that Member Countries could submit a project with a budget up to USD 250.000 with the condition that they have to cover at least ten percent of project total budget (cash or in kind). This amount would be USD 100.000 for the OIC Institutions and at least twenty five percent should be covered by the project owner.

Mr. ORUÇ also gave information on 2015 Projects. After the second call for project proposals made in September 2014, He stated that member countries and OIC institutions had shown great interest to the second call and 62 project proposals were submitted by 20 member countries and 3 OIC institutions. He also stated that 4 successful projects in poverty alleviation area are being implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2014. These projects were submitted by Cameroon, Islamic Republic of Iran, Suriname and SESRIC. He mentioned that the activities of the projects would be finished until end of the year.

He also underlined that CCO has set up a new online project submission system and member countries could submit their project proposals easily by using this user-friendly system. He continued his presentation with demonstration of project proposal submission by using new online project submission system.

Lastly, Mr. ORUÇ reminded participants that third call for project proposals was started as of early September, 2015 and project proposals would be submitted to the CCO until September 31st, 2015. He also invited all esteemed countries and OIC institutions to submit their project proposals.

## **8. Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals**

On the second day of the Meeting, Mr. Guido SCHMIDT-TRAUB, Executive Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, made a presentation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. In his presentation, Mr. SCHMIDT-TRAUB stated that during the implementation period of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) there has been a very significant progress in poverty rates in many parts of the World. Many OIC Member Countries have high performance but some of countries have low performance in reducing

poverty during this period. In this connection, he highlighted some challenges that may be faced during the implementation of the SDGs.

Mr. SCHMIDT-TRAUB stressed that one of the biggest challenges related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the increasing focus on education. Involvement in secondary education has become increasingly important. For instance, even garment workers in Bangladesh need secondary school diploma/degree to get a basic job in a factory and this is becoming a global standard/criteria. Mr. SCHMIDT-TRAUB emphasized that there is a huge variation among countries in terms of secondary education, less than 45 percent of children involve to secondary school. Thus, involvement to the secondary education is going to be one of the main global challenges for next decades. Policy makers should give special attention to the improvement of education because without improving education it will not be possible to make further progress in ending extreme poverty and ensuring sustainable livelihoods for everyone.

Mr. SCHMIDT-TRAUB stated that another challenge is demographic transition which remains uncompleted during the MDGs. Many Countries still have high fertility rates and population growth. Asian experience has shown that economic growth can take up when fertility rates come down and this possible when the demographic transition is achieved. Because when demographic transition is achieved, Member Countries will have a growing labour force and small number of children that need to be cared. The experience shows that when the fertility rates come down the quality of education per person rise as rapidly. Voluntary population policies can play an important role in demographic transition and some OIC Countries, like Iran and Malaysia, have had impressive progress.

Another challenge that he underlined in his presentation was climate change including growing numbers of drought and floods. He pointed out that global warming projections argue that the global warming will increase. If this is not tackled it will be very hard to ensure sustainable progress in fighting extreme poverty. The Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia and Western Asia will be the most severely affected region across world by the climate change. Climate change will also affect the developed world.

He emphasized that sustainable development was defined as development without compromising needs of future generations. That is scientifically sound definition but it is wrong and it is very hard to achieve, and practically it is hard to do it. There is actually much more wise and useful definition of today's sustainable development. It basically looks at every challenge from three interconnected dimensions of a healthy society. These three dimensions are economic prosperity and the end of extreme poverty, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. Furthermore, sustainable becomes a method of problem solving and understanding the world. It is impossible to look at economic policies today without focusing on social inclusion.

Mr. SCHMIDT-TRAUB argued that in 2000 United Nations convened and instructed the MDGs out of some declarations. It was something new and quite unusual because these goals have no legal power and never adopted by the Member States. However, the MDGs have really helped people to understand what really extreme poverty means.

He argued that the SDGs themselves having been an internal process really describe the agenda of the sustainable development. They are applicable in low income countries, middle income countries and also in high income countries. In some ways every country becomes a developing country under this agenda because for example Germany as a developed country has not achieved the climate objective, has severe issues on social inclusion, etc.



He mentioned that in order to benefit from the SDGs, there is a need to learn thinking in an integrated method across to whole agenda. He underlined that following issues should be focused for effective implementation of the SDGs.

- Explain and teach sustainable development: The SDGs should be taught in schools, so every child should learn the key issues to think about when he/she thinks about his/her country's future.
- Embrace a shared underlying global ethic: The SDGs are not just technical or financial charge, they also are moral and ethical, and this is why there is need for moral leadership to achieve them.
- Mobilizing governments, business, and the public, especially the youth around global-based strategies: SDGs can mobilize governments, business and the public around implementation. The transformation of health during the MDGs period is a good example of mobilization of mentioned partners.
- Promote accountability.
- Strengthen integration.

Mr. SCHMIDT-TRAUB informed the participants that UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) is commissioned to support countries in effective implementation of SDGs, to promote strong national and regional SDSNs to develop Solutions Initiatives and support SDGs and to provide high-quality, free, online education for Sustainable Development (SDSN.edu).

He concluded his presentation with highlighting several opportunities for the OIC Countries. He argued that the most important short term need is to support national discussions on SDGs. All countries should have discussions on what the SDGs mean in their context. In addition, Member Countries should adopt SDGs in their special needs and should search about how SDGs can be helpful in long term development. There is need for clear strategies on how the goals can be achieved. In this respect,

- Every country should have an education strategy that addresses specific needs of different segments of the population in education.
- Promote national and regional back-castings and learning across countries.
- Polled funding for education and other priorities and invest in new technologies.

## Questions and Remarks:

**Question:** Is there any strategy for how the SDGs are going to be implemented? Are they going to be binding?

**Answer:** The SDGs may become very useful; they might also become as a footnote in long series of UN Meetings. Everyone should have primary education and there should be no more extreme poverty. In this connection, the key question is leadership and the SDGs should be used as social commitment, it does not matter who is in the power.

Therefore, there is a need to think about, at global, regional and country level, how the SDGs can be useful and to demonstrate that they are useful. Because when they are useful they will be used otherwise they will not be used. In this connection, the leadership becomes very important.

**Q:** How can we overcome some of the challenges regarding the transition from MDGs to SDGs?

**A:** The basic point is that the MDGs' priorities are SDGs' priority. Thus the MDG process should just continue. Sustainable Development is a global issue and one of the challenges that Countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs), are still struggling is to achieve some of the MDGs.

Therefore, transition from the MDGs to the SDGs should not be interrupted. In many ways this is where countries can learn from each other. Middle income or high income countries will learn from the low income African Countries in this respect. For instance, Germany does not have a development strategy. So there will be transfer of knowledge from African Countries to other Countries.

**Q:** To have an efficient delivery of education in the Member Countries funding is important yet it is not enough. The determining factor is the accountability relations within each member country and is the model with which these services are being delivered to citizens. Furthermore, interaction between states, citizens and service provider is important. In this respect, within the context of the SDGs, what is position of the UN in dealing with these challenges?

**A:** That is the problem of good governance and systems but also the problem of adequate investments. Without adequate investments, the best governance could not make children to attend school and could not provide financial resources needed for having teachers. On the other hand, investing more money at a poorly designed system will not generate the best results. Thus, both well-functioning systems and financial investments are needed to get best results. Many of the national education strategies are not good enough in terms of operationalization, and do not have clear link to reach results. There is need to combine both funding and well-functioning strategies. Looking at the UNESCO's estimation, more funding is needed.

## 9. Critical Success Factors in Implementation of the SDGs for the OIC Member Countries

In line with the resolution of the 30th COMCEC Ministerial Session the IDB and COMCEC Coordination Office has prepared the draft joint study titled "The Critical Success Factors in Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: Current Situation and Prospects for the OIC" to be submitted to the 31st Session of the COMCEC. Ms. Sırma DEMİR ŞEKER, Expert at the COMCEC Coordination Office, presented the Draft Joint Study on the second day of the Meeting.

In her presentation, Ms. DEMİR ŞEKER explained the background of the study. In this regard, she firstly provided some information about Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process. She stated that the study is based on the assignment given at the 30th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC to IDB and the CCO. She mentioned that the study aims at drawing perspectives for the OIC Member Countries to facilitate the implementation phase of the SDGs since mobilizing adequate means of implementation will be essential due to comprehensive context of the SDGs. Afterwards, she pointed out that the study involves governance, data and monitoring, capacity building, finance and policy coherence as the critical success factors in the implementation of SDGs based on the means of implementation defined under the Goal 17. She also added that partnership and cooperation is considered as a horizontal issue in the study since all of these success factors require partnership and cooperation.

With regards to methodology, Ms. DEMİR ŞEKER stated that the analysis in the study is based on two income group: low and high. Low income grouping includes low and lower-middle income countries and high income grouping includes upper-middle and high income countries which are defined by the World Bank. She also emphasized that the relevant documents and data of international organizations, primarily UN and OIC, and academia as well as national documents and data of the member countries were reviewed while doing the analysis.

Afterwards, she introduced the content of the study which is structured in six sections. Regarding "Achievements of Member Countries on MDGs" section of the study, she stated that although there

has been important progress towards achieving the MDGs in OIC member countries, there are still gaps that need to be filled. She also emphasized that the process is uneven among the member countries and high income member countries seem to have done better than the low income member countries.

Related to the “Development Agenda of the OIC” section in the study, Ms. DEMİR ŞEKER mentioned about the efforts of the OIC in achieving sustainable and comprehensive human development and enhancing the economic well-being in the member countries. In this regard, she briefly provided the significant strategy documents (The OIC Ten Year Programme of Action, IDB’s 2020 Vision, COMCEC Strategy) of the OIC and the common concerns of these documents with SDGs. She also emphasized the existence of several programmes (e.g. Establishment of the Islamic Solidarity Fund and Islamic Organisation for Food Security, OIC-VET) being implemented in the OIC region to enhance economic and social development.

With regard to the “The Critical Success Factors Requiring Partnership and Cooperation for the Implementation of SDGs” section in the study, Ms. DEMİR ŞEKER firstly mentioned about cooperation and partnership. She emphasized the importance of partnership and cooperation for the implementation of SDGs and some mechanisms and modalities of the OIC that may be utilized in the implementation of SDGs such as knowledge sharing, triangular cooperation mechanisms, official aid from donor member countries to the recipients, providing the low-income countries with greater market opportunities.

Ms. DEMİR ŞEKER mentioned about governance next as another critical success factor in the study. She raised the importance of governance for both economic and social development and the crucial role of governance in the SDGs process. She indicated the poor governance in the member countries by providing the “World Governance Indicators” as well as two further studies pointing the poor governance in the member countries. Then, she pointed out the need for efficient and effective public institutions which are responsible for delivering basic public services, transparency, easy access to information and predictability, including relevant stakeholders into the decision making process.

Data and monitoring, which is another critical success factor in the study, was stated as a crucial part of the SDGs due to the data problems faced during MDG process. She stated that, in spite of the improvements in data availability in MDG process, because of the broader coverage of SDGs, data and monitoring would be more challenging in SDGs process. She provided data for availability of MDG indicators in the member countries and concluded that the lack of data is a challenge most particularly for the Goal 8: “Develop a global partnership for development”. She also presented the statistical capacity indicator (SCI) for the member countries and pointed that average value of SCI in the OIC is lower than (indicating worse situation) the World’s low and high income countries’ averages and SCI does not differ much between low and high income OIC group. Following, Ms. DEMİR ŞEKER provided the financial need for improving statistical capacities of the OIC member countries based on the estimates of Sustainable Development Solutions Network for 77 World’s lower income countries. In this sense, she stated that further contribution the low income OIC member countries (low and lower-middle) would be in the range of US\$44-88 million per annum in order to improve the statistical systems for SDGs. She said that especially administrative data and household surveys would be important data sources for SDGs. Related to the monitoring, she defined four levels: national, global, regional and thematic monitoring. She concluded this part by providing some recommendations: investigating data gaps and compilation limitations in the OIC before the implementation of SDGs, strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices (NSOs), and statistical capacity of the relevant institutions, expressing common interests of the OIC at the “Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal

Indicators”, and utilizing existing mechanisms such as Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom).

With regard to the capacity building, another important critical success factor, Ms. DEMİR ŞEKER mentioned that there has been a strong emphasize in SDGs process on strong institutions and capacities for achievements of SDGs and the low capacities in the member countries. She pointed several modalities are being implemented in the OIC to improve the capacity in the member countries such as IDB’s initiatives, COMCEC Project Funding. She concluded this part by providing some recommendations: determining what new capacities and institutions to be put in place and what existing ones need to be reinforced for SDGs, promoting existing modalities (such as, COMCEC Project Funding) especially in the area of human resources development, enhancing technical assistance to improve resource mobilization capacities.

Regarding finance, she firstly expressed that the narrow financing framework in MDGs focusing on foreign aids neglects other important financing options. Then she explained the financial strategy for SDGs which puts strong emphasize on domestic revenue mobilization, deepening domestic financial markets, donor aids and exploring innovative financing instruments. Related to the situation of member countries in finance, she provided some data on domestic and external financing in the member countries. She pointed that low-income OIC member countries generally have a weak performance in terms of revenue mobilization, relatively low savings, and limited access to private finance while the high income member countries can rely on important public revenues and national savings, and have better access to private finance. She concluded this part of the presentation by providing some recommendations for improving the efficiency of revenue collection (especially tax collection) and public expenditure, expanding financial sector and diversify its products, meeting the needs of all segments of the economy, providing holistic financial services, enhancing FDI flows and channelling remittances to productive investments, mainstreaming Islamic finance into the financial system and implementing PPP effectively.

As the last critical success factor Ms. DEMİR ŞEKER talked about the policy coherence in terms of its importance and situation in the member countries. She stated the need for formulating coherent national policies with SDG framework and mentioned about some existing mechanisms of OIC (such as COMCEC Working Groups and Project Cycle Management, OIC Sectoral Ministerial Meetings and OIC-StatCom) which might be utilized to enhance policy coherence.

Following the critical success factors, Ms. DEMİR ŞEKER provided concluding remarks and recommendations. She pointed out the potential, intention and experience of OIC to deliver SDGs successfully by giving examples from strategy documents, existing mechanisms and experience of member countries. On the other hand, she also raised some issues which are needed to achieve the SDGs. In this regard, she firstly mentioned about the issues which need to be done at national level such as improving means of implementation, diversifying financial instruments, strengthening public expenditure and improving investment management. Besides these, she added that there is a need for the support of high income member countries to low income member countries, especially on capacity building issues. She also raised the need for a holistic approach towards achieving the SDGs in the OIC requiring additional efforts, mechanisms and modalities. She provided some examples which can be included in this approach such as triangular cooperation mechanisms, intra-trade and intra-investment, cooperation among stock exchanges, capital market regulations, central bank and monetary authorities of the member countries, platforms aiming to secure cooperation among member countries particularly on data and capacity building.

## **10. Policy Recommendations for the Exchange of Views Session of the 31<sup>st</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Meeting**

The 30<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session determined on “Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery” as the theme of the Exchange of Views of 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC and requested the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to come up with policy recommendations on the aforementioned topic and report it to the 31<sup>st</sup> COMCEC Session.

In this framework, a moderation session was held under the moderation of Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ, Senior Expert from the COMCEC Coordination Office, during the second day of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group. The participants, in light of the discussions taken place during the Meeting and findings of the COMCEC-IDB Joint Study on critical success factors for the implementation of the SDGs and research report prepared specifically for this Meeting, have come up with a set of policy recommendations. These policy recommendations are given in Annex 4.

## **11. Closing Remarks**

The Meeting ended with closing remarks of Mr. Harapan Lumban GAOL, Chairman of the Meeting and Mr. Metin EKER, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO).

Mr. GAOL thanked all the member country representatives as well as participants from SESRIC, IDB, SCSPEB, UNSDSN and other institutions for their very active participation and valuable contributions. Then he summarized the discussions during the meeting.

Mr. Metin EKER also thanked all participants for their attendance and precious contributions. He stated that the main outcome of the meeting is the Policy Recommendations Document which includes a number of policy proposals for the member countries. He expressed that these recommendations will be submitted to the Exchange of Views Session of the 31<sup>st</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Meeting as an output of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

Furthermore, Mr. EKER informed the august house that the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Accessibility to Social Protection Programmes for the Vulnerable Groups in the OIC Member Countries”. He stated that a research report will also be shared with the focal points and other participants at least one month before the meeting.

## ANNEXES

### Annex 1: Agenda of the Meeting



#### AGENDA OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMCEC POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP

10-11 September 2015, Ankara, Turkey

#### *Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Improving the Basic Services Delivery in the OIC Member Countries*

#### **September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

##### **Improvement of Basic Services Delivery for the Poor in the OIC Member Countries**

##### Opening Remarks

1. COMCEC Poverty Outlook
2. Importance of delivery mechanisms of basic services
3. Current situation of basic services delivery in the OIC Member States
4. Roundtable discussion on the policy options for improving delivery of basic services in the OIC Member States
5. Member State Presentations
6. Perspective of international institutions / NGOs
7. Utilizing the COMCEC Project Funding

#### **September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

##### **Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals with Special Emphasis on OIC**

8. Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals
9. OIC's perspectives on the Implementation of the SDGs
10. Policy Recommendations for the Exchange of Views Session of the 31st COMCEC Ministerial Meeting

##### Closing Remarks

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## Annex 2: Programme of the Meeting



### PROGRAMME OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE COMCEC POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP

10-11 September 2015, Ankara, Turkey

#### *“Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Improving the Basic Services Delivery in the OIC Member Countries”*

#### **September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

##### ***Improvement of Basic Services Delivery for the Poor in the OIC Member States***

08.30-09.00 **Registration**

09.00-09.15 **Opening Remarks**

09.15-09.45 **The COMCEC Poverty Outlook**

- Presentation: “Outlook of Poverty in the OIC Member States”  
*Ms. Hande HACIMAHMUTOĞLU, Expert  
COMCEC Coordination Office*
- Views and Comments

09.45-10.45 **Framework and Overview of Delivery of Basic Services**

- Presentation: “Framework and Overview of Service Delivery to the Poor in OIC Countries”  
*Dr. Meltem ARAN, Director  
Development Analytics*

##### Question(s) for Discussion

- What is the existing basic services delivery system for the poor in your country?

10.45-11.00 **Coffee Break**

11.00-12.00 **Basic Services Delivery in the OIC Member Countries**

- Presentation: “Case Country Evaluations: Lebanon, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Turkey”  
*Ms. Nazlı AKTAKKE and Ms. Kimberly COLOPINTO  
Development Analytics*

##### Question(s) for Discussion

- What are the challenges related to the basic services delivery chain in your country?

12.00-13.30 **Lunch**

13.30-15.30 **Policy Options for Improving Delivery of Basic Services**

There will be a moderation session under this agenda item. The participants are expected to deliberate on the policy options/advice for Improving Delivery of Basic Services in the Member Countries. The Room Document was prepared by the CCO, in light of the findings of the analytical study prepared specifically for the Meeting and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions which have already been sent by the CCO. This Document has been shared with the Poverty Alleviation Working Group focal points before the Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions during the Session and coming up with concrete policy advice for the policy approximation among the Member Countries in this important field. At the beginning of the session, CCO will make a short presentation introducing the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questions.

- *Discussion*

15.30-15.45 **Coffee Break**

15.45-17.15 **Member Country Presentations**

- Sharing Experiences and Good Practices in Delivery of Basic Services

Question(s) for Discussion

- What is your country experience in developing/implementing basic services delivery?

17.15-17.45 **Perspective of NGOs in Basic Services Delivery**

- Presentation: "Experience of SCSPEB regarding Delivery of Basic Services: Promoting Education"

*Mr. Irfan Ahmed AWAN, Managing Director*

*Society for Community Support and Primary Education (SCSPEB)*

Question(s) for Discussion

- How the NGOs are involved in the basic services delivery in your country?

17.45-18.05 **Utilizing the COMCEC PCM**

- Presentation: "Utilizing the COMCEC Project Cycle Management"

*Mr. Ali ORUÇ, Expert*

*COMCEC Coordination Office*

Views and Comments



## **September 11th, 2015**

### ***Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals with Special Emphasis on OIC***

#### **09.30-10.00 Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals**

- Presentation: "Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals"

*Mr. Guido SCHMIDT-TRAUB,  
Executive Director, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network*

10.00-10.15 *Discussion*

#### **10.15-10.45 OIC's Perspectives on the Implementation of the SDGs**

In line with the resolution of the 30th COMCEC Ministerial Session the IDB and COMCEC Coordination Office has prepared the draft joint study titled "The Critical Success Factors in Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: Current Situation and Prospects for the OIC" to be submitted to the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC. Under this agenda item the participants will be informed of the findings of the mentioned Joint Study.

- Presentation: "The Critical Success Factors in Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: Current Situation and Prospects for the OIC"

*Ms. Sirma DEMİR ŞEKER, Expert  
COMCEC Coordination Office*

10.45-11.00 **Coffee Break**

#### **11.00-12.00 Views on the document of "OIC's Perspectives on the Implementation of the SDGs"**

- *Discussion*

12.00-14.30 **Lunch and Friday Prayer**

#### **14.30-16.30 Policy Recommendations for the Exchange of Views Session of the 31st COMCEC Ministerial Meeting**

During the 31<sup>st</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session there will be a Ministerial exchange of views session with the theme of "Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery". Under this agenda item the participants will hold discussions on the theme and are expected to come up with concrete policy recommendations to be submitted to the 31<sup>st</sup> COMCEC Session.

Moderated by Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ  
Senior Expert, CCO

- *Discussion*

16.30-17.00 **Closing Remarks**

### Annex 3: Room Document for the Policy Roundtable Session

A policy debate session was held during the 6th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group to come up with some policy recommendations for improving the delivery mechanisms of the basic services (Education, Water and Sanitation, Health and Electricity) to the poor in the Member Countries, and contribute to policy approximation among the Member Countries. The policy advices given below were identified in light of the main findings of the analytical study titled “Improving Basic Services Delivery for the Poor in the OIC Member Countries” and the responses of the member countries to the policy questions which was sent by the COMCEC Coordination Office to the focal points of the member countries as well as other participants.

After the discussions, the participants agreed on the policy advices as below:

**Policy Advice I: Enhancing governance in basic services delivery chain through information campaigns, improving monitoring and evaluation of the ongoing/future programs, and providing direct citizen involvement in service provision by utilizing community-participation models, cooperatives and complaint mechanisms**

**Rationale:**

Weak governance is a common problem that prevents stable and effective service delivery for the poor among the OIC Member countries. In general, OIC Member Countries suffer from poor governance, such as excluding citizens’ involvement in service provisions, lack of complaint mechanisms, weak accountability and poor monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. In this connection, there is a need to raise awareness of citizens, particularly the poor, about their access to basic services and to increase their involvement in service delivery mechanisms.

**Policy Advice II: Diversifying basic services providers through contracting private companies and NGOs, ensuring competition among providers under the supervision of the central government and utilizing Public-Private Partnership mechanisms**

**Rationale:**

OIC Member Countries employ various models for delivery of basic services (Education, Water and Sanitation, Health and Electricity). Except electricity, central government provision is common in most of the member countries for the delivery of health, education and water and sanitation services. Employing different provisions may improve the delivery of basic services. In this connection, diversifying providers increases the choice of citizens. Involving NGOs and private sector in service provision can enable poor to make choice among providers according to performance and other service expectations.

**Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:**

**COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

**COMCEC Project Funding:** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the member countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above mentioned policy areas, the member countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office

may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

**Capacity Building Activities:** With the COMCEC Coordination Office's resources and Member Countries' own resources, some capacity building and technical assistance programs on the aforementioned policy areas can be organized in the member countries. These programs and activities may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, and other similar activities.

## Annex 4: Policy Recommendations for the Exchange of Views Session of 31st COMCEC Session

The 30th COMCEC Session decided on “Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery” as the theme of the Exchange of Views of 31st Session of the COMCEC and requested the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to come up with policy recommendations on the aforementioned topic and report it to the 31st COMCEC Session.

In this framework, the participants, in light of the discussions taken place during the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group and findings of the COMCEC-IDB Joint Study on critical success factors for the implementation of the SDGs and research report prepared specifically for this Meeting, have come up with a set of policy recommendations.

### Challenges and Problems:

The participants, in line with the discussions taken place during the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group which covered the basic services delivery systems in the Member Countries and the critical success factors (namely governance, data and monitoring, capacity building, finance and policy coherence) for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, highlighted the following possible challenges and problems in the course of the implementation phase of the SDGs in the OIC Member Countries:

- Inadequate coordination in/among the member countries and relevant institutions in the areas related to the SDGs.
- Inadequate financial resources for the implementation of the SDGs.
- Data gaps in the member countries such as inadequate disaggregated, quality, comparable and timely data which bears great importance for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs.
- Weak statistical systems of the member countries due to poor capacity of both national statistical offices and the concerned national institutions and inefficient coordination.
- Weak institutional and human capacity and inadequate infrastructure in delivery of SDGs in the Member Countries.
- Adverse effects of the poor governance on the development efforts of the member countries due to inadequate transparency and access to information, complex bureaucratic practices, exclusion of stakeholders from the decision making process and insufficient responsiveness of public administrations.
- Weak participation of the citizens in both design and implementation of delivery of the basic services and limited options of citizens in terms of basic services providers.
- Poor monitoring and evaluation systems for the ongoing programs.
- Inadequate public awareness about the SDGs and their implementation.
- The need for ensuring a peaceful and enabling environment for successful implementation of the SDGs in some parts of the OIC.
- Inadequate capacity of the member countries to prepare/develop and implement projects so that they can utilize the COMCEC PCM and other possible financing mechanisms.

## **Policy Recommendations:**

Considering the above-mentioned challenges and problems, the participants of the 6th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group prepared a set of policy recommendations that would promote effective implementation of the SDGs in the OIC Member Countries. The recommendations are as follows:

### **At National Level**

- Encouraging the member countries to align policies that have impact on the achievement of the SDGs to the extent possible.
- Encouraging the member countries to embed the SDGs to the national development plans, strategies, programmes and projects.
- Encouraging the member countries to integrate the SDGs indicators in their data collection systems including Census and Surveys.
- Encouraging the member countries to improve governance in all areas through ensuring transparency, easy access to information, predictability and involvement of relevant stakeholders.
- Enhancing governance in basic services delivery chain through raising public awareness, improving monitoring and evaluation of the ongoing/future programs, and providing direct citizen involvement in service provision by utilizing community-participation models, cooperatives and complaint and response mechanisms.
- Designating an institution or authoritative body as the focal point for coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs.
- Ensuring active involvement of civil society, NGOs, business world, scientific and academic circles into the implementation process of SDGs.
- Diversifying basic services providers through contracting private companies, ensuring competition among providers with the central governments' supervision and monitoring and utilizing Public-Private Partnership mechanisms.
- Developing a financial framework for better delivery of SDGs with possible national resources and possible contributions from donor countries and international institutions.
- Supporting domestic revenue mobilizing efforts of the concerned member countries through capacity building programmes/activities such as tax collection, which would be an essential component of SDGs' financing framework.
- Enhancing partnership and cooperation for mobilizing and effectively utilizing international public finance, encouraging domestic and international private sector, boosting trade and investments and attracting FDI investments in the OIC Countries.
- Strengthening solidarity among the member countries through, among others, enhancing the support of high income member countries to low income countries in the implementation of the SDGs.
- Encouraging OIC Member Countries to incorporate Islamic finance instruments to promote financial stability, financial inclusion, in their financial systems as a complementary mechanism in financing the implementation of the SDGs and to finance large scale infrastructure projects.

- Encouraging the member countries to increase the use/efficiency of mechanisms/Islamic instruments such as Waqfs, Zakah, and Sadaka for better contributing to the financing and implementation of the SDGs.
- Improving the monitoring mechanisms for better implementation of the SDGs.

### **At the OIC Level**

- A comprehensive and holistic approach with required human, institutional and financial resources need to be developed for the effective delivery of the SDGs in order to meet the ambitious aims of the SDGs within the OIC.
- Incorporating the SDGs in the relevant OIC documents to the extent possible.
- Encouraging OIC institutions to incorporate and reflect the views and inputs of the civil society, NGOs, business world, scientific and academic circles, wherever possible, in their activities for implementation of the SDGs.
- Developing effective cooperation mechanisms involving OIC countries/organizations and non-OIC countries/organizations for successful implementation of the SDGs.
- Enhancing capacity of the OIC institutions to provide better services to member states for the effective implementation of the SDGs.
- Encouraging the OIC Institutions to promote higher and effective utilization of the Islamic financial services in the OIC Member Countries within the context of implementation of the SDGs.
- Improving the existing capacity building programmes and initiatives such as SESRIC-STATCAB and IDB - STATCAB and developing similar ones that can enhance the capacity of national statistical offices (NSOs) and statistical capacity of the relevant institutions.
- Establishing/developing data banks for SDGs related statistics in line with UN system and internationally agreed practices.
- Harmonizing data collection methods related to SDGs in order to close data gaps and produce comparable data sets and statistics.
- Assisting the member countries to improve their project preparation/development and implementation capacity such as in the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism, IDB's reverse linkage program, SESRIC's OIC-VET as well as in the design and preparation of PPPs, with a view to better utilizing funds towards the realization of the SDGs.
- Enhancing institutional and financial capacity of the IDB and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) to provide stronger financial and technical support to the low income member countries in the implementation of the SDGs.

## Annex 5: List of Participants

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE 6TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP (10-11 SEPTEMBER 2015, ANKARA)

#### A. INVITED STATES

##### ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

- Mr. AHMAD SHAKIL HAZEM  
Acting Director, Ministry of Economy

##### THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

- Mr. BUJAR ABAZAJ  
Head of Section of Infrastructure,  
Ministry of Urban Development
- Ms. RUNIDA SMITH  
Expert, Ministry of Urban Development
- Ms. MARSIDA GRAMI  
Expert, Ministry of Urban Development
- Mr. JONIDA PONE  
Expert, Ministry of Urban Development

##### REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

- Mr. MUSHVIG HUSEYINLI  
Consultant, Ministry of Economy and Industry

##### THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

- Mr. KOMAIL AHMED  
Third Secretary, Embassy of Bahrain in Ankara

##### THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

- Mr. M.D. ARIFUR RAHMAN  
First Secretary, Embassy of Bangladesh, Ankara

##### SULTANATE OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

- Mr. OSFINITA TAHIR  
Second Secretary,  
Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Ankara

### **REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON**

- Mr. AHMAD MALAM  
Sub Director, Ministry of Economy Planning and Emerging Countries
- Mr. LUC ANDRE BAYOMOCK  
Project Coordinator, Ministry of Social Affairs

### **ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**

- Mr. AMR RIFAI  
Charge d'affaires, Embassy of EGYPT in Ankara

### **THE REPUBLIC OF GABON**

- Mr. HERMANN IMMONGAULT  
Ambassador, Embassy of GABON in TURKEY
- Mr. CLEMENT MASSALA MANDONGAULT  
First Counsellor, Embassy of GABON in TURKEY

### **REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

- Ms. JULDEH CEESAY  
Deputy Executive Director, Women's Bureau

### **THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

- Mr. HARAPAN LUMBAN GAOL  
Head of Program and Report Division,  
Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia
- Mr. SUS EKO ZUHRI ERNADA  
Senior Advisor,  
Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

### **THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ**

- Mr. RAOOF AL KHATEEB  
Manager, Department Continue

### **ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

- Mr. ROOZBEH KARDOONI  
Director General

### **HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN**

- Mr. MAEN AL QUDAH  
Director, Ministry of Social Development
- Mr. BARAKAT SHANAG  
Director, Ministry of Social Development



#### **STATE OF KUWAIT**

- Mr. SAAD AL RASHIDI  
Head of OIC Affairs, Ministry of Finance
- Ms. MUNEERA AL KHULAIFI  
Foreign Relation Specialist,  
Ministry of Finance

#### **THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC**

- Mr. MANSOUR ABDALLAH  
Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Lebanon

#### **THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA**

- Mr. ADAMA DAFFA  
Adviser, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development

#### **REPUBLIC OF NIGER**

- Mr. IRO SOULEY  
Director, Ministry of Planning

#### **THE SULTANATE OF OMAN**

- Mr. ABDULLAH AL TOUQI  
First Secretary,  
Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Ankara

#### **THE STATE OF QATAR**

- Mr. KHADEEGA BASHRAHEEL  
Statistics Researcher,  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

#### **THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL**

- Ms. ASSOME AMINATA DIATTA  
Director of External Trade, Ministry of Trade
- Ms. KANE AMINATA  
Economist

#### **THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

- Ms. MATILDA ELIZABETH WILLIAMS  
Senior Deputy Financial Secretary,  
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
- Mr. MORIE MOMOH  
Deputy Development Secretary,  
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

#### **REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

- Mr. NEVZAT FIRAT KUNDURACI  
Head of Department, Ministry of Family and Social Policies

- Mr. ERCÜMENT IŞIK  
Head of Unit, Ministry of Family and Social Policies
- Mr. HARUN REŞİT HAN  
Expert on Social Policy, Ministry of Family and Social Policies
- Mr. CANER ESENYEL  
Expert, Ministry of Family and Social Policies
- Mr. ERSİN KAYA  
Expert, Ministry of Family and Social Policies
- Mr. FATİH ÖZDOĞAN  
Expert, Ministry of Family and Social Policies
- Mr. BİLGEHAN KARADAYI  
Head of Department, Ministry of Health
- Mr. İ. EMRE İLYAS  
Expert, Ministry of Development
- Ms. SELCEN ALTINSOY  
Expert, Ministry of Development
- Ms. AYŞEGÜL KARACA  
Assistant Expert, Ministry of National Education
- Mr. FERHAT YENİBAŞ  
Engineer, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
- Ms. SİNEM ÇAYNAK  
Engineer, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
- Mr. MUHİTTİN İZGİ  
Engineer, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources

#### **THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

- Mr. GADSON ABEMIGISHA  
Senior Economist,  
Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development

#### **B. INVITED INSTITUTIONS**

##### **DEVELOPMENT ANALYTICS**

- Dr. MELTEM ARAN  
Director
- Ms. NAZLI AKTAKKE  
Researcher
- Ms. KIMBERLY COLOPINTO  
Analyst

##### **ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)**

- Mr. SAVAŞ ALPAY  
Chef Economist

- Mr. AZHARI GASİM AHMED  
Lead Economist

**SOCIETY FOR COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTION OF EDUCATION,  
BALOCHISTAN (SCSPEB)**

- Mr. IRFAN AHMED AWAN  
Managing Director, Society for Community Strengthening and  
Promotion of Education, Balochistan (SCSPEB)

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

- Ms. ZEHRA ZÜMRÜT SELÇUK  
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**UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK (UNSDSN)**

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