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REPORT
THIRTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
(Ankara, 24-25 April 2019)

1. The Thirty Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 24-25 April 2019 in Ankara, the Republic of Turkey.

2. The representatives of the following Member States of the Committee attended the Meeting:

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| 1- Republic of Turkey | : | (Chairman, Permanent), |
| 2- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia | : | (Vice Chairman, Permanent Member), |
| 3- State of Palestine | : | (Vice Chairman, Permanent Member), |
| 4- State of Qatar | : | (Vice Chairman, Representing the Arab Region), |
| 5- Republic of Gabon | : | (Vice-Chairman Representing the African Region), |
| 6- Malaysia | : | (Vice Chairman, Representing the Asian Region), |
| 7- Islamic Republic of Pakistan: | | (Rapporteur), |
| 8- State of Kuwait | : | (Member of the Previous Bureau), |
| 9- Republic of Indonesia | : | (Member of the Previous Bureau). |

3. The Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC) also attended the Meeting.

(The list of participants is attached as Annex I.)

Agenda Item 1: Opening Session

4. Following the recitation from the Holy Qur'an, H.E. Naci AĞBAL, President of Strategy Budget of the Presidency of Republic of Turkey, inaugurated the Meeting.

5. In his statement, H.E. AĞBAL, underlined the critical role of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC in terms of reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC, taking note of overcoming the challenges in the implementation process and preparing the agenda of the COMCEC Ministerial Meeting. In this regard, he emphasized that dialogue, cooperation and solidarity is the most efficient way of overcoming setbacks and obstacles in the OIC Region.

6. H.E. AĞBAL stated that, at present, import and export performance of the OIC Member States are far from the desired level. The total OIC trade volume is still below the level of the year 2012. H.E. AĞBAL mentioned the fluctuations in world demand, oil prices and international currencies, and the developments in the OIC Region in recent years as the some of the basic factors affecting our trade performance negatively. H.E. AĞBAL underscored the necessity for economic restructuring in the OIC Region by promoting use of technology, innovation, value addition, branding and product diversification in the Member Countries.

7. Moreover, H.E. AĞBAL underlined that early operationalization of the TPS-OIC is crucial for not only enhancing trade among the OIC member countries but also for improving interactions among the private sector and providing cargo to well-functioning transport corridors in the OIC Region.

8. Furthermore, expressing the importance of the implementation of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations by the Member Countries, H.E. AĞBAL suggested that each country may conduct an internal study on how to implement these recommendations at the national level in line with their needs and potentials and prepare simple roadmaps for putting the recommendations into concrete action. He also expressed that the COMCEC Coordination Office may regularly gather data on the progress and report them to the annual COMCEC Ministerial Sessions.

9. H.E. AĞBAL also touched upon the latest development concerning the major COMCEC Project namely; the OIC Arbitration Center. In this regard, he informed the participants that the necessary preparations are underway by the ICCIA and TOBB. He expressed his belief that the OIC Arbitration Center will contribute to economic and commercial cooperation among the Islamic Countries through its efficient dispute settlement mechanism.

10. H.E. AĞBAL concluded his remarks by emphasizing the critical role of effective follow-up of the cooperation efforts and expressing his wishes for the success of deliberations towards peace, prosperity and welfare of the Islamic Ummah.

(The text of the Statement of H.E. Naci AĞBAL is attached as Annex II.)

11. The message of H.E. Dr. Yousef AL-OTHAIMEEN the Secretary General of the OIC, was read out by Mr. Naghi JABBAROV from the Economic Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat. In his message, H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN expressed his deepest appreciation to the Government and the friendly people of Republic of Turkey for the elaborate arrangements made for this meeting and for the warm reception and kind hospitality accorded to all participants.

12. H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN highlighted the various economic resolutions, which have been adopted by the 46th Session of CFM held in Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019. In this regard, H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN mentioned that the ISFD is very crucial to the financing of poverty alleviation programmes of importance to the vulnerable segments of OIC population. Moreover, H.E. AL-OTHAIMEEN commended the efforts of the Government of Turkey for the various interventions carried out under the COMCEC Project Financing Mechanism, while congratulating those countries which have successfully utilized this mechanism.

(A copy of the text of the message of H.E. Dr. Yousef A. AL-OTHAIMEEN is attached as Annex III.)

13. The Meeting was addressed by the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Florentinus KRISTIARTONO, Deputy Director at the Ministry of National Development Planning. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey and COMCEC Coordination Office for hosting and organizing the Meeting. In his speech, Mr. KRISTIARTONO highlighted the importance of utilizing all existing means, particularly in supporting the COMCEC Strategy and its implementation to address and respond to common issues and challenges facing Islamic countries.

Sideline Event

14. The 34th Meeting of the Sessional Committee was held on 23 April 2019.

(Report of the 34th Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex IV.)

Working Sessions

15. The working sessions of the Meeting were chaired by H.E. Ambassador Salih Mutlu ŞEN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC.

16. The agenda of the Meeting was adopted by the Committee.

(A copy of the Agenda is attached as Annex V.)

Agenda Item 2: The COMCEC Strategy and its Implementation

17. The Committee **welcomed** the Report on the Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy and **commended** the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to the implementation of the Strategy. The Committee also **requested** the Member States and OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

18. The Committee **welcomed** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 34th Session of the COMCEC and **also welcomed** the research studies conducted by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for enriching the discussions in each COMCEC Working Group Meeting.

19. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their fields of competence and **welcomed** the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in February-April 2019.

20. **Commending** the efforts of the Member Countries and OIC Institutions towards the realization of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, the Committee **invited** all the Member Countries to exert every effort, to the extent possible, to implement the policy recommendations and **urged** relevant OIC Institutions to support the Member States in this regard.

21. The Committee **welcomed** the readiness of the SESRIC to contribute to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations particularly through organizing capacity building and training programmes in the six cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy.

22. **Taking note** of the valuable outcomes of projects previously financed by COMCEC since 2014, the Committee **invited** Member Countries to intensify their efforts to harness the benefits of COMCEC Project Funding particularly with a view to materialize the Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

23. The Committee **welcomed** the finalization of the seventeen projects funded under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2018 and **also welcomed** the launching of twenty-four new projects to be implemented in 2019.
24. The Committee **called on** the COMCEC National Focal Points and Working Group focal points to work more closely with the COMCEC Coordination Office for effective coordination and communication.
25. The Committee **invited** the Member Countries to ensure the participation of the COMCEC National Focal Points and COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, to the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings and the COMCEC Sessions.
26. The Committee **encouraged** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Working Groups to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the relevant Working Groups.
27. The Committee **welcomed** that the COMCEC Coordination Office will organize the Seventh Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points in July 2019 in Turkey and **called upon** the Working Group Focal Points and National Focal Points to actively participate in the meeting.
28. The Committee **called upon** the WG Focal Points to discuss the ways and means for the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations including developing national roadmaps in the Member Countries during the 7th Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points.
29. The Committee **called upon** the Member States concerned to respond to the “Evaluation Forms” circulated each year by the COMCEC Coordination Office with a view to following up the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations and **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to analyze the replies and report the results to the 35th COMCEC Ministerial Session for appraisal and necessary action.
30. The Committee took note with appreciation that the member countries namely Indonesia, The Gambia, Nigeria and Turkey have already set up national coordination mechanisms for facilitating the coordination of COMCEC related work particularly the implementation of the COMCEC Resolutions and Ministerial Policy Recommendations at the national level and, **encouraged** the other Member States to set up similar coordination mechanisms for these purposes.
31. The Committee **also called upon** the Working Group Focal Points to be actively involved in knowledge production efforts of the COMCEC through, among others, assisting in collection and verification of country specific data and providing feedbacks to research studies.

32. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, and SMIIC for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

33. The Committee **requested** the concerned Member States to actively participate in the activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in the cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy and **called upon** these institutions to send invitations to the Member States sufficiently in advance of the meetings so as to ensure their participation.

Agenda Item 3: Implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action (TYPOA)

34. The Committee **took note of** the report presented by the OIC General Secretariat on the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action.

35. **Underlining** the importance of the active follow up of the economic and commercial section of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action by the COMCEC, the Committee **requested** the OIC General Secretariat to regularly submit comprehensive progress reports on the implementation of the Programme to the COMCEC Sessions and to the Follow-up Meetings in line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC.

36. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat for organizing the Fourth Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) in Jeddah, OIC Headquarters on 3-4 December 2018.

37. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, the Committee **requested** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to sign and ratify the agreements in the economic domain for furthering economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.

Agenda Item 4: Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade

38. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 13th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on 7 March 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Enhancing Public Availability of Customs Information in the OIC Member States”, the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations:

- Encouraging the establishment of a formal consultation mechanism between regulatory authorities and trade community towards ensuring an efficient trade environment for the interest of various stakeholders at the national level,

- Utilizing Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) effectively for the dissemination of trade, especially customs related information,
- Encouraging the development of an effective Advance Ruling System in order to enhance the certainty and predictability of customs operations,
- Promoting integrated Single Windows (SW) Systems and Trade Information Portals for combining the transaction processing functions of SW Systems with a comprehensive repository of trade-related laws, regulations, rules and procedures,
- Leveraging international and regional cooperation and making use of successful country experiences for promoting trade information availability.

(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex VI.)

39. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to actively participate in its 14th Meeting to be organized on October 24th, 2019 with the theme of “Improving Customs Transit Systems in the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Trade Working Group.

40. The Committee also **welcomed** the activities organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in the area of trade aligned with the COMCEC Strategy since the 34th Session of the COMCEC.

41. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan and SMIIC for the successful implementation of the following projects in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “The Feasibility Study on the Interoperability of Selected Single Window Systems in the OIC Region” implemented by Morocco in partnership with Cameroon and Tunisia,
- The Project titled “Boosting Intra-OIC Trade Through Improvement of Trade Facilitation Measures in the OIC Region” implemented by Nigeria in partnership with Morocco and Indonesia,
- The Project titled “Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Single Window Systems in the OIC Member States” implemented by Sudan in partnership with four other Member States,
- The Project titled “Harmonization of National Halal Standards with the OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards” implemented by SMIIC in partnership with 20 Member States.

42. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Indonesia, Lebanon, Palestine and SMIIC for the following projects to be implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Empowering Halal Industry to Boost Intra-OIC Trade” to be implemented by Indonesia in partnership with five other Member States,
- The Project titled “Supporting Cooperatives to Enhance Their Access to OIC Markets” to be implemented by Lebanon in partnership with Turkey and Kuwait,
- The Project titled “Introduction of Palestinian Export Products to Selected OIC countries” to be implemented by Palestine in partnership with Algeria and Indonesia,
- The Project titled “Increasing Public Halal Awareness in OIC countries” to be implemented by SMIIC in partnership with Turkey and Malaysia.

43. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire for hosting and ICDT and WIEF for organizing the workshop on “Online marketing for Business women” on 15-18 April 2019 in Abidjan.

44. The Committee **welcomed** the organization of the workshop on “Online marketing for Business women” to be hosted by the People’s Republic of Bangladesh on 10-14 June 2019 in Dhaka in collaboration with ICDT and IUT.

i) TPS-OIC

45. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have not yet signed or ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, PRETAS and the Rules of Origin, to do so at their earliest convenience.

46. The Committee **welcomed** the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretariat on behalf of its six Member Countries, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman and **requested** the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Secretariat to communicate with the concerned participating Member States to ensure the submission of the concession lists in the same format and circulate them among the concerned Member States accordingly.

47. **Commending** the efforts of TNC Secretariat for finalizing the completion of updated concession lists process, the Committee **called upon** the concerned Member States to expedite their efforts for the submission of the concession lists in the same format for the operationalization of the TPS-OIC at the earliest.

48. The Committee **requested** the participating Member States, who have not done so yet, to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience.

49. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the Republic of Sudan for hosting and ICDT, COMCEC Coordination Office and ICCIA for organizing “Regional Workshop on TPS-OIC and the Multilateral Trading System” in Khartoum on 17-18 December 2018 and **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Suriname to organize a workshop on “TPS-OIC and Intra-OIC Trade Solutions” in Paramaribo in 2019 in close cooperation with TNC Secretariat.

50. The Committee **requested** the ICDT, COMCEC Coordination Office, and other relevant OIC Institutions to continue organizing awareness raising and capacity building activities with regard to TPS-OIC.

ii) Islamic Trade Fairs

51. The Committee **expressed** its thanks and appreciation to the following Member States for hosting Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT:

- The Republic of Turkey for hosting and ICDT and SMIIC for organizing the “6th OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 29 November-2 December 2018,
- The Republic of Cote d’Ivoire for hosting the “4th OIC Health Expo” and “Medical Expo Cote d’Ivoire” concurrently in Abidjan on 7-9 December 2018,
- The Republic of Iraq for hosting the “16th OIC Trade Fair” in Baghdad on 7-13 April 2019,
- The Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the Expo and Forum on Transportation and Logistics of the OIC Member States concomitantly with LogisMed 2019 in Casablanca on 9-11 April 2019;

52. The Committee **welcomed** that World Expo “EXPO 2020 Dubai” would be hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai from 20 October 2020 to 10 April 2021.

53. The Committee **also welcomed** the invitation extended by the United Arab Emirates to the OIC Institutions to actively participate in the EXPO 2020 Dubai.

54. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the following Member States to host Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT in 2018 and 2019 and **requested** the Member States to encourage active participation of their private sectors and relevant institutions in these events:

- The Republic of Turkey to host the “7th OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul from November 28th to December 1st, 2019 in coordination with SMIIC,
- The People’s Republic of Bangladesh to host Maritime Economy and the Shipbuilding and Fisheries Expo of the OIC Member States in Dhaka in November 2019,
- The State of Kuwait to host the “Forum of Women Entrepreneurs and Expo in Jewelry and Cosmetics” on 27 October-1st November 2019 and “Exceptional Edition of the Tourism, Handicrafts and Interior Decoration Exhibition of the OIC Member States” in Kuwait-City on 18-23 December 2019.

55. The Committee **reiterated** its request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

56. The Committee also **reiterated** its request to ICDT to continue holding sector specific fairs in cooperation with the Member States and submit regular progress reports on the fairs to the COMCEC Sessions.

iii) WTO Related Technical Assistance

57. The Committee **expressed** its thanks and appreciation to the IDB Group and ICDT for organizing WTO-related training courses and seminars for the benefit of the Member States and underlines the need for more effectively disseminating information on training courses among all Member States.

58. The Committee **called on** IDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and to enhance their efforts in sensitizing the Member States to the impact of WTO trade negotiations on their economies and **requested** IDB and ICDT to continue to synergize and coordinate their efforts to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on an equitable and fair basis.

59. The Committee **called upon** the WTO members of the OIC to assist non-WTO Members of the OIC in their accession process to WTO.

60. The Committee **welcomed** the organization of the Workshop on Post-WTO Eleventh Ministerial Conference by the Kingdom of Morocco in collaboration with IDB to be held on 26-27 June 2019 in Casablanca.

61. The Committee **also called upon** the Member Countries and the relevant OIC institutions to extend support to the Member Countries who need technical assistance on trade facilitation practices towards the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

62. The Committee **underlined** the importance of raising awareness in the Member Countries about the ongoing WTO reform process.

iv) Trade Financing Activities

63. The Committee **appreciated** the trade finance, promotion and development activities of ITFC and the mobilization of funds from the international market and development partners for funding the trade operations in the Member States, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 25 percent.

64. The Committee **took note with appreciation** that ITFC's cumulative approvals and disbursement in trade financing reached, since its inception in 2008 until the end of March 2019, US\$47.4 billion and US\$37.2 billion respectively, and its total approvals and disbursement in 2018 reached US\$5.2 billion and US\$4.5 billion respectively.

65. The Committee **commended** the efforts of ITFC in financing SMEs, Least Developed Member Countries and intra-OIC trade and **took note** of its efforts to diversify its portfolio and extend more financing for agriculture sector that has direct and prominent impact on improving productivity, job creation, increasing export revenues and alleviating poverty.

66. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to complete their membership requirements for the institutions of the IDB Group (ITFC and ICIEC) so that the IDB Group implements its mandate successfully.

67. The Committee **took note of** the trade promotion and capacity development initiatives being implemented by ITFC under its various flagship programs including Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS), Special Programme for Central Asia (SPCA), Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program (AATB), Trade Development Fund, West Africa SMEs Program and Trade Development Forum to raise awareness of the private sectors on the activities of the ITFC.

68. The Committee took note of the efforts of the ITFC in implementing Integrated Trade Solution Programmes, including Indonesia Coffee Development Programme, Guinea Reverse Linkage Programme, the Cotton Bridge Programme, Program for the Development of Dates Sector in Medina Region, Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment of Iraq, the Gambia Aflatoxin Mitigation Programme, and various programmes for Tunisia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, CIS Countries, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Comoros and Djibouti.

69. The Committee **took note of** ITFC's efforts for the diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments, supporting training programs on Islamic finance and promoting Islamic Finance solutions at international fora.

70. The Committee **took note of** the efforts of the ICIEC as the only multilateral export credit and investment insurance Corporation in the world that provides Shariah-Compliant insurance and reinsurance solutions.

71. **Congratulating** the ICIEC for its 25th Anniversary as a unique Multilateral Company providing Takaful credit and investment insurance services among the OIC Member Countries, the Committee **acknowledged** the ICIEC's role in supporting USD 8.5 billion of Intra-OIC business involving 35 countries with a cumulative insurance approval since its inception in 1994 which has reached USD 41.5 billion to end-2018; with business insured exceeding USD 52 billion.

72. The Committee **commended** the ICIEC for the two prestigious awards received at the recent Project Finance International Awards which is one of the most distinguished events that brings together the world's project finance industry to celebrate excellence.

73. The Committee **took note of** the launching of new edition of the Annual Development Effectiveness Report (ADER) which encompass the ICIEC performance throughout the last 25 years.

74. The Committee **took note of** the progress report submitted by the ICIEC on OIC Business Intelligence Programme.

75. The Committee **welcomed** the mutual arrangement between IDB Group, in particular ICIEC and SESRIC regarding the allocation of space location and other relevant resources by SESRIC for technical instruments for the OIC Business Intelligence Programme.

76. The Committee **also welcomed** the IDB Group's endeavours to further the OIC Business Intelligence Programme with the necessary financial resources and process towards its implementation with the completion of studies including SWOT analysis, benchmarking study, operational processes and stakeholder expectations as well as market segmentation analysis.

v) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

77. The Committee **welcomed** the activities of Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in the area of standardization, metrology and accreditation and their impact on trade facilitation and capacity building.

78. The Committee **invited** the Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Councils.

79. The Committee **welcomed** the Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Uzbekistan as the new members of the SMIIC, which has increased the number of SMIIC Member States to 37 along with 3 Observers and **invited** the concerned Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Councils.

80. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence and **invited** Member States to support to further increase its visibility in international fora, particularly through its accession as an observer to the WTO-Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

81. The Committee **invited** the Member Countries to adopt and use the OIC/SMIIC Standards as their national standards in order to help the harmonization of standards and eliminate the technical barriers to trade among the Member Countries and **called upon** the relevant Member Countries, which use OIC/SMIIC Standards, to officially adopt the standards according to SMIIC adoption guidelines.

82. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the Republic of Turkey for hosting and SMIIC and ICDT for supporting the organization of the World Halal Summit (WHS) in Istanbul on 29 November – 2 December 2018 and **called upon** the Member Countries to participate in “Istanbul 2019 World Halal Summit” to be held on 28 November - 1 December 2019 under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey in coordination with SMIIC and ICDT.

Agenda Item 5: Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation

83. The Committee **took note of** the efforts of the ICCIA in organizing Forums, Training Program, B2B Meetings, Seminars and Workshops in order to galvanize the role of the Private Sector to expand their network and increase their trading and investment opportunities.

84. The Committee **encouraged** the Chambers of Commerce of the Member States to be actively involved in the ICCIA’s activities.

85. The Committee **took note** of the following activities to be organized by the ICCIA and **called upon** the private sector of the Member States to actively participate in the following activities:

- Workshop on Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities to be held in the second half of 2019,
- Chambers of Commerce Forum for OIC to be held in 2019,
- Specialized Workshops/Training Programmes to be held in 2019 on;
 - a. Entrepreneurship Development
 - b. Promotion of Cottage Industries through SMEs,
 - c. Scaling-up existing Enterprises through Skill Development and
 - d. Exploring destinations for Health Tourism.
- The 17th Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member States/ Trade Exchange Forum to be held in 2019,
- The 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Countries to be held in 2019.

86. The Committee **took note with appreciation of** the efforts of the ICD, which efficiently works towards financing private sector projects in the Member Countries.

87. The Committee **took note with appreciation** that ICD’s cumulative approvals and disbursement in private sector financing reached, since its inception in 1999 until the end of 2018, US\$6.4 billion and US\$3.2 billion.

88. The Committee **requested** the ICD to regularly submit comprehensive reports regarding its efforts on financing private sector to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings under a separate sub-item titled “Financing Private Sector Development.”

89. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC and Council of Foreign Ministers and the relevant decision of the 35th Meeting of General Assembly of the ICCIA regarding approval of the Statute of the Center, the Committee **welcomed** the progress in the operationalization of OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul affiliated to ICCIA and **requested** the Member Countries to encourage their Chambers to actively participate in the activities of the Arbitration Center.

Agenda Item 6: Improving Transport and Communications

90. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 13th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group held on March 21st, 2019 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Improving Transport Project Appraisals in OIC Member Countries”, the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations:

- Designing a systematic framework for transport project appraisals, indicating the objectives, types and the utilized methodologies.

- Developing/ Improving manuals and guidelines for ensuring having effective and harmonized transport project appraisals as well as effectively implementing the existing ones.
- Applying transport project appraisals as a main part of a full project cycle and making use of quality data/information as well as the lessons generated from the implementation of the previous project(s).
- Encouraging the enhancement of Improving transport project appraisals capacity through a system of official certification of competences, exchange of experience, training programs, seminars, conferences and workshops etc.

(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex VII.)

91. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to actively participate in the 14th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to be held on October 3rd, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Risk Management in Transport Public-Private Partnership Projects in the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group.

92. The Committee **commended** the efforts of The Gambia, Iran and Jordan for the following projects implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Analysis of the Road Database Management Systems in the Selected OIC Countries” implemented by The Gambia in partnership with Senegal and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Feasibility Study of Iran- Caucasus Transport Corridor” implemented by Iran in partnership with Azerbaijan and Turkey,
- The Project titled “Feasibility Study for Reconstructing the Old Ottoman Hejaz Railway Line” implemented by Jordan in partnership with Iraq and Turkey.

93. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of The Gambia, Iran and Jordan for the following projects to be implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Improving Human and Institutional Capacity for Integrated Database Management System in the OIC Countries” to be implemented by the Gambia in partnership with Senegal, Nigeria and Turkey.
- The Project titled “Increasing Seaborne Transport and Trade within the Framework of the TPS-OIC” implemented by Iran in partnership with Oman, Qatar, Pakistan and Turkey.

- The Project titled “Reconstructing the Old Ottoman Hejaz Railway Line – Phase 2” to be implemented by Jordan in partnership with other five Member States.

94. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the SESRIC in organizing the following capacity building activities in the field of transport and communications:

- Regional Workshop on “Electronic Postal Service Payments” held on 26-28 February 2019 in Tunis, Tunisia,
- Training on “Philately and International Reply Coupon” held on 16-18 April 2019 in Tunis, Tunisia.

95. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) to share its experience in the implementation of the TIR System with the interested Member States.

96. **Taking note of** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat and the IDB Group to operationalize the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor, the Committee **requested** the General Secretariat and IDB Group to regularly inform the concerned Member States about the progress in the realization of the Project in the relevant OIC fora.

Agenda Item 7: Developing Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector

97. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 13th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on February 15th, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Sustainable Destination Management Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”, the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations:

- Improving community participation fair representation by offering human resources training, capacity building and certification programs, enhancing local value chain, integrating local production into procurement and minimize leakages, encouraging local entrepreneurship in tourism, conducting media campaigns as well as raising tourist awareness about tourism sustainability.
- Identifying KPIs for sustainable tourism development based on international standards and climate change agreement to monitor each country’s performance against a set of pre-determined indicators and to encourage remedial actions when targets are not met.
- Identifying current and potential tangible and intangible tourism resources by taking into consideration destinations carrying capacity, and their long term protection and survival while avoiding over tourism.
- The required mechanisms (e.g. voluntary contribution, tourist tax, environmental fees) might be introduced to fund the sustainability activities that aim to protect, preserve the local quality of life and minimize the costs associated with tourism.

- Ensuring effective destination planning and marketing in such a way that the supply and demand meet at the optimum level and diversified.

(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex VIII.)

98. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the 14th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group to be held on October 31st, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Developing Multi-destination Tourism Corridors in the OIC Countries”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

99. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to participate in the 7th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum to be held in September 2019 in İstanbul, Turkey with the theme of "Prospects for Development of Health Tourism in the OIC Member States".

100. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mozambique and SESRIC for the following projects implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Strengthening the Resilience of Tourism Sector Against Crises through Communication” implemented by Burkina Faso in partnership with Niger and Côte d'Ivoire,
- The Project titled “Training on Crisis Communication in Tourism for Selected OIC Member Countries” implemented by Mali in partnership with four other Member Countries,
- The Project titled “Community-Based Tourism through the Promotion of Heritage Sites for Poverty Alleviation” implemented by Mozambique in partnership with four other Member Countries,
- The Project titled “Improving Islamic Tourism Ecosystem in OIC Member Countries: Destination and Industry Development” implemented by SESRIC in partnership with 13 Member Countries.

101. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Azerbaijan, The Gambia, Iran, Mali, Mozambique and ICDT for the following projects to be implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Destination Management Organization: Conceptual Framework for Azerbaijan, Cameroon and Iran” to be implemented by Azerbaijan in partnership with Cameroon and Iran,

- The Project titled “Training of Accommodation Providers in the OIC Member Countries on Muslim Friendly Tourism Standards and Quality Service Provision” to be implemented by The Gambia in partnership with Senegal and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Study on Effective Strategies to Establish Sustainable Muslim Friendly Tourism Parks in Selected OIC Member Countries” to be implemented by Iran in partnership with Turkey and Azerbaijan,
- The Project titled “Capacity Building on Destination Management Organizations of OIC Member Countries” to be implemented by Mali in partnership with other seven Member States,
- The Project titled “Improving Human Capacity on Muslim Friendly Tourism for Regulating Accommodation Establishments in the OIC Member Countries” to be implemented by Mozambique in partnership with four other Member States,
- The Project titled “Developing Muslim-Friendly Tourism in Guyana and Suriname” to be implemented by the ICDT in partnership with Suriname, Turkey, and Malaysia in cooperation with Guyana, SESRIC and SMIC.

102. The Committee **took note with appreciation** of the efforts of the SESRIC for organizing training courses and seminars in tourism sector, particularly on halal tourism and tourism statistics within the framework of the OIC Capacity Building Programme (OIC-CaB).

103. The Committee **took note** with appreciation that ICDT and SESRIC would jointly organize a “Training Workshop for the benefit of parks and protected areas managers in West Africa” in Turkey during the last quarter of 2019.

104. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the ICCIA for setting-up a portal on tourism to create awareness of potential visitors in tourism attractions in the Member Countries.

105. The Committee **invited** the Member Countries to encourage their relevant institutions, tourism companies and tour operators etc. to further their efforts through, among others, organizing promotion campaigns and additional tours to Quds al-Sharif for supporting Palestinian residents of Al-Quds and to demonstrate solidarity with them.

Agenda Item 8: Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security

106. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 13th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group on February 21st, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Reviewing Agricultural Trade Policies to Promote Intra-OIC Agricultural Trade”, the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations;

- Promotion of Niche Agricultural Products and Halal Certification through product diversification, trademarking, marketing strategies and advertising campaigns.
- Promotion of Commercial Cooperation (e.g. enhancing agricultural investments, removal of business visas, etc) and Non-Commercial Cooperation (e.g. sharing best practices and technical expertise, developing safety standards, etc.) among the OIC Member Countries in the areas related to agricultural trade.
- Promotion of Tariff Reductions and Bilateral Arrangements in key products (e.g. sugar, meat, feeding stuff for animals, oil-seeds, live animals)
- Developing and implementing multilateral trade arrangements (e.g. TPS-OIC - Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC)) with a view to contributing to collaborative and sustainable agricultural trade development.
- Enhancing the capacity of the Member Countries in collection, management and dissemination of agricultural trade data with a view to designing sound and evidence-based agricultural trade policies.

(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex IX.)

107. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to actively participate in the 14th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to be held on 11-12 September 2019 with the theme of “Increasing the Resilience of the Food Systems in Islamic Countries in Face of Future Food Crises” as the preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 35th COMCEC Session.

108. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Indonesia and Turkey for the following projects implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Developing Agricultural Market Information System for Horticulture Farmers” implemented by Indonesia in partnership with six other Member Countries,
- The Project titled “Improving Agricultural Irrigation Extension Services” implemented by Turkey in partnership with Palestine, Morocco and Tunisia.

109. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Egypt, Malaysia and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Enhancing Capacity and Raising Awareness on Food Waste Management in the OIC Countries” to be implemented by Egypt in partnership with four other Member States,

- The Project titled “Capacity Building on Warehousing and Storage Management” to be implemented by Malaysia in partnership Indonesia, Bangladesh and Turkey,
- The Project titled “Reduction of Food Loss and Waste in the OIC Countries” to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with seven other Member States.

110. The Committee **took note of** the SESRIC’s activities on agriculture including the Statistics Course titled “Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics” held on 11-12 April 2019 and Training Course titled “Design and Engineering of Cold Storages and Design and Engineering of Hydroponic Greenhouse” held on 22-26 April 2019.

111. The Committee **also took note of** the efforts of the IDB Group in agriculture sector including the launch of the Regional Rice Value Chain Development Program for the benefit of 10 OIC countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote D’Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Sudan) in Sub-Saharan Africa and the support for the Regional Soil Fertility Mapping Project of West Africa involving six OIC counties (Cote D’Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone) in West Africa with the aim of improving crop production and productivity in the targeted areas.

112. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in the last quarter of 2020 in İstanbul and **called upon** the Member States and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions including the COMCEC Secretariat to actively participate in this important event.

Agenda Item 9: Alleviating Poverty

113. **Taking note with appreciation** the convening of the 13th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group on April 4th, 2019 with the theme of “Access to Health Services in the OIC Member Countries”, the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations:

- Developing a strategy/policy including a well-designed payment and health insurance schemes to achieve universal health coverage,
- Strengthening primary healthcare particularly in poorer areas through encouraging skilled health staff to work in rural and remote areas and enhancing integrated health promotion and prevention interventions,
- Promoting the engagement of private sector in the provision of safe and quality healthcare in close partnership with public authorities and with well-designed monitoring mechanisms,

- Encouraging development and upgrade of health information management systems through designing an online-integrated health information system, allocating required resources to health IT infrastructure and strengthening multi-sectoral coordination mechanism.

(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex X.)

114. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group, to actively participate in the 14th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group to be held on September 26th, 2019 with the theme of “Child and Maternal Mortality in the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

115. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of The Gambia and Indonesia for the following projects implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Training on Entrepreneurship for Teachers in the Selected OIC Countries” implemented by The Gambia in partnership with Cameroon and Senegal,
- The Project titled “Improving the Single Window Service System for Social Protection and Poverty Reduction in the OIC Countries” implemented by Indonesia in partnership with Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

116. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of the Afghanistan, Nigeria, Suriname, Turkey and SESRIC for the following projects to be implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Improving the Quality of Education through Information and Communication Technologies in the OIC Countries” to be implemented by Afghanistan in partnership with Iran, Turkey and Palestine.
- The Project titled “Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education for Grassroots Empowerment in the OIC Countries” to be implemented by Nigeria in partnership with Turkey, The Gambia and Togo.
- The Project titled “Increasing the Capacity of Vocational Education Centers for the Disabled in the Selected OIC Countries” to be implemented by Suriname in partnership with Turkey and Guiana.
- The Project titled “Developing Guidelines on Social Safety Net Systems for the OIC Countries” to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with five other Member States.

- The Project titled “Digital Skills Development in OIC Countries” to be implemented by SESRIC in partnership with 21 Member States.

i) Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for the Development of Africa (SPDA)

117. The Committee **reiterated its request** to the Member Countries which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and **requested** the IDB Group to report back to the 35th COMCEC Session about the shortfalls in reaching the target capital of the ISFD.

118. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the recent COMCEC Sessions on the observations of the Member Countries for improving the performance of the ISFD in serving the purpose of poverty alleviation through, among others, augmenting the project base and outreach of the Fund by focusing on greater number of projects, especially grant based small/medium sized projects, the Committee **reiterated its request** to the ISFD to take these observations into consideration during planning its future programmes and activities.

119. **Taking note of** the reports of the IDB on ISFD and SPDA, the Committee **acknowledged** the progress achieved in SPDA and **requested** IDB to prepare evaluation reports on SPDA, upon completion of its projects, providing details about the targets, partners, beneficiaries, outcomes, lessons, learned, etc. and submit them to the relevant OIC fora including forthcoming meetings of the COMCEC.

120. The Committee **requested** the ISFD to increase its efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including governmental, non-governmental resources and the private sector in the Member States.

121. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for mobilization of resources from different financing institutions for more effective implementation of the SPDA.

122. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the previous COMCEC Sessions regarding the capacity building project to be funded by the IDB Group and implemented by SESRIC for finalization of the OIC Cotton Programme, the Committee **requested** the SESRIC to re-submit a revised version of the capacity building project to the IDB Group and **called upon** the IDB Group to finalize the allocation of the funding to the project as well as the OIC General Secretariat, as the main coordinator of the Program, to take necessary steps for expediting the process towards the realization of the project.

ii) OIC-VET Program

123. The Committee **appreciated** the continuous efforts of SESRIC with a view to enhancing the capacities and quality of human resources in the member countries and **called upon** SESRIC to mobilize more financial resources towards the programme.

124. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to participate in and support the various capacity building programmes of SESRIC under the OIC-VET Programme.

125. The Committee **requested** the SESRIC to conduct more training programmes focusing on entrepreneurship including women entrepreneurship within the framework of the OIC-VET.

126. **Taking note of** the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025 submitted by SESRIC, the Committee **requested** SESRIC to circulate the document to the member countries to get their views and comments and submit the Road Map to the 35th Session of the COMCEC.

iii) Implementation of the SDGs

127. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 34th Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to continue compiling the relevant OIC Institutions' activities aligned with the prioritized SDG areas and submit the list to the annual COMCEC Sessions.

128. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 34th Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **requested** SESRIC to prepare an annual report on the progress at the OIC level towards achieving the prioritized SDGs to be submitted to the 35th Session of the COMCEC.

Agenda Item 10: Deepening Financial Cooperation

129. **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 12th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on March 28th, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of "Infrastructure Financing through Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries", the Committee **welcomed** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing Legal and Regulatory Framework to Provide an Enabling Environment for Realizing Large Infrastructure Investments through Islamic Finance,

- Increasing the Number and Share of Islamic Nonbank Financial Institutions to Enhance the Contribution of Islamic Finance in Infrastructure Investments,
- Developing the Islamic Capital Markets Infrastructure to Facilitate the Issuance of Different Types of Project Sukuk and other Instruments as Appropriate for Infrastructure Projects,
- Encouraging Innovative Models to use Islamic Social Sector (i.e., Zakat, Waqf and Sadaqah) to Provide Social Infrastructure Services (such as Education and Health) provided that they are Shariah-compliant,
- Improving Capacity and human capital for increasing the use of Islamic Finance for infrastructure financing.

(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex XI.)

130. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group, to actively participate in its 13th Meeting to be held on October 17th, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving Takaful Sector in the OIC Member Countries”. The Committee also **called upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.

131. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Nigeria and Turkey for the following projects implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Training and Guidelines on Sukuk Issuance” implemented by Nigeria in partnership with the Gambia and Togo,
- The Project titled “Improving Financial Consumer Protection in the OIC Countries” implemented by Turkey in partnership with 11 other Member Countries.

132. The Committee also **commended** the efforts of Mozambique, Nigeria and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Capacity Building on Islamic Finance in Mozambique, Gambia and Nigeria” to be implemented by Mozambique in partnership with the Gambia and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Islamic Liquidity Management Instruments for Sustainable Development of Islamic Financial Institutions” to be implemented by Nigeria in partnership with the Gambia and Malaysia,

- The Project titled “Assessment of COMCEC Real Estate Securities Markets and Regulatory Landscapes for Strengthening Capital Markets” to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with other ten Member States.

i) OIC Exchanges Forum

133. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts carried out by the OIC Exchanges Forum and its Task Forces and **invited** the Member States to actively participate in the activities organized under this Forum.

134. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Borsa Istanbul, as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, to host the 13th Meeting of the Forum on September 26th, 2019 and “Certificate Training on Islamic Capital Markets” on 27-28 September 2019 respectively in İstanbul and **requested** the Member States to actively participate in these important events.

135. The Committee **requested** the Borsa Istanbul, as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, in cooperation with IDB to continue to work towards the promotion of S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah 50 Index as well as development and launch of tradable products based on the Index.

136. The Committee **requested** the Member States to actively support the Forum’s Task Force on Indices towards active promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah 50 Index to the investors and the finance community in their respective countries as well as publishing the Index on the official websites of their Exchanges.

137. **Taking note** of the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts towards establishing OIC Gold Exchange among the volunteering Member Countries, the Committee **requested** the Forum’s Secretariat to advance the technical preparations for the establishment of the OIC Gold Exchange and report to the 35th Session of the COMCEC.

138. The Committee **invited** the interested member states to actively support Forum’s Task Force on Precious Metals through, among others, by finding counterparts and designating focal points in their respective countries to lead the OIC Gold Exchange Project.

139. The Committee **also invited** all Exchanges (including stock, commodity, derivatives and precious metals) and other relevant parties of interested member states to actively support Forum’s Task Force on Precious Metals, to engage in discussions and to help formulation of the business model for a well-functioning OIC Gold Market.

ii) COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum

140. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts carried out by the Task Forces of COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum namely Capacity Building, Market Development, Islamic Finance and Financial Literacy and **called upon** the Member States to support the efforts of the Forum through participating in its meetings and contributing to the accomplishment of the mandates of the Task Forces.

141. The Committee **also welcomed** the offer of the Capital Markets Board (CMB) of the Republic of Turkey, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the 8th Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum on September 26th, 2019, in İstanbul and **requested** the Member States to actively participate in this important event.

142. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 34th Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **took note of** the briefing by the Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum on the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange among the interested OIC Member States and **requested** the Forum/the Forum's Secretariat to finalize the necessary legal, administrative and technological preparations for the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate Electronic Platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange before the 35th Session of the COMCEC.

143. Recalling the relevant resolution of the 34th COMCEC Session, the Committee **called upon** the interested Member States to actively participate in the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange and **invited** them to identify their authorized bodies as well as notify them to the Forum's Secretariat by July 2nd, 2019 for enhancing coordination.

144. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host “Workshop on Assessment of Market and Regulatory Aspects of the COMCEC Real Estate Securities Market”, which aims to contribute to the realization of the Real Estate Exchange among the interested member countries under the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding and **called upon** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

iii) OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum

145. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of Central Bank of Turkey, as the Secretariat of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum, to host the 1st Meeting of the Forum on 22-24 September 2019 in Turkey and **requested** the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.

146. The Committee **commended** the training and capacity building programs organized by the SESRIC towards the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States and **requested** SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the relevant institutions of the Member States.

Agenda Item 11: Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries”

147. **Recalling** that the theme of the Exchange of Views Session of the 35th COMCEC Ministerial Session has been determined as “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries” by the 34th Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **invited** the Ministers of the Member Countries in charge of agriculture/food security affairs to participate in the 35th COMCEC Ministerial Session along with the Ministers in charge of COMCEC.

148. The Committee **encouraged** the Member States to prepare their country reports on the mentioned theme and convey them electronically to the CCO by October 15th, 2019, at the latest.

i) Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 36th COMCEC Session

149. The Committee **took note** of the following possible themes of the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 36th Session of the COMCEC:

Theme 1: Facilitating Trade: Guidelines for Improving Border Management for OIC Member States

Theme 2: Standardization Efforts in Islamic Finance

Theme 3: Developing Livestock Production and Animal Husbandry to Foster Food Security

Theme 4: Enhancing and Sustaining Public Transport in the Rural Areas of the Islamic Countries

Theme 5: Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness

Theme 6: Housing for the Poor in the OIC Member Countries

150. The Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to circulate a questionnaire among the Member States to explore their views on the above-mentioned themes and report the outcomes to the 35th Session of the COMCEC.

**Agenda Item 12: Draft Agenda of the 35th Session of the COMCEC
(İstanbul, 25-28 November 2019)**

151. The Committee **prepared** and **decided** to submit the Draft Agenda to the 35th Session of the COMCEC.

(A copy of the Draft Agenda of the 35th Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex XII.)

Closing Session

152. At its Closing Session chaired by H.E. Ambassador Salih Mutlu ŞEN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC, the Committee adopted its Report together with its Annexes.

153. On behalf of all delegations, Head of Delegation of the State of Kuwait, SAAD AL-RASHIDI, Head of the OIC Affairs Division at the Ministry of Finance expressed his congratulations to the Republic of Turkey and the COMCEC Coordination Office for the warm hospitality extended to the Follow-up Committee Members and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

154. Mr. Naghi JABBAROV, from Economic Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat, also made a statement at the Closing. In his statement, Mr. JABBAROV expressed his special thanks and appreciations to the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality extended to the participants. He also expressed his sincere appreciations to all Heads of Delegations and other participants at this meeting for their contributions. He also thanked the COMCEC Coordination Office for the efforts exerted for the success of the Meeting. Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of the implementation of the vision documents particularly OIC-2025: Programme of Action and COMCEC Strategy.

155. In his closing statement, H.E. Salih Mutlu ŞEN, after thanking all the delegations for their contributions during the Meeting, emphasized that the Member Countries need to exert more efforts to implement the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations. In this respect, H.E. ŞEN underlined that the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism provides the Member Countries a practical tool to conduct joint projects and improve institutional and human capacity in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation in the Member Countries. Moreover, H.E. ŞEN highlighted the importance of replying the annual evaluation forms by the Member Countries to monitor the implementation of the Policy Recommendations.

156. H.E. ŞEN touched upon the importance and relevance of the “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries” as the theme of the Exchange of Views Session of the 35th Session of the COMCEC.

157. H.E. ŞEN reminded that the 7th Annual Meeting of the Focal Points of the COMCEC will be held in July 2019 in Turkey. He mentioned that the Focal Point Meetings provide a great opportunity for the focal points to discuss ongoing efforts under the COMCEC.

158. H.E. ŞEN concluded his statement by expressing his thanks to the Members of the Follow-Up Committee, the OIC General Secretariat, Rapporteur, representatives of the OIC Institutions, the COMCEC Coordination Office, interpreters, translators and other staff taking part in organization of the Meeting for their efforts which helped rendering the meeting a success.

(A copy of the text of the Closing Statement by H.E. Salih Mutlu ŞEN is attached as Annex XIII.)

