



COMCEC

ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA

38TH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(26-29 November 2022)

COMCEC Coordination Office
October 2022
www.comcec.org

Original: English



**DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE 38TH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(26-29 November 2022)**

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation
3. The Implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action
4. World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries
5. Intra-OIC Trade
6. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
7. Deepening Financial Cooperation
8. Improving Transport and Communications
9. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
10. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
11. Alleviating Poverty
12. Cooperation on Digital Transformation
13. Exchange of Views on "Effective Social Assistance Provision and Socioeconomic Empowerment in the light of COVID-19 Pandemic"
14. Date of the 39th Session of the COMCEC
15. Any Other Business
16. Adoption of the Resolutions

For further information:
COMCEC Coordination Office Necatibey Cad.
No: 110/A 06570 Yüce-tepe
Ankara - TÜRKİYE

Tel. : 90 312 - 294 57 10
Fax : 90 312 - 294 57 77
Web : www.comcec.org
E-mail : comcec@comcec.org

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to give background information about the current status about the cooperation areas, programs and projects of the COMCEC for its 38th Ministerial Session, to be held on 26-29 November 2022, in İstanbul.

The document provides background information and the required actions on the Draft Agenda Items from 2 to 12. As the remaining Agenda Items are self-explanatory, they are not included in the Document.

The reports and studies to be submitted under each agenda item will be placed on the COMCEC's website (www.comcec.org).

ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM 2

Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation

COMCEC Strategy was adopted by the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in 2012 in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Saudi Arabia. In light of its Strategy COMCEC has been continuing its activities since 2013.

The Working Groups (WG), as part of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, provide a regular platform for the member country experts for discussing the policies and practices in each cooperation area to create a common understanding and approximate policies among the Member Countries. The COMCEC Project Funding, another important implementation instrument of the COMCEC Strategy, enables member countries registered to the Working Groups as well as the relevant OIC Institutions, to submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed by the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO).

Since the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the Working Groups have conducted their 18th and 19th rounds of meetings (17th and 18th Meetings for the Financial Cooperation) and elaborated on important themes in each cooperation area. The details about the developments in each Working Group are given under the relevant agenda item.

In terms of the projects realized through the COMCEC Project Funding, 18 projects were financed in 2021. Furthermore, 16 projects are being implemented in 2022 within the framework of 9th Project Call. The 10th Call for Project Proposals under the COMCEC Project Funding has been made on October 1st, 2022. Relevant documents are available on the COMCEC website (cpf.comcec.org).

Under the COMCEC COVID Response (CCR), 8 projects were financed in 2021 and 6 projects are being implemented in 2022.

Under the COMCEC Al-Quds Program, 5 projects were implemented in 2021-2022 period. Moreover, cooperation efforts carried out by the OIC Institutions operating in the economic domain bear great importance for the realization of the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy. In line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, the OIC Institutions organize activities aligned with the objectives and expected outputs of the COMCEC Strategy as well as the policy recommendations adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions.

In this framework, the 37th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the Progress Report submitted by the CCO highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy; commended the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to its implementation and requested the Member States and OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy. Moreover, the Session welcomed the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas and the research studies conducted by the CCO specifically for enriching the discussions in the COMCEC Working Group Meetings.

Furthermore, commending the valuable outcomes of projects previously financed by COMCEC since 2014, the Session 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.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office will present a report to the Session on the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. The Session will consider the report submitted by the CCO for necessary action.

-Report of the 38th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC

The 38th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC held on 24-25 May 2022 reviewed the implementation of the programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC and prepared a set of recommendations for the 38th Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): The 38th Session of the COMCEC will be briefed by the Rapporteur of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the recommendations of the Follow-up Committee Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3

The Implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action

The OIC Programme of Action for the period of 2016-2025 (OIC-2025: Programme of Action) was adopted at the 13th Islamic Summit held in İstanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 14-15 April 2016. 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 37th Session of the COMCEC 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 Committee Meetings.

Required Action(s): The OIC General Secretariat is expected to submit a comprehensive progress report on the implementation of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action. The Session will consider the General Secretariat's report on the subject for necessary action.

AGENDA ITEM 4

World Economic Developments with Special Reference to OIC Member Countries

- OIC ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2022 Achieving Sustainable and Resilient Recovery Post COVID-19 Pandemic

SESRIC, in light of the relevant decision of the 12th Session of the COMCEC, has been preparing an annual report on recent world economic developments and their implications on the OIC member countries and submit it to the annual sessions of the COMCEC.

In its Annual Economic Reports, SESRIC summarizes the global and regional economic and financial developments as well as provides some policy recommendations for the OIC Member Countries.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to submit a report titled "OIC Economic Outlook 2022: Achieving Sustainable and Resilient Recovery Post COVID-19 Pandemic". The Member Countries will share their experience regarding the recent economic developments.

AGENDA ITEM 5 Intra-OIC Trade

COMCEC Strategy identifies the expansion of intra-OIC trade as one of the important strategic objectives of the COMCEC. In this regard, trade occupies an important place in the COMCEC agenda.

In accordance with the relevant resolution of the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the 18th and 19th Meetings of the COMCEC Trade Working Group were held in 2022 with the theme of "Enhancing the Internationalization of SMEs in the OIC Member Countries."

Regarding the multilateral projects in trade domain, five projects are being implemented by Indonesia, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and SMIIC under the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding and Senegal's one project is being financed under the COMCEC COVID Response.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 18th and 19th Meetings of Trade Working Group and the projects being implemented in 2022 under the COMCEC Project Funding and COMCEC COVID Response.

There are also some important programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC in the field of trade. Some of the ongoing programs and activities are; TPS-OIC, Islamic Trade Fairs, WTO- Related Technical Assistance, Trade Financing Activities and Trade Related Activities of SMIIC.

- TPS-OIC

TPS-OIC (Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States) is the most important project of the COMCEC in trade area. The System is based on three agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and the Rules of Origin. The legal basis of the TPS-OIC was completed in 2011.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 37th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC and the decision of the Trade Negotiating Committee Meeting held in June 2021, the System has become fully operational as of July 1st, 2022.

Recalling the relevant resolution of the 37th Ministerial Session the 38th Follow-up Committee requested the TPS-OIC Participating States who have not done so yet to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin.

The 37th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco and took note with appreciation that the Gulf Cooperation Council would provide its most updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat at the earliest convenience, on behalf of its six member countries namely; Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman.

Required Action(s): As the TNC co-Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the progress regarding the operationalization of the TPS-OIC. The Session will consider the recent developments and take appropriate action if necessary.

- Islamic Trade Fairs

Islamic trade fairs are held every two years in one of the OIC Member Countries by ICDT in order to promote intra-OIC trade. In addition to the Islamic Trade Fairs, sector-specific exhibitions are also organized by the ICDT in the Member States.

In line with the relevant resolutions of the 37th COMCEC Ministerial Session and the 38th COMCEC Follow-up Committee, the 17th OIC Trade Fair of the OIC Member States held on 13-19 June 2022 in Senegal.

Moreover, 37th COMCEC Ministerial Session and 38th Follow-up Committee reiterated their request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs and requested ICDT to submit on regular basis, progress reports on the Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries and the other specialized fairs as well as exhibitions to the COMCEC Sessions and other related OIC fora.

Required Action(s): The ICDT is expected to report the recent developments on the Islamic Trade Fairs and sector-specific exhibitions.

-WTO Related Technical Assistance

COMCEC encourages its members to join the WTO in order to benefit from the international trade system on an equitable and fair basis. For this purpose, the IsDB Group and ICDT organize training courses, seminars, and workshops on WTO-related issues for the benefit of the Member Countries.

The 37th Session of the COMCEC and the 38th Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC expressed their thanks and appreciations to the IsDB Group and ICDT for organizing WTO-related training courses and seminars for the benefit of the Member States and underlined the need for more effectively disseminating information on training courses among all Member States.

The 37th Ministerial Session and the 38th Follow-Up Committee of COMCEC also called upon IsDB 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 IsDB and ICDT to continue synergizing 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.

Required Action(s): The IsDB and ICDT are expected to report their activities in this field to the Session.

- Trade Financing Activities

Access to affordable trade financing is one of the crucial factors for business people to engage in international trade. Trade financing activities are mainly carried within the IsDB Group's trade financing organ, Islamic Trade Financing Corporation (ITFC). Moreover, the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) has been providing export credit insurance to mitigate the risks of trade.

The 37th Session of the COMCEC and the 38th Follow-up Committee appreciated the trade finance, promotion and development, and capacity-building activities of ITFC and the mobilization of funds from the international market and development partners for funding trade finance operations in the Member States, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 25 percent.

Moreover, the 38th Follow-up Committee took note of the progress report submitted by the ICIEC on OIC Business Intelligence Program and requested the ICIEC in collaboration with SESRIC to complete the technical preparations for launching the Program at the earliest.

Required Action(s): The IsDB Group is expected to report its activities on trade financing and export credit risk insurance. The IsDB Group (ICIEC) is also expected to inform the Session on the latest developments with regards to the OIC Business Intelligence Program.

- Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

SMIIC, as the affiliated institution of the OIC, aims at enhancing trade among the Member Countries through realizing harmonized standards and eliminating technical barriers among them.

Both the 37th COMCEC Ministerial Session and the 38th Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC expressed their appreciations 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.

The 37th COMCEC Ministerial Session as well as the 38th Follow-up 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 and to be included in the SMIIC database.

The Committee called upon the Member States to actively participate in the 9th OIC Halal Expo and World Halal Summit 2022 to be held in İstanbul, Republic of Türkiye which are organized in coordination with SMIIC General Secretariat and Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT).

Required Action(s): SMIIC will inform the Session on the recent developments regarding its trade-related activities.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Enhancing the Role of the Private Sector in Economic Cooperation

- Private Sector Meetings

The Private Sector Meetings, organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), serve as a platform for the private sector of the OIC Member Countries to communicate with each other, explore the opportunities for trade and investments. Apart from private sector meetings, the ICCIA also organizes various sector specific Forums in the areas of Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Tourism, Islamic Economy, Investment, Digital Economy, and Entrepreneurship to support the sustainable development of the OIC private sector for the resilient economic growth of the member countries.

The 37th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the membership of Al Manara Chamber of Commerce, Irish Islamic Chamber of Commerce and the Arab Chamber of Commerce as the observer chambers, which has increased the number of ICCIA Members to 57 along with 3 Observers effective from 20th May 2021.

Required Action(s): The ICCIA is expected to inform the Session on the recent developments regarding private sector meetings.

-OIC Arbitration Center

ICCIA and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB) have been working towards the operationalization of the OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul/Türkiye. In this respect, the 37th Session of the COMCEC as well as the 38th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC welcomed the operationalization of the OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul and expressed their appreciations to the ICCIA and TOBB for their efforts towards making the Center operational. The Session and the Committee also requested the Member Countries to encourage their Chambers to actively participate in the work of the OIC Arbitration Center with a view to enhance the utilization of Center's services by their private sector.

Required Action(s): The ICCIA and TOBB are expected to brief the Session on the recent developments regarding the OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul. The Session will consider the issue and take the necessary action accordingly.

- Financing Private Sector Development

Islamic Corporation for the Development of Private Sector (ICD), a member of the IsDB Group, works towards the development of private sector in the Member Countries and provides financing to private sector projects for this purpose.

The 37th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC as well as the 38th Follow-up Committee took note with appreciation of the efforts of the ICD towards financing private sector projects in the Member Countries. The Session and the Follow-up 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.

Required Action(s): ICD is expected to brief the Session on its efforts on financing the private sector in the OIC Member Countries.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Deepening Financial Cooperation

Islamic finance has an important potential to contribute to member countries' development efforts with its main principles including channelling funding to the real economy, avoiding excessive speculations, limiting debt to the value of assets and prohibiting interest (riba). In this context, the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group has devoted its recent meetings to various aspects of Islamic finance.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the 17th and 18th Meetings of the Financial Cooperation Working Group have been held in 2022 with the theme of "Standardization Efforts in Islamic Finance".

Regarding the multilateral projects under financial cooperation, SESRIC's project is being implemented in 2022 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 17th and 18th Meetings of the Financial Cooperation Working Group as well as the projects being implemented in 2022 under the COMCEC Project Funding.

Furthermore, other ongoing activities in the area of financial cooperation have been carried out under the OIC Exchanges Forum, COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum and OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum.

- OIC Exchanges Forum

As a special platform and communication channel for the member countries, the OIC Exchanges Forum targets to deepen and widen cooperation among the relevant authorities of the member countries. The Forum conducted sixteen meetings so far and developed some important projects including the S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index and OIC Gold Exchange. The 16th Meeting of the Forum was held virtually on October 11-12, 2022. Detailed information about the efforts of the Forum is available on its web site (<http://www.oicexchanges.org/>).

The 37th COMCEC Ministerial Session and the 38th Follow-up Committee welcomed the issuance of the S&P/OIC COMCEC 50 Shariah Index Fund (the Fund) and initiation of the investment, requested the Task Force on Indices to facilitate preparation and distribution of the marketing material to promote S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah 50 Index and the Fund.

The 37th COMCEC Ministerial Session took note of the briefing by the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts towards establishing the OIC Gold Exchange Project among the volunteering Member States and requests the Forum's Secretariat to advance the technical preparations on the new block chain-based model for the OIC Gold Exchange Project in cooperation with central banks, and report to the 38th COMCEC Session.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, Borsa Istanbul is expected to inform the Session on the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum as well as the S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index and to report the progress towards the realization of the above- mentioned Gold Exchange Project. The Session will discuss the issue and take necessary action.

- COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum

As a regular platform exerting efforts towards increasing coordination and cooperation in the fields of regulatory and legal infrastructure among the Member Countries, the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum conducted eleven meetings till now. The 11th Meeting of the Forum was held virtually on November 1st, 2022. Detailed information about the efforts of the Forum is available on the Forum's web site (<http://www.comceccmr.org/>).

Recalling the relevant resolution of the 37th COMCEC Session, the 38th Follow-up Committee called upon 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 for enhancing coordination.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, the Capital Markets Board of Türkiye is expected to brief the Session on the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum. The Session will discuss the issue and take necessary action.

- OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum

Since its inception, OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum has been providing a regular platform to discuss monetary, banking and financial issues, along with the efforts aimed at deepening the cooperation and coordination among Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC member countries.

Within this framework, the 4th Meeting of the Forum was held in September 25-26, 2022. Detailed information about the efforts of the Forum is available on the Forum's web site (<http://comceccentralbanks.org/>).

Furthermore, the 37th Ministerial Session as well as the 38th Follow-up Committee of COMCEC commended the training and capacity-building programs organized by the SESRIC towards the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of Member States and requested SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the benefit of the relevant national institutions of the Member States within the framework of its Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB).

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye is expected to inform the Session about the activities of the Forum.

AGENDA ITEM 8 Improving Transport and Communications

Transport and communications sector is of particular importance for economic and social development of the Member Countries. Within this perspective, the 37th Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation the convening of the 16th and 17th Meetings of the Transport and Communications Working Group and welcomed its policy recommendations.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) conducted its 18th and 19th Meetings in 2022 with the theme of “The Economic and Social Impacts of Transport Infrastructure: An overview of OIC Member Countries.”

Regarding the multilateral projects under the transport and communications sector, two projects are being implemented by the Gambia and SESRIC within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding and one project of the Gambia is being financed under the COMCEC COVID Response in 2022.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 18th and 19th Meeting of the TCWG, the projects to be implemented in 2022 under the COMCEC Project Funding and COMCEC COVID Response as well as other developments regarding the cooperation in this field.

AGENDA ITEM 9 Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector

As an increasingly important source of income, employment and wealth in many countries, tourism is as one of the important cooperation areas of the COMCEC. Therefore, the COMCEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) has held several meetings on various aspects of the tourism sector and its sub-categories.

The 37th Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation the convening of the 16th and 17th Meetings of the Tourism Working Group and welcomed its policy recommendations.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the Tourism Working Group (TWG) conducted its 18th and 19th Meetings in 2022 on 12 May 2022 and 5 October 2022 respectively, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Sustainable Human Resource Management in

Tourism Sector” and welcomed the policy recommendations formulated in these meetings.

Regarding the multilateral projects under the tourism cooperation area, two projects are being implemented by Uganda and Nigeria in 2022 under the COMCEC Project Funding. In addition, a project of Sierra Leone is being financed under the COMCEC COVID Response in 2022.

Furthermore, under the COMCEC AI-Quds Program, five projects have been completed in AI-Quds Al-Sharif in 2021-2022 period.

The 37th Session of the COMCEC welcomed AI-Quds Program initiated by the CCO in 2020 in order to improve the tourism infrastructure with the ultimate aim of improving the image of AI-Quds as a competitive and attractive tourism destination and preserving Palestinian-Arab identity in the city.

The Session also expressed its appreciation to Turkey for hosting the 10th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum to be held virtually on November 10th, 2022 with the theme of “The Prospects and Challenges for Gastronomy Tourism in OIC Countries”.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 18th and 19th Meetings and the projects being implemented in 2022 under the COMCEC Project Funding, COMCEC COVID Response and COMCEC AI-Quds Program as well as other developments regarding the cooperation in this field.

AGENDA ITEM 10 Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security

Agriculture is one of the important cooperation areas defined in the COMCEC Strategy. In line with the relevant resolution of the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the 18th and 19th Meetings of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held in 2022 with the theme of “Transforming Food Systems After COVID-19: Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems in the OIC Member Countries”.

Regarding the multilateral projects under the agriculture cooperation area, four projects of Benin, Türkiye, ICCIA and IOFS are being implemented in 2022 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding. Moreover, three projects of Azerbaijan, Benin and Türkiye are being financed under the COMCEC COVID Response in 2022.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcome of the 19th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group, the projects implemented in 2022 under the COMCEC Project Funding and COMCEC COVID Response and other developments in this cooperation area.

AGENDA ITEM 11 Alleviating Poverty

As one of the most challenging issues facing humanity, poverty remains at the top of global development agenda. Unfortunately, achievements in poverty alleviation in the last decades have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In line with the relevant resolution the 37th Session of the COMCEC, the PAWG conducted its 18th and 19th meetings on May 10th, 2022 and October 6-7, 2022 respectively, with the theme of "Effective Social Assistance Provision and Socioeconomic Empowerment in the light of COVID-19 Pandemic."

Within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding, the two projects are being implemented by Türkiye and SESRIC in 2022.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Session on the outcome of the 19th Meeting, the preparations for the Exchange of Views Session of the 38th COMCEC Session and the projects implemented in 2022 under the COMCEC Project Funding.

Moreover, the ongoing cooperation efforts in the area of poverty alleviation have been carried out under the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA), Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC- VET), and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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

Following the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in 2005, a special fund called as Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) was established under the Islamic Development Bank. After it was officially launched in 2007, the fund has aimed to help the reduction of poverty in the Mem-

ber Countries. Another important initiative of IsDB, launched in 2008, is the Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA). Along with creating more employment, this fund aims to enhance economic growth and agricultural production in African Member Countries.

The 37th Session of the COMCEC reiterated its request to the Member States, which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfil their commitments and requested the ISFD to enhance its endeavours for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including governmental, non-governmental resources, and the private sector in the Member States and to report the progress to the 38th COMCEC Session.

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, requested the ISFD to take these observations into consideration during planning its future programmes and activities and report the progress to the relevant OIC Fora including forthcoming meetings/sessions of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): The IsDB Group is expected to submit reports on the implementation of the ISFD and SPDA and to inform the Session on the implementation of the aforementioned programs.

- OIC-VET Program

In order to achieve quality in vocational education and training, SESRIC initiated Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) in 2009.

Taking note with appreciation of the progress report of SESRIC on the implementation of the OIC- TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025, the 37th Session of the COMCEC requested SESRIC to continue submitting progress reports on the implementation status of the Road Map to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings.

Furthermore, the Session appreciated the continuous efforts of SESRIC with a view to enhancing the capacities and the quality of TVET systems in the OIC Member Countries and called upon SESRIC to mobilize more financial resources towards achieving the targets of the OICVET Programme. The

Session also called upon the Member States to participate in and support the various capacity development activities of SESRIC organized under the OIC-VET Programme.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to present its progress report on the implementation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025.

- Implementation of SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the UN Special Summit in September 2015, presenting a more ambitious and comprehensive global development agenda.

Taking note with appreciation of the report presented by SESRIC titled "Towards the Achievement of Prioritized Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries 2021", the 37th Session of the COMCEC and the 38th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee requested SESRIC to prepare annual reports on the progress towards achievement of the prioritized SDGs in the OIC Member Countries, submit them to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and continue carrying out statistical training activities with a focus on prioritized SDGs for the benefit of National Statistical Offices of the Member States within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

Moreover, considering the list of SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC Institutions compiled by the COMCEC Coordination Office the 37th Session and the 38th Follow-up Committee requested the COMCEC Coordination Office to compile the relevant OIC Institutions' activities aligned with the prioritized SDG areas and submit the list to the 38th Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to present its report on the progress towards achievement of the prioritized SDGs in the OIC Member Countries. The COMCEC Coordination Office will inform the Session on the list of relevant OIC Institutions' activities aligned with the prioritized SDG areas.

AGENDA ITEM 12 Cooperation on Digital Transformation

Underlining the emerging trends with respect to digital technologies in all government services in particular amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the 37th Session of the COMCEC decided the inclusion of digital transformation as an additional cooperation area in the COMCEC Agenda and requested COMCEC Coordination Office in cooperation with the interested Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions to develop a comprehensive programme / High-Level Digital Cooperation Initiative with a series of technical meetings (when needed), with the relevant stakeholders and to report the progress thereon to the 38th Follow-up Committee and COMCEC Ministerial Session.

Recalling the relevant resolution of the 37th COMCEC Ministerial Session on the COMCEC High Level Digital Initiative/Programme, the 38th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee took note with appreciation the briefing made by the CCO and requested the CCO, in collaboration with the interested Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions, to finalize the technical preparations through, among others, conducting a survey to get insights about the needs and expectations of the Member Countries and organizing technical meetings (when needed) with a view to launch the Initiative/Programme during the 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session.

Within this framework, a comprehensive survey has been conducted. Based on the findings of the Survey, a concept report has been prepared and considered by the member countries during the 1st Technical Meeting on COMCEC High-Level Digital Cooperation Initiative/Programme held on September 28th, 2022.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office is expected to brief the Session on the COMCEC High Level Digital Initiative/Programme.

AGENDA ITEM 13
Exchange of Views on

**“Effective Social Assistance Provision and Socioeconomic Empowerment
in the light of COVID-19 Pandemic”**

Exchange of views sessions are held regularly at the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. The 37th Session of the COMCEC decided the theme of the Ministerial Exchange of Views of the next COMCEC Session as “Effective Social Assistance Provision and Socioeconomic Empowerment in the light of COVID-19 Pandemic” and requested the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group in its 19th Meeting, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 38th COMCEC Session.

In line with the above- mentioned resolution, the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group, in its 19th Meeting, has elaborated on the preparations for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session and come up with some policy recommendations to be submitted to the 38th Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office is expected to inform the Session of the preparations for the Exchange of Views Session including the recommendations of the Working Group to be submitted to Ministerial Exchange of Views Session for consideration. The Session will consider the recommendations and take necessary action.

- Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 39th Session of the COMCEC

During its 38th Meeting, the Follow-up Committee discussed on the possible themes for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 39th Session of the COMCEC:

The 38th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee requested the COMCEC Coordination Office to circulate a questionnaire to explore the Member States’ views on the subject and report the outcome to the 38th Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office is expected to present the results of the questionnaire on the theme of exchange of views session of the 39th Session of the COMCEC. The 38th Session of the COMCEC will decide on the theme of the next year’s ministerial exchange of views session.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Date of the 39th Session of the COMCEC

The Session will decide on the dates of the 39th Session of the COMCEC and the 39th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office will propose specific dates for the 39th Session of the COMCEC and the 39th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee. The Session will decide on the dates of the said meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 15
Any Other Business

Bearing in mind the growing number and volume of the resolutions concerning the activities, programs and projects of the OIC institutions working in the economic domain, the 37th Session of the COMCEC requested the COMCEC Coordination Office, in collaboration with the relevant OIC institutions, to identify a methodology and criteria for the formulation of draft resolutions in a more concise format with actionable points and report thereon to the next COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meeting and Ministerial Session.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session, the COMCEC Coordination Office briefed the 38th Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC regarding the methodology and criteria for the formulation of draft resolutions in a more concise format with actionable points. The Committee noted with appreciation the briefing made by the CCO and requested the CCO, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to finalize this assignment and report the outcome to the next COMCEC Session.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office is expected to brief the Session on the outcomes of the work towards identifying methodology and criteria for the formulation of draft resolutions in a more concise format.

