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REPORT
OF
THE OIC SECRETARY GENERAL
TO
THE 38TH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC (COMCEC)

Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The report of the OIC Secretary General features the most recent actions by the General Secretariat and its institutions working in the economic domain, since the convening of the 37th COMCEC General Assembly Session, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 24th- 25th November 2021. These actions are aimed at following-up the implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, the relevant resolutions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, COMCEC and other ministerial level OIC Meetings.
2. The Report highlights the series of interventions by the relevant OIC institutions through on-going projects on trade and investment, infrastructure and agro-industrial development, private sector development, tourism sector development, poverty alleviation and capacity building. The convening of the Eleventh Edition of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), 17th OIC Trade Fair, OIC Halal Expo, workshops on Trade of Agricultural products, and research and publication featured prominently on the agenda of the OIC during the period under review.
3. The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been severe for some of the OIC Member States, exacerbating existing fiscal and socio-economic challenges. Although the economies of the majority of OIC Member States are gradually recovering, that recovery in OIC LDCs is constrained by tight fiscal space, unequal access to external finance, and increasing debt vulnerabilities. The disruption of global trade flows and commodity markets by the situation in Ukraine is adding more pressures. In this regard, the report highlights the activities implemented during the period under review with regard to execution of OIC programmes and initiatives aimed at attaining the new intra-OIC trade target of 25% by 2025, including the effectuation of the Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC) as well as signing and ratification of other OIC agreements and statutes. Other programmes elaborated and implemented during the year under review are in the domain of the transport sector, agroindustry, tourism, labour, employment and social protection, the role of the Private Sector, and entrepreneurship development.
4. In addition to the various activities conducted by the General Secretariat during the period under review, this Report highlights the activities of the numerous OIC institutions working in the economic domain. In line with the statutory responsibilities of the General Secretariat on coordination of OIC institutions, the General Secretariat and the ICDT organized the 2nd Leaders Meeting of the Trade and Investment Sub-Committee (TISC) of ACMOI, held in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco, on 8th -9th March 2022. The Meeting reviewed and approved the implementation plan for the better coordination and cooperation among OIC institutions and the distribution and assignment of joint activities among the TISC members.
5. Pursuant to Resolution No. 1/47-POA of the Council of Foreign Ministers, adopted at its 47th Session, held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27th-28th November 2020, the General Secretariat organized an Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on the implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 27th -28th December, 2021. The Meeting considered the Mid-Term Review Document, titled “*Road to 2025: Gains, Challenges and Opportunities*”, prepared by

SESRIC. The said Expert Group Meeting underscored the need for Member States to provide SESRIC with necessary appropriate statistical data and information in a timely fashion, relevant to the goals and objectives of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action. The meeting decided that the final updated draft of the Mid-Term Review Document should be finalized by SESRIC under the supervision of the General Secretariat by the first quarter of 2023 and submitted to Member States for their examination before its subsequent consideration by the 49th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers. The SESRIC submitted the document in August 2022, which were based on latest data collected using the “Questionnaire for the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action”. Suffice it to note that only 30 OIC Member States had responded to the questionnaire as of 31st May, 2022. SESRIC also used data extracted from databases of international agencies. The document also attempts to highlight key efforts, opportunities and challenges for the implementation of the OIC-2025 POA.

II. AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

6. Agriculture remains one of the most important sectors in many OIC member states as a source of livelihood and employment for millions of people. In this regard, during the period under review, the following activities were carried out towards the implementation of OIC policies and decisions in the domain of agriculture, rural development and food security:

(a) IsDB Group Comprehensive Food Security Response Program

7. In July, 2022, The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group endorsed a US\$ 10.54 billion comprehensive Food Security Response Program (FSRP) package that will support OIC member states in addressing the food insecurity and, most importantly, scale up the Group's continued efforts to contribute to strengthening OIC Member States' resilience to food security shocks in the future.
8. As part of the IsDB Group comprehensive package, the IsDB will contribute up to US\$ 5.7 billion in total financing to member states, comprising new approvals worth US\$ 4.0 billion and fast-tracking of disbursements for existing projects worth US\$ 1.7 billion. In addition, as part of its "One Group-One Goal" approach, the program involves significant and direct contributions by IsDB Group entities as follows: (i) ITFC: USD 4.5 billion in trade financing; (ii) ICD: USD 269 million in private sector development operations; (iii) ISFD: USD 75 million in loans, grants, and capital resources; and (iv) ICIEC: USD 500 million in political and credit insurance coverage. To complement the financial package of the IsDB Group, the Islamic Development Bank Institute (IsDBI) will provide critical data, analytics, and evidence-based support for effective and impactful decision-making.
9. To jump-start the program, the financing package is expected to provide immediate financing of up to US\$ 3.2 billion (over the coming 18-month period) for short-term interventions by providing (i) emergency food and agricultural supply and (ii) social protection and livelihood support to the most vulnerable populations.
10. The primary focus of the program and the bulk of the financing envelope of the remaining US\$ 7.3 billion, which will span over the next three years, will be on developing innovative

medium- and long-term interventions to address structural weaknesses and root causes of food insecurity in the OIC Member States. These include low productivity, rural poverty, climate change, and weak resilience of regional and national agricultural and food systems through six (6) key initiatives: (i) building agricultural resilience to climate change; (ii) food and input value-chains; (iii) smallholders' productivity and market access; (iv) rural livelihood support; (v) livestock and fisheries development; and (vi) building resilient food supply systems.

11. Within this context, it is worth mentioning that the total IsDB Group's financing support for agriculture and food security currently stands at USD 20.6 billion, comprising 1,538 projects from OIC Member States.

(b) Training Programmes and Publication

12. Within its mandate, SESRIC has continued to organize training programmes in the area of increasing productivity of the agriculture sector and sustaining food security for the benefit of OIC member states. Accordingly, during the year under review, SESRIC, within the framework of OIC Agriculture and Statistical Capacity Building Programme, organized the following activities:

- 1) Online Training Course on “Enhancing Food Security through Efficient Irrigation Systems” on 23rd-25th August 2022 for the benefit of experts from Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of agriculture and water resources management of 22 OIC Member Countries.
- 2) 2 Statistical Online Training Courses on “SDG 13 (Climate Action) Indicators” on 14th -16th March 2022 and “SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators” on 25th-26th May 2022 for the benefit of experts from the NSOs of 15 OIC Member Countries.
- 3) Training Course on “Disaster Risk Identification and Risk Assessment” on 28th - 30th March 2022 for the benefit of 13 OIC African French-Speaking Member Countries.
- 4) Training Course on “Biotechnological Tools and Techniques for Cotton - Sample Collection Activities” held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 17th -28th January 2022 for the benefit of 50 cotton experts from the Cotton Development Board (CDB) under the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh.

(c) Activities of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS)

• **5th Meeting of the General Assembly**

13. The Fifth Meeting of the General Assembly of Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS) was conducted on 10th-11th October 2022 via Zoom videoconferencing platform under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Tunisia. The ministers and high level officials from IOFS and OIC member states, representatives of relevant OIC institutions, specialized regional and international organisations attended the meeting.
14. The Fifth General Assembly Meeting of IOFS discussed various issues relating to administration, budget, activities and projects of the Organisation. At the end of its

proceedings, the 5th Meeting adopted several resolutions. Most of these resolutions relate to approval of the budget of IOFS, programmes and projects of the IOFS, and election of the new members of the IOFS Executive Board, among others. The General Assembly also decided to convene its 6th meeting in 2022, and to this end, it requested the Secretariat of IOFS to inform IOFS member states on the venue and dates of the 6th General Assembly in due course.

- **Accession to IOFS Statute**

15. During the year under review, the Republic of Chad signed the Statute of IOFS. As a result, the number of OIC member states, which have signed the IOFS Statute, reached 37, while 16 countries have so far ratified the same.

(d) OIC Member States Facing Acute Food Insecurity

16. Currently, many countries and regions in the various parts of the world are suffering as a result of conflicts, political instability and climate disasters, threatening the food security of millions of people. Some of the OIC Member States are among the category of these countries. To this end, on 21st September, 2022, **a joint FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots: October 2022 to January 2023 Outlook** was released. This report analyzes countries and situations in the world, where acute food insecurity is likely to deteriorate over the coming months between October 2022 to January 2023. According to the above mentioned Outlook, currently **11 OIC Member States are among the countries identified as hunger hotspots**, requiring urgent and scaled-up assistance to address food insecurity. These countries are: **Afghanistan; Burkina Faso; Chad; Mali; Mauritania, Niger; Nigeria; Pakistan; Somalia; Sudan; and Yemen.** Over 89 million people in these 11 OIC Member States are now at risk of hunger, unless they receive immediate life-saving assistance. The deteriorating situation of these people is mostly driven by conflicts, as well as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change effects. These include food price spikes, movement restrictions that limit market and pastoralists activities alike, rising inflation, decreased purchasing power, an early and prolonged rain season, draughts and floods. The prevailing situation indicates the growing need for OIC Member States to intensify their collective efforts to further promote intra-OIC cooperation in the agricultural sector in all forms and address food insecurity in a comprehensive manner, including removing production, supply and consumption constraints. It also highlights the importance of having food reserves at national and regional levels.

(e) Brainstorming Session on the theme: “Strategies for Addressing the Current and Future Food Security Needs of OIC Member States”

17. The OIC General Secretariat organized a Brainstorming Session on the theme: **“Strategies for Addressing the Current and Future Food Security Needs of OIC Member States”** in Jeddah on 16th October 2022, as part of the World Food Day commemoration. The session was designed to provide a platform for discussion amongst OIC Member States and relevant OIC institutions on the challenges associated with food insecurity in the OIC Member States

with the objective of developing clear policy recommendations for OIC Member States and relevant OIC institutions.

18. During the event, which brought from Member States as well as relevant OIC institutions, a number of recommendations were put forward with regard to addressing the food insecurity in OIC Member States. Some of these recommendations include:
 - exploring possibilities for contract farming, since a number OIC Member States have arable land and other OIC Member States have the capital to invest;
 - devising a suitable business model for necessary collaboration by the OIC Member States for the joint production of food, its storage and marketing; and
 - addressing the issues of small farmers which are the backbone of agriculture in many OIC countries, among others.

III. EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY

19. Intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of labour, employment and social protection is aimed at improving decent work and occupational safety and health in OIC member states as well as workforce mobility across OIC countries. During the year under review, the OIC and its relevant institutions have continued to carry out activities aimed at helping job-seekers in OIC countries develop their personal and organizational skills, knowledge, and abilities, as well as improving their competitiveness and consequently their performance. This is more so considering the fact that the unemployment rate in OIC member states as a group was 6.7% against the world average of 5.4% during 2016-2019 period.
20. Creating decent job opportunities remains to be a priority for the majority of OIC countries. Available statistics indicate that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were unprecedented employment losses in 2020 and global unemployment increased by 33 million during this year. A further 81 million people became inactive as they could not see any opportunity to search for a job successfully, or they were simply unable to do so owing to the COVID-19 restrictions. The number of unemployed in OIC countries increased by over 4 million to reach 49.3 million, leading unemployment rate to reach 7.1% in 2020. Accordingly, during the period under review the following activities were accomplished:

(a) 5th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers

21. As it was reported to the 37th Session of COMCEC, the Government of the United Arab Emirates graciously offered to host the 5th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) during the fourth quarter of 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the world, including OIC member states, the 5th ICLM was postponed. The General Secretariat is presently working with the relevant authorities in UAE to reschedule the 5th ICLM for a specific date during 2023.
22. It is expected that the 5th ICLM will consider the implementation of resolutions of the previous Conferences, including the activities in the area of occupational health and safety, reducing unemployment and workforce capacity development, and social protection in OIC

Member States. It will also consider the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market in OIC Member States and appoint members of the Steering Committee of Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers for the next biennium.

23. In view of the foregoing, the General Secretariat urges Member States to actively participate in the Fifth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers when it is held.

(b) Accession to the Statute of OIC Labour Centre

24. The General Secretariat has continued to sensitize OIC Member States on the need to sign and ratify the Statute of OIC Labour Centre in order to facilitate its timely operationalisation. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that during the period under review, the State of Libya signed the Statute of OIC Labour Centre. As a result, the number of OIC member states, which have signed the Statute of OIC Labour Centre, reached nine (09). Two of these countries (Azerbaijan and Bahrain) have so far ratified the same.
25. In view of the foregoing, it should be noted that the Statute of OIC Labour Centre provides that it shall be applied provisionally upon signing by at least ten OIC member states and definitively enter into force when ten member states submit their instruments of ratification.
26. Against this background, the General Secretariat reiterates its earlier call on other OIC Member States to conclude all necessary arrangements to accede to the Statute of OIC Labour Centre at their earliest convenience.

(c) Training courses and publication

27. Within its mandate, SESRIC has continued to organize training programmes in the area of skills development for the benefit of OIC member states. Accordingly, during the period under review, SESRIC organized, in virtual format, the following activities:
- 1) Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “***Web Design and Coding***” on 12-13 October 2022 for the benefit of OIC Member States;
 - 2) Training Workshop on “***Distance Education and E-Learning in TVET***” on 20-22 September 2022 for the benefit of 28 OIC Member States;
 - 3) Training Course on “***Development of National Vocational Qualifications Framework***” on 26-28 July 2022 for the benefit of 26 OIC Member States;
 - 4) Training Course on “***Promoting Good Governance of TVET for Efficient System Management***” on 10-12 May 2022 for the benefit of 22 OIC Member States;
 - 5) Training Workshop on “***Enhancing Collaboration between TVET Institutions and Industry towards Effective Curriculum Development***” on 21-23 February 2022 for the benefit of 25 OIC Member States;
 - 6) Training Course on “***Strengthening Institutional Capacity on Vocational Qualifications***” on 13-15 December 2021 for the benefit of 28 OIC Member States;
 - 7) Training Course on “***Measuring the Impacts of Labour Market Information on Employment Services***” on 21-23 June 2022 for the benefit of participants from the

national public employment services (PES) agencies/authorities of 20 OIC Member States.

28. SESRIC also prepared a comprehensive report on “Socio-Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic in OIC Countries: Pathways for Sustainable and Resilient Recovery”.

(d) IsDB initiative to support youth development

29. IsDB is developing the Advancing Youth Services and Policies for Integrated Recovery Program aimed at advancing national youth strategies/agendas in OIC Member States toward meeting the needs of youth arising due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, climate change, food, and energy crises. The program is expected to: (i) strengthen the capacity of youth-related ministries and entities to develop and update their strategies; (ii) enhance resource-mobilization efforts and implementation capacity for these updated strategies; and (iii) support the exchange of knowledge and experience amongst relevant ministries and institutions in the OIC Member States.
30. On the sidelines of its 47th Annual Meeting held in Egypt in June 2022, IsDB launched a skill-building training program on the skills needed for the green economy. The objectives of this extensive and innovative training are to support youth through the knowledge-acquisition and skill-development needed to transition to a sustainable and green economy.

IV. INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT

31. Intra-OIC trade activities feature cooperation actions and interventions in the area of trade promotion, financing and facilitation, and export credit insurances. Other areas of activity include halal sector development, investment promotion and capacity building programmes, including outcome of the various consultations and coordination with regional and international partners.

(a) Recent Outlook of Intra-OIC Trade and Investment

According to ICDT data projection as of September 2022, intra-OIC net trade volume reached US\$ 473.80 billion in the first quarter of 2022 compared to US\$ 372.03 billion of the first quarter of 2021 i.e. an increase of 27.36 %. The growth of the volume was due to the soaring prices of the commodities worldwide and the increase of local production to respond to the Member States’ demands and also exchange rate of USD and Euro along with the Ukraine Crisis. Besides, the implementation of some bilateral and regional trade and investment agreements contributed to this growth of intra-OIC trade volume. However, the share of intra-OIC Trade in the overall foreign trade of Member States decreased by 2.63 % from 19.39 % in the first quarter of 2022 to 19.91% in the first quarter of 2021.

32. The main intra-OIC trading countries as of March 2022 were: United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Malaysia, Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan, Oman, Qatar and Bangladesh. These countries registered 71.52 % of the intra-OIC net trade reaching US\$ 338.9 billion.

33. As of March 2022, about 31 countries reached the 25% target of intra-OIC trade target set up in the OIC-2025 Programme of Action. These countries are the following: Afghanistan, Oman, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, Comoros, Mali, Kuwait, Tajikistan, Lebanon, Gambia, Bahrain, Togo, Jordan, Benin, Maldives, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Senegal, Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Albania, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Iran, United Arab Emirates and Brunei.
34. As for the world trade of OIC countries as a group, the share of OIC countries increased from US\$ 3.8 trillion in 2019 to US\$ 4.2 trillion in 2021, i.e. a 12.9% increase. This was a result of the enhancement of trading strategic commodities at regional level and the fluctuating commodity prices and environment of the global economy and trade. The trade share of the OIC countries accounted for 9.6% in 2019 against 9.3% of world trade in 2021, i.e. a reduction of 3.3%, mainly due to the fragility of OIC Economies during COVID-19 crisis.
35. The dramatic one-third fall (34.7%) in global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in 2020 due to the pandemic crisis resulted largely from a 58.3% drop in flows to developed countries, compared to a 12.1 % drop in developing countries. Flows to OIC countries followed a similar course as developing countries and fell by 12.5%. FDI flows to OIC countries amount to \$100 billion in 2020, compared to \$114 billion in 2019. The most significant decrease in FDI flows occurred in the OIC Asian group (\$14.4 billion), followed by a \$0.9 billion decrease in the OIC African group and a \$0.8 billion increase in the OIC Arab group of countries. Since the Covid-19 pandemic caused a more dramatic fall in FDI in developed countries, the FDI inflows to OIC countries reached 10% of the world total, the highest rate in the last decade. The share of OIC countries inflows to developing countries was estimated at 14.8% in 2020 and remained almost unchanged in the previous 4 years due to the parallel trends of FDI inflows to both groups.
36. In OIC countries, the decline was also substantial, both in value and the number of announced FDI green field projects. From 2019 to 2020, the number of projects decreased by 38.1% to attain 1,292 - the lowest figure since 2008. Further, the value of announced greenfield projects decreased by 27.4% to \$97.7 billion, which was less than \$100 billion for the first time, with data available dating back to 2003. Therefore, in terms of the number of greenfield projects, OIC countries accounted for 10% of the global total in 2020, compared to 11.4% in 2019, while their share in the sum of developing countries has increased from 26.3% to 28.1%. In terms of net cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&As), in 2020, the OIC countries have sold \$24.5 billion of existing operations, an increase of \$6.9 billion compared to 2019. The value of inward M&As has increased by 72,3% in the OIC African group, 29.3% in the OIC Arab group, and 17.8% in the OIC Asian group of countries. OIC Asian countries were more successful than other OIC groups in announced greenfield projects, whose value from 2019 to 2020 increased by 8.5%. The value of announced greenfield FDI projects has decreased by 41.4% in the OIC Arab group and 60.5% in the OIC African countries in the same period. From 2010 to 2020, FDI stocks have become 1.6 times higher in OIC countries to reach nearly \$2.2 trillion in 2020. However, the share of OIC countries in the world's total FDI stock has reduced from 6.7% in 2010-2015 to 5.8% in the 2016-2020 period, further decreasing to 5.1% in 2020.

(b) Trade Financing, Investment and Export Credit Insurance

37. Since its establishment in 2008 with a mandate to enhance trade among OIC Member States, through providing trade finance and trade-related technical-assistance, the ITFC's total cumulative approvals and disbursements reached US\$ 61.5 billion and US\$ 50.2 billion, respectively. Total cumulative funds mobilized from partner banks and financial institutions reached US\$ 38.0 billion, reflecting ITFC's critical role as a catalyst to attract funding for large-ticket trade transactions for the benefit of the OIC Member States.
38. Across 2021, ITFC financed the purchase of 1.5 million tones of food commodities to ensure that over 25 million households in member countries have access to affordable, safe and sufficient food. Through its pre-export facilities, ITFC redistributed US\$ 240 million worth of income to 600,000 farmers for the purchase of agriculture commodities.
39. Over 7,500 MSMEs have benefitted from US\$ 373 million of financing channeled through 26 partner banks. Launching of the West Africa SMEs Program in Cote d'Ivoire, after successful pilot projects in Burkina Faso and Senegal, ITFC will launch this flagship program in Cote d'Ivoire, aiming at supporting the country's efforts to build the capacity of the SMEs in selected Member Countries, enabling them to benefit from the lines of financing extended by ITFC to partner banks in those countries.
40. Expanding the Arab Africa Trade Bridges (AATB) Program – ITFC and partner institutions continue to expand and implement the AATB Program, which is designed to promote trade as a tool to expand economic opportunities and support inclusive and sustainable growth across the Arab and sub-Saharan OIC member countries.
41. Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) continued to be proactive in helping OIC Member Countries in mitigating risks associated with the difficulties and challenging economic, political and financial conditions in the global environment. In 2021, the volume of the ICIEC's business insured declined by 0.6% to stand at USD 9.79 billion compared to USD 9.86 billion in 2020. This brings our cumulative amount of business insured since inception to USD 83.31 billion. The Corporation's business in 2021 was impacted by the overall deceleration in global trade undermined by the supply and demand chain disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenging trade environment as a result of the China-USA trade dispute.
42. With respect to intra-OIC trade, ICIEC's business insured in 2021 stood at USD 4.49 billion, involving 40 OIC Member States, compared to USD 5.06 billion involving 38 Member States in 2020, representing a decline of about 11.26%. The Corporation continues to demonstrate its determination to support intra-OIC business and to contribute to the achievement of the OIC's goal of reaching a 25% intra-OIC trade share by 2025.

(c) Trade Facilitation

43. The General Secretariat has continued to sensitize member states on the need to give effect to the various OIC multilateral trade instruments in force. In this regard, the General

Secretariat has submitted a Note Verbale to all Member States on 17th February 2022 along with its attachment entitled “Brief on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPS-OIC)”. In its Note Verbale, the General Secretariat requested all Member States to sign and ratify all three OIC trade agreements and submit their updated concession lists in order to complete the necessary procedures for the effectuation of the System. The status of signing and ratification of OIC economic agreements, including TPS-OIC is annexed to this Report (*Annex-I*).

44. The following 13 OIC Member States: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan and Jordan have sent to the TNC Secretariat the List of Products for tariff concessions under the TPS/OIC. The TNC Secretariat requested the concerned Member States 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
45. Trade Negotiating Committee Meeting. The TPS-OIC Trade Ministers convened on 25th November 2021, on the sidelines of the 37th Session of COMCEC. The participating member states reconfirmed 1st July, 2022 as the effectuation date of the TPS-OIC and indicated their willingness to deepen their cooperation in the area of trade in the said Meeting.

(d) Trade related capacity building programmes and publication

46. SESRIC organised a Virtual Statistical Training Course on “*International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments*” on 13th -15th September 2022 for the benefit of experts from the National Statistical Organizations of 14 OIC Member Countries.
47. As per the request of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC prepared and submitted a comprehensive research study in December 2021 on Halal Industry in OIC Member Countries that analyses the current state of the Halal Industry in terms of finance, food, tourism and lifestyle markets. Among others, the report particularly overviews the state of the Islamic tourism sector in OIC Member Countries and provides a set of policy recommendations on ways and means to unleash its potential in the OIC group. The report is available on the SESRIC Website.
48. SESRIC and International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB) conducted a joint research study on the “*Impacts of Trade Facilitation and Logistics Performance on Trade Flows: The Case of Landlocked African OIC Countries.*”

(e) Investment Promotion

1) OIC Investment Forum in Africa

49. In line with the Resolution of the 48th CFM, the General Secretariat, in coordination with the host country and the relevant OIC institutions, will organize an OIC Investment Forum in Africa in 2023. The General Secretariat, in cooperation with its relevant institutions, has

already prepared a Concept Note on the Forum. The General Secretariat has received offers from 3 OIC Countries in Africa for hosting the said Forum in 2023. They are the Republic Mali, Republic of the Gambia, and Republic of Chad. Later the Republic of Gambia withdrew in favour of the Republic of Chad. After the ongoing consultations between the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Chad have been concluded, the venue and dates of the Forum will be communicated to all stakeholders.

50. The main objective of the Forum is to explore investment opportunities in various sectors of the national economies in African OIC Member States. Other critical objectives of the Forum will include, among others: identify the frameworks and drivers contributing to a favorable business environment in African OIC Member States; create an opportunity for business leaders to explore the challenges and opportunities in key strategic commodity sectors; provide a platform for OIC public and private stakeholders to meet directly with policy makers at national and regional levels with a view to sharing ideas on ways of improving the business climate; generate the opportunity for public and business actors to discuss ways of enhancing competitiveness by exchanging views on issues such as access to finance and external markets.

- 2) **Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGGE) on the Draft Protocol of Establishment of a Permanent Mechanism for the Settlement of Investment Disputes**

51. In implementation of the relevant CFM resolutions, the OIC General Secretariat, in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Trade Development (ICDT) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), organized the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGGE) in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 3 – 6 October, 2022, in a hybrid format. The main objective of the meeting was to examine the Draft Protocol of Establishment of a Permanent Mechanism for the Settlement of Investment Disputes within the framework of the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the OIC Member States.
52. The meeting examined the provisions of each article of the Draft Protocol and made several proposals to amend the provisions of the articles of the Draft Protocol. The meeting reached a consensus on the text of 6 articles out of 37. It also requested the General Secretariat, in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Trade Development and the Islamic Development Bank, to incorporate the proposals made during the meeting in the relevant articles of the Draft Protocol, and re-submit the revised Draft Protocol to OIC Member States for consideration. The meeting also underscored the need for convening of the second meeting of the IGGE to consider the revised Draft Protocol and subsequently to finalize it before 49th Session of CFM in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania in March 2023.

(f) Halal Sector Development

53. SMIIC develops OIC/SMIIC standards on behalf of OIC and gives special emphasis to the development of halal related standards as the competent authority of OIC on halal issues. For the last couple of years, SMIIC has gained great momentum on the development of new

standards and was able to develop a total of 16 (sixteen) OIC/SMIIC standards on halal recently. In 2021 the following two halal related OIC/SMIIC standards were published:

- a. OIC/SMIIC 22:2021 – Halal Edible Gelatine – Requirements and Test Methods
- b. OIC/SMIIC 18:2021 – Halal Quality Management System – Requirements

54. The 22nd Board of Directors (BOD) and the 16th General Assembly (GA) Meetings of SMIIC were held on 01-02 November 2021, in Al-Madinah Al-Munawarah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The 22nd SMIIC Board of Directors Meeting approved the membership application of the *Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON)* as the national body of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as a new member of the SMIIC. The membership was effective from January 1st 2022.

55. The 7th World Halal Summit (WHS) under the theme of “***New Era & New Normals: Necessity of Halal Production and Consumption***” was held during 25-28 November 2021 at Istanbul Congress Center (ICC), Istanbul/Turkey; simultaneously with the 8th OIC Halal Expo (25-28 November, 2021). This was organized in association with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and SMIIC) in line with the cooperation framework agreement between the two institutions.

56. SMIIC took part in EXPO 2020, which was held during 1st October 2021 – 31st March 2022 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. SMIIC participated in the coordination meeting for the EXPO 2020, and as a side event, in coordination with ICDT, ICCIA and IsDB, organized a special OIC Halal expo and Halal Summit. In line with the OIC Institutions' activities during Expo 2020 Dubai, the "*Special OIC Halal Conference*" was successfully held on 14th February 2022 at Terra Auditorium - Sustainability Pavilion of the Dubai Expo.

57. SMIIC organized the following training and workshop programs:

- i. Regional Training Workshop in Tunis on halal concept standards, certification and marketing of halal products. This was co-organized by SMIIC and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) (22-24 November 2021, Tunisia);
- ii. Workshop on Uncertainty Calculation of Mass Determination (27 December 2021, Tübitak-UME, Virtual);
- iii. Workshop on Calibration of Analog and Digital Pressure Gauge (28 December 2021, Tübitak-UME, Virtual);
- iv. Workshop on Uncertainty Calculation of Force Measurement Device (28 December 2021, Tübitak-UME, Virtual);
- v. OIC/SMIIC 1 Halal Foundation Training in Arabic (24-27 January 2022, Virtual);
- vi. OIC SMIIC 1 and 2 Foundation Training for Kazakhstan Institute Standardization and Metrology (KazStandard) (07-09 February 2022, Virtual);
- vii. Special OIC Halal Conference (14 February 2022, Dubai Expo 2020, UAE;)
- viii. OIC/SMIIC 4:2018 - Halal Cosmetics Foundation Training - in English (23-24 February

- 2022, Virtual);
- ix. Visit of ATNOR/Chad and the training in French on "Standardization and Quality Infrastructure" for ATNOR Staff (02-04 March 2022, İstanbul, Türkiye);
 - x. Seminar on Joint Projects Related to the Future Pandemics and Sensor Technologies (14 April 2022, Tübitak-UME, Virtual;)
 - xi. OIC/ SMIIC Halal Foundation Training for Africa Region organized by SMIIC, ASN and ICDT on 15th -16th June 2022 in Dakar, Senegal; and
 - xii. OIC/ SMIIC Halal Products Standards and Testing” training course was held between 22nd-26th August 2022 in Uganda in collaboration with COMSTECH Secretariat and Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) with an aim to encourage the harmonization of halal standards used in the OIC Member States and internationally by aiding in the adoption and use of the OIC/SMIIC halal standards. The training course was designed to train the participants from Africa LDC-OIC Member States regarding the procedures for adoption, implementation and use of the OIC/ SMIIC halal food standards.
58. SMIIC Metrology Council organized a total of 20 (twenty) trainings/workshops/seminars in 2021 within the SMIIC MC Work Plan 2021 – 2023.
59. SMIIC conducted its virtual 10th SMIIC Technical Committee Week Meetings held on 27th September 2021 and on 8th December 2021. Representatives of IIFA and GSO as liaison organizations and 454 attendees participated in SMIIC TC Week 10.

V. TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

60. As it was reported to the 37th Session of COMCEC, the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), commended the celebration of the City of Tourism Award, and encouraged OIC member states to actively participate in the commemorative programmes to be undertaken in their respective countries. All member states were also encouraged to organize annual events on Islamic tourism in order to promote intra-OIC tourist flow.

(a) 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers

61. The Republic of Azerbaijan hosted the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) in Baku on 27th -29th June 2022 under the theme of “***The Role of Local Communities in Tourism Development***”.
62. The Meeting was attended by delegates from 37 OIC Member States, as well as the representatives of six OIC institutions and one regional organization. The 11th ICTM adopted the Resolution on Tourism development among the OIC member States and the Baku Declaration. The Conference selected Shanliurfa (Türkiye) and Khiva (Uzbekistan) as the OIC Cities of Tourism for 2023 and 2024, respectively. The Conference also approved the new members of the Coordination Committee on Tourism for the implementation of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the domain of Tourism for the next four (4) years (2022-2026).

63. The 11th ICTM approved the offers of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the State of Qatar to host the 12th Session of ICTM in Khiva in 2024 and the 13th Session of the ICTM in Doha in 2026, respectively.
64. Other highpoints of the 11th ICTM included: called on OIC Member States and institutions to: implement the Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States through organizing annual events on Islamic tourism, visa facilitation, investment promotion, branding and standardization, and capacity building. Participants also shared their experiences and good practices in responding to the unprecedented crisis in the tourism sector and innovative policies on restarting tourism activities with a view to enhancing the intra-OIC tourism cooperation. The 11th ICTM also urged the OIC Member States to invest in the diversification of tourism products, as well as focusing on some niche markets like Islamic tourism, ecotourism and medical tourism.

(b) Commemoration of OIC City of Tourism Award 2021

65. With regard to the arrangements for the commemoration of Gabala as the OIC City of Tourism 2020, the General Secretariat has communicated with the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan on *this matter*. *The SESRIC has organised an online Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness” on 8th-12th June 2020 within its efforts to commemorate Gabala as the OIC City of Tourism for 2020. The course was conducted for the benefit of experts and executives from the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The technical sessions of the training were delivered by experts from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) of the Republic of Turkey, Agricultural and Rural Development Support Institution (TKDK) of the Republic of Turkey, BEBKA Development Agency of the Republic of Turkey and the UNDP Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD). All other planned activities on the OIC City of Tourism could not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

(c) OIC Cities of Tourism Award for 2023 and 2024

66. The General Secretariat has requested all Member States to submit their respective nominations for the OIC City of Tourism Award for 2021 and 2022, for consideration by the 11th ICTM. The 11th ICTM was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and selection of the OIC cities of Tourism for 2021 and 2022 was delayed accordingly. The General Secretariat has received four nominee cities namely, Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Khiva (Uzbekistan), Lagos (Nigeria) and Shanliurfa (Turkey). The 7th Coordination Committee, which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 27th June 2022, on the sidelines of the 11th ICTM, selected Shanliurfa (Türkiye) and Khiva (Uzbekistan) as OIC Cities of Tourism for 2023 and 2024 respectively. The decision of the said 7th Coordination Committee was approved by the 11th ICTM.

(d) Tourism Capacity Building Programs

67. Within the framework of its Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), the following capacity building training activities, among others, were implemented by SESRIC:
- Training Course on “*Tourism and Hospitality Services*”, on 14th -16th March 2022;
 - Training Webinar on “*Managing and Marketing Protected Areas*”, on 21st-22nd February 2022;
 - Training Course on “*Strengthening Institutional Capacities in the Field of Halal Tourism Industry to Improve the Competitiveness of Tourism Destinations*” on 19th -21st July 2022 for the benefit of participants from Ministries of tourism and national tourism institutions of 23 OIC Member Countries; and
 - Training Course on “*Tourism and Hospitality Services*” held on 14th -16th March 2022 for the benefit of participants from public and private tourism authorities as well as TVET institutions in the Gambia.
68. SESRIC and the ICDT, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea, organised a Training Webinar on “*Managing and Marketing Protected Areas*” on 21st -22nd February 2022 for the benefit of participants from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of tourism in 10 West African OIC Member Countries. The same countries are the beneficiaries of the Regional Project on “*Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Park and Protected Areas in West Africa*”.

(e) Tourism statistics

69. SESRIC organised three (3) Statistical Training Courses related to tourism, including “*Culture Statistics*” on 7-9 February 2022, “*Tourism Statistics*” on 6-8 June 2022, and “*Sustainable Tourism Indicators*” on 12-14 September 2022, for the benefit of NSOs of 22 OIC Member Countries.

(f) Tourism research and publication

70. SESRIC prepared a report on “*International Tourism in the OIC Countries 2022: Prospects and Challenges amid the COVID-19 Pandemic*” as a technical background document for the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), which was held on 27th -29th June 2022 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.
71. SESRIC is hosting 12 indicators under the Tourism category of the OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.
72. SESRIC prepared the 2021 edition of its annual report titled “*OIC Economic Outlook*”, which, in particular, highlights the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade, transport, and tourism sectors. In so doing, the report presents a set of policy implications on how to

address challenges brought by the pandemic and achieve the recovery in trade, transport, and tourism sectors in OIC Member Countries.

73. As per the request of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC prepared and submitted a comprehensive research study titled “*Halal Industry in OIC Member Countries: Prospects and Challenges*” in December 2021 that analyses the current state of the Halal Industry in terms of finance, food, tourism and lifestyle markets.

VI. COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF TRANSPORT

74. OIC member states recognize that transport is among the key catalysts of economic development and international competitiveness, in view of its role as a critical logistics and service support sector. The improvement of transport and communications facilities among the OIC member states remains an important area of intra-OIC cooperation. In this regard, this section summarizes the recent developments and planned OIC activities in this important sector.

Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers

75. As it was reported to the 37th Session of COMCEC, the 46th CFM held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on 1st-2nd March, 2019, requested the OIC Secretary General to conclude necessary arrangements with the relevant authorities in the Republic of Sudan for the early convening of the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers.
76. In January 2022, the Republic of Sudan formally withdrew its offer to host the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers due to the current political situation in the country. In view of this development, the General Secretariat is presently engaged in consultations with a number of OIC Member States with regard to organizing the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers in 2023.
77. In the final analysis, there is a need for OIC member states to develop a clear and well-defined OIC cooperation framework in the domain of transportation, which will be the basis for developing transport corridors and networks aimed at enhancing physical connectivity and facilitating trade and investment in OIC member states.

Implementation of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project

78. With regard to execution of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project, since the 37th Session of COMCEC, the OIC General Secretariat has not received any information indicating any further action undertaken from the side of the concerned OIC Member States, which are involved in this project. The General Secretariat has requested for updates from the concerned countries on their specific national components of this transport corridor. The role of the General Secretariat is to continue advocating and following up the implementation of this project with concerned Member States.
79. In this regard, a Consultative Meeting with the African Group Member States of the OIC, which was held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 17th October, 2022, emphasized the

need for the concerned Member States to include this project in their priority national projects. The meeting also recommended to organize the 2nd Stakeholders' meeting on this Project as soon as possible as well as to hold talks with the African Union (AU) to build synergies in areas of common interest in this Project.

80. To this end, the General Secretariat will continue to sensitize the concerned Member States on the need to include the respective national segments along the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor in their national development plans and submit their well-designed projects for securing adequate technical support and financing from OIC Member States and its development partners. It will also make necessary arrangements for organizing the 2nd Stakeholders' meeting on this Project during the first quarter of 2023.

Capacity building programmes in the transportation sector

81. Among others, the following capacity building training activities in the transportation sector have been implemented by SESRIC:
- ✓ Training Course on “*Regulatory Framework for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Transport Sector*” on 13th-14th September 2022 for the benefit of 21 OIC Member Countries;
 - ✓ Statistical Training Course on “*Transport Statistics*” on 26th-28th July, 2022 for the benefit of experts from the NSOs of 9 OIC Member Countries.

VII. ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

82. Private sector growth is widely acknowledged to be an essential component in promoting sustainable socio-economic development and providing more economic opportunities in any given society. Recognizing this, the various CFM sessions called on member states to mainstream the role of the Private sector for the advancement of socio-economic development and cooperation within the OIC. Accordingly, this section of the report summarizes the activities of the relevant OIC institutions in this sector.

(a) 32nd Board of Directors Meeting of ICCIA

83. The 32nd Board of Directors Meeting of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) was held in a hybrid format in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, on 17th -18th December, 2021. The Meeting elected ICCIA vice-presidents, members of the Financial Committee, and members of the Executive Committee for the period 2021- 2025. The meetings also approved the planned activities of the Chamber for the year 2022.
84. The major planned activities of ICCIA for 2022 included: Sustainable Agriculture Forum; Digital Economy Forum; Sustainable Tourism Forum; Entrepreneurship Forum; Training Program on Digital Transformation for SMEs; and Islamic Economy Forum, among others.

(b) ICCIA projects

85. As part of its ongoing efforts to support and promote sustainable development in OIC Member States, ICCIA has initiated several projects. These projects include: establishment of Islamic Microfinance Institutions in the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger); Green Waqf Initiative; Agricultural Commodity Exchange Markets; and Agricultural Incubation.

(c) Operationalization of OIC Arbitration Centre

86. Following the entry into force of the Agreement on the Establishment of an OIC Arbitration Center, which was signed between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the ICCIA in Istanbul, Turkey, on 27th November 2019, the operationalization of OIC Arbitration Centre took place during the 37th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 24th-25th November, 2021.

(d) Activities of the Islamic Corporation for Development of Private Sector (ICD)

87. As of end of year 2021, the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector's (ICD) gross cumulative approvals stood at \$7 billion, and cumulative disbursements totaled \$3.8 billion. Against a challenging backdrop and the far-reaching economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Member States, ICD has achieved solid progress in fostering private sector development in OIC Member States.
88. Specifically, in order to address the COVID19 related challenges faced by OIC Member States, and as part of IsDB Group's overall response program, ICD allocated a dedicated financial package of \$250 million for Member States. During the year of 2021, ICD approved a total amount of \$328 million financing including the transactions allocated under ICD's COVID19 package. As far as the product breakdown of ICD's core business operations are concerned, line of finance (LOF) and term finance made up the bulk of ICD approvals with 58% and 38% share respectively. The fund and equity projects accounted for the remaining 4% of total approvals. In addition to the above, during 2021, in order to assist the Member States to mobilize resources for private sector development, ICD signed three new sukuk mandates as well as three new advisory transactions. Furthermore, ICD established the BRIDGE platform, which connects more than 100 Financial Institutions in its network. This digital platform helps in reducing the digital divide in the Member States and sets up connection among all concerned developers in the initiative to mobilize additional resources for private sector development.
89. Sectoral as well as regional ICD project distribution was also in line with ICD's 10-Year Strategy. In 2021, more than half of new project approvals were allocated to the financial sector (financing SMEs through local banks) while non-financial sector investments focused on high-impact sectors including infrastructure and industrial sectors. Regionally, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) accounted for most of the approvals, while disbursements are the highest in Sub-Saharan Arica. ICD has identified job creation, inclusive growth, and promotion of Islamic Financing as major elements of its strategic plan. In that sense it is

important to highlight that ICD`s approved projects in 2021 are targeting to support more than 6,000 new jobs on an annual basis in OIC Member States.

(e) OIC Private Sector Forum

90. In line with the 48th CFM resolution, the General Secretariat, in coordination with the host country, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the relevant OIC institutions, will organize an OIC Private Sector Forum in 2022. The main objective of the Private Sector Forum is to strengthen the role of the private sector in OIC Member States as an engine of growth, while capitalizing on the experiences and lessons learned from different parts of the OIC region; and institutionalizing policy dialogue at OIC level on the development of the private sector. Confirmation of the dates for the Forum is still being awaited from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
91. Other specific objectives of the Forum are: mainstreaming the role of the private sector in socio-economic development during recovery and post-pandemic era; increasing the share of the Private Sector in GDP and employment; promoting private sector investment; strengthening the role of the private sector in the accelerated implementation of national and OIC programmes of economic development through better mobilization of their resources and potential; and enabling networking opportunities between the private sector actors from OIC Member States to support the intra-OIC trade and investment.

VIII. POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

92. Alleviation of poverty remains a major challenge to the developmental efforts of OIC member states. To this end, the various OIC poverty alleviation initiatives are aimed at creating jobs by fostering skills, competitiveness and entrepreneurship. Accordingly, this segment will highlight the latest developments with regard to OIC poverty alleviation programmes such as Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA).

(a) Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD)

93. The 37th Session of COMCEC reiterated its earlier call on OIC Member States to redeem their respective pledges to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and make fresh contributions to finance more poverty alleviation projects. It also requested the ISFD to enhance its endeavors for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources and to report back about the progress.
94. As of 1st January 2022, the ISFD capital contribution had reached US\$2.6 billion, committed by 48 OIC Member States (US\$1.6 billion) and the IsDB (US\$1 billion). This represents 26 % of the targeted capital of the Fund of US\$ 10 billion.
95. The total amount of paid contributions stood at US\$2.529 billion, of which US\$1 billion was paid by the IsDB and US\$1.529 billion by member states. Out of the 48 OIC member states

that made pledges, 29 have fully redeemed their pledges, 8 partially, and 11 have yet to redeem their pledges. Nine (9) OIC member states (Afghanistan, Djibouti, Guyana, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Tajikistan, Somalia and UAE) have not yet made any commitment with regard to ISFD.

96. During the year under review, ISFD approved US\$ 35.43 million (US\$32.25 million as concessional loans and US\$3.18 as grants) for financing projects in agriculture, health, education, and microfinance sectors in eight OIC Member States. Cumulatively, ISFD, since its inception in 2007, has provided a total of US\$ 858.4 million in the form of concessional loans and grants to finance projects and programs in OIC countries. The main sectors of focus have been (i) Agriculture (30%); (ii) Education (23%); (iii) Health (18%); and (iv) Energy (9%). The OIC Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have been the main beneficiaries, receiving more than 80% of the Fund's financing.
97. In line with the relevant resolutions of CFM, the General Secretariat has sensitized member states of the need to make in-kind contributions to ISFD through allocation of Wakf landed property for ISFD and through the mobilization of contributions from high net-worth persons and philanthropists from OIC member states. Subsequently, Benin, Burkina Faso, Comoros and Cote D'Ivoire have allocated plots of land to the ISFD within the framework of the Waqf programme.
98. The ISFD is in need of funds to expand its activities towards alleviating poverty and improving social services and infrastructures. Accordingly, the General Secretariat will continue to sensitize the Member States to pay-up their subscribed contributions to the Fund and announce additional pledges to meet the target of US\$10 billion set for the Fund by the OIC Leaders in 2005.

(b) Special Programme for the Development of Africa

99. The SPDA was launched in 2008 and aimed at advancing pro-poor socio-economic activities. The sectoral priorities under the SPDA are geared towards promoting economic growth and regional integration. The SPDA focuses on (i) agriculture and food security; (ii) water and sanitation; (iii) power generation and distribution; (iv) transport infrastructure; (v) education; and (vi) eliminating major communicable diseases.
100. In November 2012, when the approval phase of SPDA was completed, the level of funding commitments to the Programme by IsDB Group reached US\$ 5 billion. A total of 480 projects had been approved for financing under the SPDA in 22 OIC African member states.
101. Since then, the focus has been on deepening the implementation of approved projects to ensure that the expected outcomes are achieved. In this regard, it is noteworthy that the following projects were completed successfully, while other are still under implementation phase:
 - i. Roseires Dam in Sudan (US\$53.33 million.);

- ii. Basic Urban Infrastructure for Social Housing Project in Bamako, Mali (US\$6.7 million);
 - iii. Social Housing Project in Bamako, Mali (US\$5.7 million); Linguere-Matam Road, Senegal (US\$12.12 million);
 - iv. Construction of the Dapaong-Ponio-Border Road, Burkina Faso (US\$7 million);
 - v. Construction of Koudougou Dedougou Road Project, Burkina Faso (US\$ 10 million);
 - vi. Construction of Bassar- Katchamba Road Project, Togo (US\$7.5 million); and
 - vii. Post-Conflict Reconstruction Programme for the Centre-North-West in Cote d'Ivoire (US\$20 million), among others.
102. The implementation of SPDA is getting close to its end and an analysis of projects completed will be undertaken in due course in order to assess achievements under SPDA. As of November 2021, 55.4% of the approved projects were completed, while 35.5% of the approved projects were still in implementation stage. In addition, 9.2% of the total approved projects were cancelled due to challenges relating to project readiness and institutional capacity of some OIC Member States.
103. In view of the foregoing, the Consultative Meeting with African Group Member States of the OIC which was held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 17th October, 2022, requested the IsDB to prepare a Project Assessment Report on the implementation of the SPDA and submit it to the concerned Member States for consideration with a view to elaborating the successor programme.

(c) Training courses

104. Within its mandate, SESRIC has continued to organize training programmes in the area of poverty alleviation for the benefit of OIC member states. Accordingly, during the period under review, SESRIC organized, in virtual format, the following activities:
- 1. Online Training Workshop on “**Poverty Reduction Policies and Strategies**” on 15-17 November 2022 for the participants from the relevant ministries and national institutions of OIC African French-Speaking Member States;
 - 2. Training Workshop on “**Knowledge -Economy, Promotion of Entrepreneurship Activities and Reducing Informal Employment**” on 01-03 November 2022 for the benefit of relevant public employment agencies/authorities in the OIC Member States.

IX. CONCLUSION

105. The COVID-19 pandemic is a worldwide problem that requires the cooperation of member states, OIC relevant institutions, regional and international organizations to work together. Therefore, the intra-OIC cooperation becomes ever more needed not only to eradicate the results of the COVID 19 pandemic but also to establish effective policies and programmes to mitigate it’s socio-economic impact in the Member States. The COVID-19 pandemic constitutes an unprecedented challenge with severe economic and social consequences for

many OIC member countries. The situation is particularly alarming given the continuous weakening of the economic performance of many OIC countries in the last few years.

106. The global impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on the world's food supply chains and prices is a good wakeup call for OIC Member States to think more seriously about their food security. There is urgent need for OIC Member States with the financial and technological resources to build partnerships with those that have good arable land, especially those in Africa, so as to produce enough for all citizens of OIC Member States. With sufficient synergies and investments, it possible for the OIC Member States to become net food exporters instead of the current vulnerable position of being net food importers.
107. In this regard, the OIC countries should exert more efforts to create an enabling environment to promote production and trade and to attract more foreign investments. This is particularly important in the face of a possible transformation of global value chains due to rising protectionist trade policies. Moreover, OIC countries accounted for only 10% of global intermediate goods exports, reflecting their lower participation in the global supply chains. In this context, the OIC countries need to reduce trade costs, improve technological capacities and increase their preparedness to meet supply chain risks. Existing capacities in many OIC countries are not conducive enough to attract great investments during the post-pandemic period. However, their geographical proximity to major economic hubs could put them in an advantageous position.
108. The upcoming OIC Ministerial Conferences on Labour and Transportation will further strengthen intra-OIC cooperation in these important sectors during the post pandemic period. The outcomes of these conferences are vital for further consolidation of intra-OIC cooperation in such critical sectors as developing integrated transport networks, promoting productive employment and decent work for all within the OIC Region, among others.
109. Furthermore, the continuation and expansion of OIC trade and investments related activities remains an effective tool for increasing intra-OIC trade and investment as well as facilitating the integration of OIC member states in the global economy. In the same vein, development assistance by well-endowed OIC member states to needy OIC member states contributes to their economic growth, thus becoming an important component of intra-OIC cooperation and solidarity during post pandemic era. In this regard, the convening of the OIC Investment Forum in Africa will highlight the investment potential of Africa and will attract investments to the region.

OIC General Secretariat
Department of Economic Affairs,
23rd October 2022

LIST OF MEMBER STATES
WHO SIGNED/ RATIFIED THE DIFFERENT AGREEMENTS AND STATUTES ON
ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES

NAMES OF MEMBER STATES	General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation		Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments		Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System		Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS)		TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM (TPS)-OIC Rules of Origin		Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council		Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union		Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC)		Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)		Statute of OIC Labour Centre (OICLC)	
	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1/8-E of the 8th ICFM Tripoli/Libya 16-22/05/1977</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 7/12-E of the 12th ICFM Baghdad/Iraq 1-5/06/1981</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 6th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 7-10/10/1990</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 21st COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 22-25/11/2005</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 23rd COMCEC Istanbul, Turkey 14-17/11/2007</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 16/13-E of the 13th ICFM Niamey/Niger 22-26/08/1982</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 17/15-E of the 15th ICFM Sana'u/Yemen 18-22/12/1984</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 1st COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 1-4/11/1998</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.3/40-E of the 40th CFM Conakry/Guinea 9-11/12/2013</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.2/43-E of the 43rd of CFM Taskkent/Uzbekistan 18-19 10/2016</i>	
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify
Afghanistan	8/10/2010	4/2/2018-	8/10/2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/2/2018	-	-	-	-	7/11/2012	10/12/2013	20/7/2016		
Albania	-	-	16/11/1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Algeria	20/05/1980	19/03/2007	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01/12/2007	-	-	23/10/2007	-	-		
Azerbaijan	20/06/2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/06/2006	-	20/06/2006	16/12/2016	-	-	23/11/2017	01/10/2018
Bahrain	21/05/1980	30/08/1980	-	-	25/11/2005	01/06/09	-	29/06/2009	12/09/2013	05/06/2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30/03/2021	30/03/2021
Bangladesh	05/12/1977	18/04/1978	04/11/1997	-	04/11/1997	17/01/04	24/11/2006	02/11/2009	15/02/2011	23/06/2011	10/09/1983	05/12/2001	-	16/04/1988	-	01/01/2021	28/4/2016	4/7/2017		
Benin	13/8/2012	-	13/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	22/11/2013	11/02/2015	-	27/06/2019	
Brunei Darussalam	20/5/2015	2/11/2017-	-	-	20/5/015	2/11/2917-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Burkina Faso	23/12/1985	-	-	19/05/1992	14/9/1993	-	10/6/2009	-	10/6/2009	-	21/10/2001	-	-	-	21/10/2001	15/04/2013	10/12/2013	26/1/2016		
Cameroon	23/01/1978	11/07/1983	25/10/1994	26/09/1995	24/10/1994	26/09/1995	24/11/2006	20/4/2015	17/11/2007	-	-	-	-	-	07/07/2000	28/4/2016	-			
Comoros	28/04/1978	16/01/1981	30/06/2012	-	7/10/2010	-	7/10/2010	-	7/10/2010	-	30/06/2012	-	30/06/2012	-	30/06/2012	-	10/12/2013	-		
Cote d'Ivoire	07/11/2009	-	07/11/2009	-	07/11/2009	-	17/9/2012	-	17/9/2012	-	-	-	12/4/2016	-	12/4/2016	25/11/2017	12/4/2016	-		
Djibouti	21/04/1979	-	25/08/1982	-	25/01/2012	2/12/2012	25/01/2012	-	25/01/2012	-	18/05/2010	-	18/05/2010	02/12/2012	18/05/2010	16/12/2016	10/12/2013	-		
Egypt	08/11/1977	06/06/1978	-	16/12/1978	15/11/1996	31/12/1999	24/11/2005	-	-	-	-	-	11/06/1987	07/05/1988	-	7/11/2012	26/2/2016	2018		
Gabon	23/01/1978	21/01/1908	-	21/01/2008	-	21/01/2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/04/2012	5/5/2012	-	-		
Gambia	21/05/1980	11/08/2009	04/09/1993	11/08/2009	05/09/1993	11/08/2009	-	31/1/2013	31/1/2013	08/11/1995	29/10/2012	08/11/1995	27/4/2011	24/11/2006	30/08/2012	10/12/2013	27/11/2016			
Guinea	26/12/1977	10/02/1981	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	17/11/2007	-	12/09/2007	-	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	-	2/08/2012	10/12/2013	-		
Guinea-Bissau	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	10/12/2013	-		
Guyana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Indonesia	30/04/1979	08/01/1980	01/05/1983	03/12/1983	04/02/1992	14/07/2011	6/09/2011	-	6/09/2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	05/11/2019	-	-		
Iran	08/11/1995	07/11/1995	08/11/1995	15/09/1994	08/11/1995	12/05/1993	27/04/2009	22/12/2010	-	11/11/2012	08/11/1995	-	04/09/1993	06/10/1993	-	5/5/2012	10/12/2013	-		
Iraq	02/07/1978	1978	-	9/7/2015	24/10/2001	15/12/2011	-	-	-	-	-	27/10/2002	21/11/2001	09/02/2014	-	9/2/2016	-	-		
Jordan	29/12/1977	10/05/1979	04/11/1998	25/02/1999	01/02/1993	21/12/1998	24/11/2005	13/02/2007	12/09/2007	9/10/2007	26/10/1994	-	12/03/1988	08/04/1989	24/11/2005	13/02/2007	-	-		
Kazakhstan	25/11/2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/11/2018	10/12/2013	21/11/2014		
Kuwait	05/12/1977	10/05/1980	18/11/1981	12/04/1983	26/11/2004	17/04/2013	20/10/2011	29/12/2014	20/10/2011	29/12/2014	-	-	-	-	-	05/11/2019	15/05/2016	15/5/2016		

NAMES OF MEMBER STATES	General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation		Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments		Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System		Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS)		TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM (TPS)-OIC Rules of Origin		Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council		Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union		Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC)		Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)		Statute of OIC Labour Centre	
	<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1/8-E of the 8th ICFM Tripoli/Libya 16-22/05/1977</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 7/12-E of the 12th ICFM Baghdad/Iraq 1-3/06/1981</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 6th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 7-10/10/1990</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 21st COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 22-25/11/2005</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 23rd COMCEC Istanbul, Turkey 14-17/11/2007</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 16/13-E of the 13th ICFM Niamey/Niger 22-26/08/1982</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No 17/15-E of the 15th ICFM Sana'a/Yemen 18-22/12/1984</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 14th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 1-4/11/1998</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.3/40-E of the 40th CFM Conakry/Guinea 9-11/12/2013</i>		<i>Adopted as per Resolution No.2/43-E of the 43rd of CFM Taskkent/Uzbekistan</i>	
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify
Kyrgyz Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/5/2015	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	15/11/1996	26/11/2003	15/11/1996	06/03/2005	15/11/1996	11/7/2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18/11/2008	-	7/11/2012	-	-	-	-
Libya	05/12/1977	15/04/1978	25/10/1994	13/02/1996	05/02/1992	02/11/1992	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	04/01/1989	-	15/12/2008	15/04/2014	08/03/2021	23/03/2022	-
Malaysia	18/05/1978	14/01/1981	30/09/1987	-	30/06/2004	23/08/2004	27/03/2006	20/05/2006	17/11/2007	14/10/2008	-	-	-	-	-	19/11/2014	-	-	-	-
Maldives	17/12/1977	-	-	-	-	11/04/2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mali	27/04/1978	08/08/1981	-	24/05/1982	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/10/2011	-	-	-	-	03/05/2005	10/12/2013	16/04/2020	-	-
Mauritania	08/11/1977	09/05/1979	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	-	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	29/10/2014	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	10/12/2013	-	02/03/2019	-
Mozambique	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28/4/2016	-	-	-
Morocco	23/01/1978	16/04/1979	02/11/1981	07/05/1990	29/09/1993	25/7/2006	24/10/2008	07/03/2013	24/10/2008	07/03/2013	26/10/2000	25/07/2006	30/12/1985	-	-	31/07/2006	25/2/2021	-	-	-
Niger	18/05/1978	07/08/1978	10/09/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	08/12/1984	-	-	10/9/2010	-	10/9/2010	10/12/2013	12/12/2015	-	-
Nigeria	04/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	-	09/11/2009	-	09/11/2009	-	4/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	-	09/11/2009	-	29/08/2019	-	-	-
Oman	15/04/1980	28/04/1981	25/10/1994	10/12/1994	06/05/2007	08/07/2007	24/10/2008	20/01/2009	24/10/2008	20/01/2009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pakistan	14/01/1978	1978	20/12/1981	10/07/1982	25/10/1994	11/10/1993	17/02/2007	20/11/2007	03/09/2008	13/04/2012	-	1989	-	30/04/1986	16/7/2010	16/7/2010	15/04/2019	13/07/2020	-	-
Palestine	28/04/1978	18/03/1980	15/03/1982	15/03/1982	10/09/1992	12/07/2011	27/12/2010	20/12/2011	27/12/2010	20/12/2011	22/05/1983	16/04/2013	03/01/1987	11/11/1986	07/11/1999	19/8/2014	10/12/2013	8/3/2016	-	-
Qatar	24/9/1978	09/09/1980	26/10/2000	05/11/2002	26/11/2004	11/03/2007	23/10/2008	27/10/2009	07/11/2009	02/09/2009	21/10/2001	05/11/2002	-	-	-	25/11/2017	28/4/2016	26/12/2017	-	-
Saudi Arabia	14/01/1978	27/06/1979	23/06/1985	17/09/1984	10/09/1992	01/01/2007	02/06/2008	08/06/2009	09/11/2009	11/08/2010	-	11/04/2004	-	-	-	15/04/2013	15/03/2016	30/09/2018	11/11/2018	-
Senegal	25/12/1977	28/02/1979	17/06/1987	30/06/1994	09/09/1991	30/06/1994	-	-	-	-	17/06/1987	04/02/1989	17/06/1987	04/02/1989	17/11/2007	5/5/2012	11/7/2017	-	-	-
Serra Leone	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	09/11/2009	-	09/11/2009	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Somalia	24/12/1978	-	19/12/1983	25/11/1984	08/11/2009	13/05/2010	08/11/2009	13/5/2010	08/11/2009	13/5/2010	09/11/2009	13/05/2010	09/11/2009	13/05/2010	08/11/2009	13/05/2010	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Sudan	14/01/1978	-	20/12/1981	30/05/2002	13/05/1992	-	18/03/2013	-	18/03/2013	-	04/09/1993	26/08/2006	04/09/1993	26/8/2006	26/10/2000	28/01/2003	10/12/2013	-	02/03/2019	-
Suriname	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22/11/2013	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Syria	04/06/1978	15/07/1980	21/10/2001	04/01/2010	26/11/2004	27/11/2005	23/05/2006	30/07/2008	24/10/2008	15/04/2010	-	02/04/2002	-	-	07/11/1999	-	-	-	-	-
Tajikistan	04/11/1997	-	04/11/1997	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28/4/2016	-	-	-
Tchad	27/04/1978	-	-	-	14/01/1992	-	-	-	-	-	06/02/2013	-	-	-	-	-	01/01/2021	27/07/2022	-	-
Togo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29/4/2021
Tunisia	27/01/1979	13/04/1980	10/06/1982	11/11/1983	21/01/1993	31/07/2000	25/11/2005	-	12/09/2007	-	06/01/1983	11/11/1983	08/11/1995	14/02/2000	18/09/2001	27/03/2006	14/3/2021	-	-	-
Turkey	29/12/1977	02/07/1982	16/07/1987	09/02/1991	23/09/1991	28/11/1991	24/11/2005	02/05/2008	12/09/2007	02/11/2009	-	-	-	-	07/11/1999	15/07/2010	10/12/2013	22/10/2019	11/7/2017	-
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U. A. E.	29/12/1977	1979	12/02/1989	14/01/1989	26/11/2004	15/08/2005	24/11/2006	12/10/2008	12/09/2007	12/10/2008	30/05/1989	21/03/1989	30/05/1989	21/03/1989	24/11/2006	05/04/2009	12/01/2015	25/10/2017	-	-
Uganda	08/08/1978	14/11/2001	26/11/1987	10/02/1987	05/09/1993	14/11/2001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22/11/2013	10/12/2013	-	-	-
Uzbekistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/11/2018	-	-	-	-
Yemen	29/12/1977	-	12/06/1982	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25/10/1994	26/3/2008	25/10/1994	01/01/2021	14/11/2006	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :	49	32	38	29	40	31	31	18	30	18	25	17	24	19	23	39	37	16	9	2

23rd October, 2022