

**REPORT OF
THE 41st MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
(November 16th, 2022, Virtual Meeting)**

- The 41st Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held virtually on November 16th, 2022.
- The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Selçuk KOÇ, Acting Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to OIC General Secretariat and COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), the following OIC Institutions attended the Meeting:
 - Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
 - Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
 - Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
 - Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)
 - International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)-IsDB Group
 - Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)- IsDB Group
 - Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
 - Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
- The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items for discussion:
 - Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy
 - The List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Aligned with the COMCEC Strategy and COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations Utilizing COMCEC Project Funding for the implementation of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations
 - Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the SDGs in OIC Member States
 - Preparations for Annual Report on the Progress Towards Achieving the Prioritized SDGs at the OIC level
 - Activities of the OIC Institutions Serving to the Implementation of the SDGs
 - The Proposal on the “OIC Business Intelligence Programme”
 - Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions for the Benefit of Palestinian People / Al-Quds Sharif as well as Geographically Distant OIC Member Countries and Observer Countries
 - Any Other Business

Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy

- **The List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Aligned with the COMCEC Strategy and COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations**
- Underlining the great endeavours and contributions of the OIC Institutions to the realization of the COMCEC Strategy and the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, the Committee reviewed the completed and planned activities of the relevant OIC Institutions directly serving the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations (Group A activities reported through the COMCEC Policy Follow-up System) and activities serving to the objectives of COMCEC Strategy (Group B activities reported through the COMCEC Activities Follow-up System) for the time since the 37th COMCEC Ministerial Meeting based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, financial cooperation, transport, and communications, tourism, agriculture, and poverty alleviation.
- The Committee was briefed by the CCO in terms of “Group A” and “Group B” activities, which were reported by the OIC Institutions.
- Concerning the “Group A” activities, the CCO representative informed the Committee that SESRIC has successfully reported their activities reported through COMCEC Policy Follow-Up System. SESRIC reported 73 activities, of which, 40 were completed and 34 were planned to be organized in the next period. ICDT also reported that 35 activities have been implemented and 50 activities have been planned . The great majority of the completed and planned activities under Group A were reported in the area of trade followed by poverty alleviation.
- Concerning the “Group B” activities, 364 activities were reported, of which 164 activities were completed, and 200 activities are planned to be organized in the upcoming period. In terms of cooperation areas, more than half of these activities were reported in the trade domain (52 %) followed by poverty alleviation (20 %) and financial cooperation (10 %). The Committee was further informed that with respect to types of activities, the Institutions specially focused on training with almost 50 % under Group B, followed by meetings, technical assistance, and forum and expo.

- Afterwards, the OIC Institutions have informed about their activities in line with the COMCEC Ministerial Resolutions. The Committee underlined the importance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations as well as the realization of the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy.

- The Committee took note with appreciation of the efforts of SESRIC in contributing to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations through specifically designed activities such as capacity building and training programs.

- The Committee also appreciated the efforts of OIC institutions for the implementation of the policy recommendations and requested them to intensify their efforts and consider the possibility of organizing joint activities to that end. In this sense, the Committee expressed its appreciation to ICDT, ICCIA, IDB Group and SMIIC for organizing various joint activities such as trade fairs, trainings, webinars, special reports, etc.

- **Utilizing COMCEC Project Funding for the implementation of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations**

- CCO informed the Committee on the projects implemented under the COMCEC Project Support Programs. It was highlighted that 6 projects were implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding by OIC institutions in 2022. SESRIC implemented three projects in the area of finance, poverty alleviation and transport and communication. SMIIC implemented a project in the area of trade and ICCIA and IOFS implemented projects in the area of agriculture.

- The Committee was also briefed regarding the novelties under COMCEC Project Funding starting from 10th Call for Project Proposals. It was highlighted that Member Countries now have the opportunity to focus on addressing their own challenges through implementing projects under the CPF. It was also stressed out that, new activity types namely peer-to-peer experience sharing and needs assessment were added to CPF for Member Country benefits.

- Highlighting the importance of the COMCEC online follow-up systems, namely; Activities Follow-Up System and Policy Follow-Up System for simplifying and facilitating the reporting process, the Committee commended the OIC Institutions for utilizing the System in reporting their relevant activities.
- Lastly, the Committee commended the CCO for organizing an online training for the interested OIC institutions on the online reporting systems on 27th September, 2022. Recalling the relevant decision of the previous Sessional Committee Meeting, the Committee appreciated the CCO for preparing a guide on the use of the System and sharing the said guide with the relevant OIC Institutions.

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

- The Committee was informed by SESRIC regarding the annual report on “Towards the Achievement of Prioritized Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries 2022” to be submitted to the 38th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC. The Committee commended the efforts of SESRIC in conducting annual report indicating the state of implementation of the SDGs in the member countries.
- The Committee was informed by COMCEC Coordination Office about the SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC institutions and noted that the compiled list of activities will be submitted to the 38th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC.

The Proposal on the “OIC Business Intelligence Programme”

The Committee was also informed by the ICIEC (IsDB Group) on the work being undertaken towards launching the OIC Business Intelligence Center Programme. Within this framework, the Committee took note of the progress therein and requested the ICIEC, in cooperation with SESRIC, ICDT and ICCIA, to implement the Capacity Building Programme for the potential Users of the Center in 1st Quarter of 2023 and finalize the technical preparations and requirements for the operationalization of the Programme at the earliest.

Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions for the Benefit of Palestinian People/ Al-Quds Sharif as well as Geographically Distant OIC Member Countries and Observer Countries

- The Committee was briefed by the OIC Institutions regarding their activities, projects and existing and newly launched programs for the benefit of Palestinian people and Al-Quds Sharif and geographically distant OIC member countries such as Guyana and Suriname, and Observer Countries.
- The Committee appreciated the efforts of the OIC Institutions and requested them to continue their efforts including the possible joint activities, projects, and programmes.
- Afterwards, the CCO informed the Committee that the scope of the COMCEC Al-Quds Program was expanded in line with the consultations with Ministry of National Economy of Palestine. Accordingly, it was noted that besides tourism, new thematic areas such as entrepreneurship, creating job opportunities and empowerment of women and youth, e-trade and e-learning, microfinance and SME's involvement in Al-Quds Economy have been included in the Programme.

Any Other Business

- The Committee Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

