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ANNOTATED AGENDA

39TH MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC

(23-24 May 2023)

COMCEC Coordination Office

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**DRAFT AGENDA OF THE 39TH MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC
(May 23rd-24th, 2023, Ankara)**

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. Intra-OIC Trade
5. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
6. Deepening Financial Cooperation
7. Improving Transport and Communications
8. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
9. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
10. Alleviating Poverty
11. Cooperation on Digital Transformation
12. Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “Improving E-Commerce Capacities of OIC Member Countries”
13. Draft Agenda of the 39th Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Report

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 39th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee, to be held on 23-24 May 2023, in Ankara.

The document provides background information and the required actions on the Draft Agenda Items from 2 to 13. 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 continues its activities in light of the COMCEC Strategy. 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 concrete cooperation projects to be financed by the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO).

The Working Groups will convene for their 20th round of meetings (19th Meeting for the Financial Cooperation) in May 2023 and will elaborate 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, 15 projects were implemented in 2022 within the framework of 9th Project Call. Moreover, under the 10th Call for Project Proposals under the COMCEC Project Funding, 19 projects have been final listed to be implemented by the Member Countries and OIC Institutions. Relevant documents are available on the COMCEC website (programs.comcec.org).

With the implementation of 6 projects in 2022, the COMCEC COVID Response (CCR) Program has been finalized successfully.

Under the COMCEC Al-Quds Program, 5 projects were implemented in 2021-2022 period. The Program has been enriched with the new thematic priorities including tourism, entrepreneurship, creating job opportunities and empowerment of youth, e-commerce and SME development. Accordingly, 5 projects will be realized under the Al-Quds Program in 2023.

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 38th 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 Committee on the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. The Committee will consider the report for necessary action.

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 38th 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 Committee will consider the General Secretariat's report on the subject for necessary action.

AGENDA ITEM 4

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 38th Session of the COMCEC, the 20th and 21st Meetings of the COMCEC Trade Working Group will be held in 2023 with the theme of "Improving e-Commerce Capacities of the OIC Member Countries."

The 38th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the suggestion of the Republic of Türkiye on developing a well-designed MSME Program and requested COMCEC Coordination Office in cooperation with the interested Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions to initiate technical studies with the relevant stakeholders and to report the progress thereon to the 39th Follow-up Committee and the 39th COMCEC Session.

Regarding the projects to be supported under the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding, six projects will be implemented by Bangladesh, Cameroon, Iran, Suriname, Türkiye and SMIIC in trade domain in 2023.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 20th Meeting of Trade Working Group and the projects to be implemented in 2023 under the COMCEC Project Funding.

The CCO is also expected to inform the Committee about the preparations towards the aforementioned SMEs Programme. The Committee will consider the issue and take the necessary action accordingly.

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. The System has become fully operational as of July 1st, 2022.

The 38th Ministerial Session requested the TPS-OIC Participating States which have not done so yet, to expedite the completion of their internal procedures and other preparations at the earliest convenience and notify the TNC Secretariat accordingly.

The 38th Session of the COMCEC 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.

Welcoming the convening of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) on November 27th, 2022 the 38th COMCEC Session took note with appreciation of TNC's decisions.

The 38th Session of the COMCEC also welcomed the convening of Ministers of Trade, Finance and Economy on 29th November 2022 on the margins of 38th COMCEC Session where the Honourable Ministers reiterated the importance of increasing intra-OIC trade particularly through full implementation of TPS-OIC and indicated their willingness to extend the scope of TPS-OIC.

Required Action(s): As the TNC co-Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Committee on the recent developments regarding the TPS-OIC. The Committee 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.

The 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Senegal for hosting the 17th OIC Trade Fair of the OIC Member Countries held on 13-19 June 2022 in Dakar, Senegal, in cooperation with ICDT. The 18th OIC Trade Fair will be held on 16-18 June 2023 in Lahore, Pakistan. .

The Session also requested ICDT to continue holding sector specific fairs in cooperation with the

Member Countries and 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 to organize investment promotion activities such as high-level forums and capacity building programs at national and regional level in order to enhance intra-OIC Investment.

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 38th Session of the COMCEC expressed its thanks and appreciation to the IsDB Group and ICDT for organizing WTO-related training courses and seminars and called on IsDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member Countries on WTO-related issues and to enhance their efforts in sensitizing the Member Countries to the impact of WTO trade negotiations on their economies by monitoring matters relating to WTO activities and reporting them to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other concerned fora.

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

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

Moreover, the 38th Session of the COMCEC took note of the Progress and the Implementation Plan Reports prepared by ICIEC on OIC Business Intelligence Programme and requests the ICIEC and SESRIC to complete the technical preparations for launching the Programme 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 Committee 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.

The 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session expressed its appreciation to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence and invited Member Countries 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 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session invited the Member Countries to adopt and use the OIC/SMIIC Standards as their national standards with a view to contributing to the harmonization of standards and alleviating 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.

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

AGENDA ITEM 5

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 ICCIA regularly submit reports to the COMCEC Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings on its efforts and activities to enhance communication, cooperation, trade, and investment opportunities for the private sector of the OIC Member Countries.

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

- OIC Arbitration Centre

The OIC Arbitration Centre has been operating in İstanbul/Türkiye.

The 38th Session of the COMCEC requested the Member Countries to encourage their Chambers to actively participate in the work of the OIC Arbitration Centre with a view to enhance the utilization of Centre's services by their private sector.

Required Action(s): The ICCIA and the OIC Arbitration Centre are expected to brief the Committee on the recent developments. The Committee 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 38th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation of the efforts of ICD, which efficiently works towards financing private sector projects including SME projects in the Member Countries. The Session requested the ICD to regularly submit comprehensive reports regarding its efforts on promoting the private sector to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings.

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

AGENDA ITEM 6 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 focused on various aspects of Islamic finance.

The 38th Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation the convening of the 17th and 18th Meetings of the Financial Cooperation Working Group in 2022 with the theme of “Standardization Efforts in Islamic Finance” and welcomed its policy recommendations.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 38th Session of the COMCEC, the 19th and 20th Meetings of the Financial Cooperation Working Group will be held in May and October 2023, respectively, with the theme of “Improving Cooperation among Central Banks in terms of Digital Currencies: Challenges and Prospects for OIC Member Countries.”

Regarding the projects to be financed within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC will implement one project under financial cooperation area in 2023.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 19th Meeting and the project to be implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2023.

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 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session commended the Task Force of the Forum on Indices for successful completion of the establishment of S&P/OIC COMCEC 50 Shariah Index Fund, which has recently become available to international investors, and invited the Member States to engage in promotional and marketing activities for potential investors in their respective countries to raise awareness about the S&P/OIC COMCEC 50 Shariah Index Fund.

The 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session took note of the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts towards establishing OIC Gold Exchange among the volunteering Member Countries and requested 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 the progress to the 39th COMCEC Session and Follow-up Committee Meeting.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, Borsa Istanbul is expected to inform the Committee 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 Committee 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/>).

The 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session welcomed the offer of the Capital Markets Board (CMB) of the Republic of Türkiye, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the 12th Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum, in 2023, called upon the Member Countries to actively participate in this important event.

The 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session took note with appreciation of the completion of the GEFAS Platform (Real Estate Based and Developing Financial Instruments Information System) designed to be an information hub for real estate themed capital market instruments and invited the interested Member Countries to encourage their relevant authorities to join this platform and provide the necessary information to be published in GEFAS.”

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the Forum, the Capital Markets Board of Türkiye is expected to brief the Committee on the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum. The Committee 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 on 25-26 September, 2022. Detailed information about the efforts of the Forum is available on the Forum's web site (<http://comceccentralbanks.org/>).

Furthermore, the 38th Ministerial Session commended the training and capacity building programs, particularly on risk management in Islamic financial institutions, monetary operations, and integration of financial technologies (FINTECH) in Islamic finance, organized by the SESRIC for the benefit of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the 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 Türkiye is expected to brief the Committee on the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum. The Committee will discuss the issue and take necessary action.

AGENDA ITEM 7 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 38th Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation the convening of the 18th and 19th Meetings of the Transport and Communications Working Group and welcomed its policy recommendations.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 38th Session of the COMCEC, the Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) will hold its 20th and 21st Meetings in May and October 2023, respectively, with the theme of “Environmental Impacts of Transport Infrastructure in the OIC Member Countries.”

Regarding the projects under the transport and communications sector, four projects will be implemented by Benin, the Gambia, Jordan and SESRIC within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 20th Meeting of the TCWG, the projects being implemented in 2023 under the COMCEC Project Funding and other developments regarding the cooperation in this field.

AGENDA ITEM 8

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 38th Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation the convening of the 18th and 19th Meetings of the Tourism Working Group and welcomed its policy recommendations.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 38th Session of the COMCEC, the 20th and 21st Meetings of the TWG will be held in May and October 2023, respectively, with the theme of “Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness in the OIC Countries”.

The Session also expressed its appreciation to Türkiye 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”.

Regarding the projects to be implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding, two projects will be implemented by Mali and Uganda in 2023 under the tourism cooperation area.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 20th Meeting and the projects to be implemented in 2023 under the COMCEC Project Funding, as well as other developments regarding the cooperation in this field.

AGENDA ITEM 9

Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security

Agriculture is of particular importance for human life and also very crucial sector for economic and social development due to its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment.

The 38th Session took note with appreciation the convening of the 18th and 19th Meetings of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group and welcomed its policy recommendations.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 38th Session of the COMCEC, the Agriculture Working Group will hold its 20th and 21st Meetings in May and October 2023, respectively, with the theme of “Ensuring the Sustainability of Agricultural Inputs to Combat Food Insecurity in OIC Member Countries.”

Concerning the projects under the agriculture cooperation area, four projects of Benin, the Gambia, Malaysia and Türkiye will be implemented in 2023 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Committee on the outcome of the 20th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group, the projects being implemented in 2023 under the COMCEC Project Funding and other developments in this cooperation area.

AGENDA ITEM 10

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.

The 38th Session took note with appreciation the convening of the 18th and 19th Meetings of the COMCEC Poverty Working Group and welcomed its policy recommendations.

In line with the relevant resolution the 38th Session of the COMCEC, 20th and 21st Meetings of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group will be held in May and October 2023, respectively, with the theme of “Effective Vocational Education and Training Strategies to Reduce Youth Unemployment in the OIC Member Countries.”

Within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding, the two projects will be implemented by Benin and SESRIC in 2023.

Required Action(s): The COMCEC Coordination Office will brief the Committee on the outcome of the 20th Meeting and the projects being implemented in 2023 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 Member 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 38th 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 39th COMCEC Session.

The 38th Session of the COMCEC also reiterated its request to the ISFD to prepare and issue a publication containing the gist of activities and best project implementations throughout the 15 years of its existence.

Required Action(s): The IsDB Group is expected to submit reports on the implementation of the ISFD and SPDA and to inform the Committee 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 38th 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 requested SESRIC to conduct more capacity building training activities in the field of TVET focusing on the cooperation areas of the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025, namely, “legislative framework, governance and promotion”, “TVET teacher education”, “occupational standards, qualification and quality assurance system” and “certification and modular training programs”. 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 brief the Committee on the progress in 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 2022”, the 38th Session of the COMCEC requested SESRIC to continue preparing 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 Countries 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 38th Session requested the COMCEC Coordination Office to compile the relevant OIC Institutions’ activities aligned with the prioritized SDG areas and submit the list to the 39th Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to brief the Committee on the recent developments in the implementation of the prioritized SDGs and preparations regarding its report to be submitted to the 39th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC. The COMCEC Coordination Office will also inform the Committee of the preparations for compiling the list of relevant OIC Institutions’ activities aligned with the prioritized SDG areas.

AGENDA ITEM 11

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 Cooperation Initiative/Programme, the 38th Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation of convening of 1st and 2nd Technical Meetings on September 28th, 2022 and November 1st, 2022, respectively on the High-Level Initiative/Programme and welcomed the conduct of the “Concept Report on the Current State of Member Countries Regarding Digitalization” prepared by the Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of the Presidency of Türkiye and COMCEC Coordination Office.

The Session also took note with appreciation the Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on “COMCEC High Level Digital Cooperation Initiative/Programme” hosted by Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of Türkiye on November 27, 2022 on the sidelines of 38th COMCEC Session in particular the commitment of the member countries to continue their cooperation in this field under the “COMCEC High Level Digital Transformation Forum”.

Furthermore, the Session also took note with appreciation the proposal of the Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, as the Secretariat of the COMCEC High Level Digital Transformation Forum, to host the first High-Level Forum Meeting in 2023.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the COMCEC High Level Digital Transformation Forum, Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye is expected to brief the Committee on the regarding the preparations for the 1st Meeting of the COMCEC High Level Digital Transformation Forum.

AGENDA ITEM 12
Preparations for the Exchange of Views on
“Improving the e-Commerce Capacities of the OIC Member
Countries”

Exchange of views sessions are held regularly at the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. The 38th Session of the COMCEC decided the theme of the Ministerial Exchange of Views of the next COMCEC Session as “Improving the e-Commerce Capacities of the OIC Member Countries” and requested the COMCEC Trade Working Group in its 21st Meeting, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 39th COMCEC Session.

Required Action(s): COMCEC Coordination Office is expected to inform the Committee of the preparations for the Exchange of Views Session..

AGENDA ITEM 13
Draft Agenda of the 39th Session of the COMCEC

The draft agenda of the 39th Session of the COMCEC will be considered by the Follow-up Committee under this agenda item.
