

**REPORT OF  
THE 42<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE  
(May 17th, 2023, Virtual Meeting)**

- The 42<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held virtually on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- 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 towards 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 (reported through the COMCEC Policy Follow-up System) and activities serving to the objectives of COMCEC Strategy (reported through the COMCEC Activities Follow-up System) for the time since the 38<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session 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 activities related to the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations and activities related to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy which were reported by the OIC Institutions.

Concerning the activities related to the Policy Recommendations adopted by the 38<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session, the CCO representative informed the Committee that 5 activities of SESRIC and IOFS in the areas of poverty and finance have been reported so far. It was indicated that the OIC Institutions would continue to report their relevant activities in the upcoming period.

Concerning the activities related to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, the CCO representative briefed the Committee that 65 activities of the OIC Institutions have been completed so far and 147 activities have been planned to be held in the period ahead. In terms of cooperation areas, the reported activities have been mainly conducted and planned in the areas of trade facilitation, trade promotion and poverty related monitoring and aid effectiveness.

Afterwards, the OIC Institutions have informed about their activities in line with the COMCEC Ministerial Resolutions and the COMCEC Strategy. The Committee

underlined the importance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions and appreciated their intense efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations as well as the realization of the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy.

- **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 4 projects will be implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding by OIC institutions in 2023. Within this context, SESRIC will implement three projects in the area of finance, poverty alleviation and transport and communication and SMIIC will implement a project in the area of trade.

The Committee was also briefed regarding the novelties under COMCEC Project Funding (CPF) starting from 10<sup>th</sup> 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 the benefit of the Member Countries.

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

The Committee was also informed by SESRIC regarding the preparations about the annual report on progress regarding the implementation of the SDGs in the OIC Member Countries to be submitted to the 39<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session of the COMCEC. The Committee commended the efforts of SESRIC in conducting annual progress reports on the issue.

The Committee was informed by COMCEC Coordination Office about the SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC institutions and noted that 53 activities related to the prioritized SDGs have been completed and 68 activities have been planned to be held in 2023. CCO representatives also indicated that a list of SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC institutions will be compiled and submitted to the upcoming Ministerial Session.

**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 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 youth, e-commerce and SME development in Al-Quds Economy have been included in the Programme. Moreover, regarding the projects to be implemented for the benefit of geographically distant countries, CCO informed the Committee that a trade project of Suriname will be supported under the COMCEC Project Funding and Guyana will also benefit from the project as the beneficiary country.

**Any Other Business**

The Committee Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

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