

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

- The 42nd Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held virtually on May 17th, 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 Development Bank (IsDB)
 - Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
 - International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)
 - Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)
 - Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)
 - 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 the 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) since the 38th 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 of the OIC institutions related to the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations and to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

Concerning the activities related to the Policy Recommendations adopted by the 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session, the CCO representative informed the Committee that 13 activities of SESRIC in the areas of poverty, finance, and transport and one activity of IOFS in the area of poverty have been reported so far. The Committee requested the OIC Institutions to make use of online Follow-Up System established by CCO to report the activities on the implementation of COMCEC Policy Recommendation by September 30, 2023.

Concerning the activities related to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, it was noted that 65 activities of the OIC Institutions have been completed so far and 147 activities were scheduled 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 the Committee about their activities aligned with the COMCEC Strategy and the COMCEC Ministerial Recommendations. 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**

The Committee was informed about the projects implemented under the COMCEC Project Support Programs. It was highlighted that 4 projects will be implemented by OIC Institutions under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2023. Within this context, SESRIC will implement three projects in the areas of finance, poverty alleviation, transport and communication and SMIIIC will implement one project in the area of trade.

The Committee was also briefed on the novelties brought (CPF) through the 10th Call for Project Proposals within the framework of COMCEC Project Funding. It was highlighted that Member Countries would have the opportunity to focus on addressing their own challenges and the OIC Institutions might assist the Member Countries in their endeavours through implementing projects under the CPF. It was also pointed 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 for the annual report on progress regarding the implementation of the SDGs in the OIC Member Countries to be submitted to the 39th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC. The Committee commended the efforts of SESRIC in conducting annual progress covering the progress in all SDGs.

Furthermore, the Committee 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. The Committee requested OIC Institutions to communicate the list of SDGs-related activities to the CCO for their submission to the upcoming COMCEC 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 2nd Capacity Building Programme for the potential Users of the Center during the 3rd 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.

SESRIC representative informed the Committee that they have organized 13 activities in which Palestinian officials participated since the 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session. He added that Suriname and Guyana participated in 5 and 4 activities of SESRIC respectively.

IOFS representative mentioned about their efforts towards inclusion of Palestine, Suriname, and Guyana in their activities.

ICDT representative pointed out that they give importance to participation of operators from al-Quds al-Sharif to several fairs and forums and thus cooperate with Bayt Mal Alqods Acharief Agency. He also indicated that ICDT has contributed to the promotion of a website platform which operates for electronical sales of Palestinian products.

ICCIA representative mentioned about their efforts to contact relevant authorities in Guyana and Suriname. Regarding the Palestinian private sector she informed that they are planning to have a separate and special space for Palestinian SMEs in sector specific forums and exhibitions.

SMIIC representative mentioned that Guyana is not a member of the SMIIC and they try to contact relevant authorities. Regarding Palestine and Suriname, she mentioned that these two countries are active in the activities of SMIIC.

Afterwards, the CCO informed the Committee that the scope of the COMCEC Al-Quds Program was enriched in line with the consultations with the 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 implement a project in the area

of trade 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.

