

Original: English

**REPORT**  
**THIRTY NINTH MEETING OF THE**  
**FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR**  
**ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE**  
**ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (COMCEC)**  
**(23-24 May 2023)**

1. The Thirty Ninth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 23-24 May 2023 in Ankara, the Republic of Türkiye.

2. The representatives of the following Member States of the Committee attended the Meeting:

- Republic of Türkiye : (Chairman, Permanent)
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia : (Vice Chairman, Permanent Member)
- State of Palestine : (Vice-Chairman, Permanent Member)
- State of Qatar : (Vice-Chairman, Representing the Arab Region)
- Brunei Darussalam : (Vice-Chairman Representing the Asian Region)
- Senegal : (Vice-Chairman Representing the African Region)
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan : (Rapporteur),
- State of Kuwait : (Member of the Previous Bureau)
- Republic of Indonesia : (Member of the Previous Bureau)
- Republic of Nigeria : (Member of the Previous Bureau)

3. The Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRTC), The Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC) attended the Meeting.

*(The list of participants is attached as Annex I)*

**Agenda Item 1: Opening Session**

4. Following recitation from the Holy Qur'an, H.E. Abdullah Rıdvan AĞAOĞLU, Vice-President of Strategy Budget of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, inaugurated the Meeting.

5. At the outset, H.E. AĞAOĞLU touched upon some economic trends in the world economy including high inflation and low growth rates and potential advantages of the OIC Member Countries spreading over wide geography with their young population and workforce, dynamic national markets, and underground sources all of which could be transformed to concrete achievements with strong partnerships.

6. Drawing attention to declining trade among the member countries in recent years and reminding the 2025 target of 25 percent intra-OIC trade H.E. AĞAOĞLU underlined the importance of the TPS-OIC system which has been operational since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. He stressed the necessity of completion of legal obligations and technical issues by the Participating States and invited the other OIC Member States to become a part of this System. He also expressed his expectation with regard to active attendance of the Participating Member States to the Trade Negotiations Committee Meeting to be held virtually on 6-7 June 2023, at expert level to discuss technical issues pertaining functionality of the System.

7. H.E. AĞAOĞLU expressed his wishes for success to recently assigned Secretary General of the OIC Arbitration Centre and invited the entire OIC family to actively participate in and contribute to the activities of the Centre in the period ahead.

8. H.E. AĞAOĞLU touched upon the cooperation efforts on digital cooperation and informed the Committee that the Digital Transformation Forum will convene for the first time after the 39<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session.

9. Regarding the establishment of an SME Program under the COMCEC, H.E. AĞAOĞLU underlined the importance of SMEs in the OIC economies and called upon all Member Countries to strongly support the efforts regarding the preparations for the Program.

10. H.E. AĞAOĞLU also expressed his belief in the concrete policy recommendations and roadmaps to be developed at the Working Group meetings held this year to contribute significantly to the cooperation efforts in the relevant fields in the coming period.

11. H.E. AĞAOĞLU lastly touched upon the projects implemented in 2022 and the ones being implemented in 2023, under the COMCEC project support programs and expressed his appreciations for the efforts exerted by all the project owners and partners.

12. H.E. AĞAOĞLU concluded his remarks by wishing every success for all the deliberations to be made during the 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

*(The text of the Statement of H.E. A. Rıdvan AĞAOĞLU is attached as Annex II.)*

13. The message of H.E. Hissein Brahim TAHA the Secretary General of the OIC, was read out by Mr. Naghi JABBAROV, Director General of Department of Economic Affairs of the OIC. In his message, H.E. TAHA expressed his deepest appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Türkiye for the hospitality and the CCO for arrangements made for this meeting.

14. H.E. TAHA renewed his sincere condolences and expressed firm solidarity with the Republic of Türkiye for the devastating earthquake happened in several provinces of Türkiye in February 2023 and called upon all Member States to provide more financial and humanitarian assistance as well as investments directed to recover the affected areas.

15. H.E. TAHA mentioned about the adverse effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine on the global economic growth and the spillover effects as well as disruptions caused by aforementioned developments in global food supply security. In this respect, H.E. TAHA underlined that food prices in international market increased by 3.2 % in 2020 and %38 in 2022 respectively.

16. H.E. TAHA also expressed that several sectoral Ministerial level meetings are planned to be held in 2023 as part of the efforts to boost economic recovery and foster economic cooperation among Member States in particular the 9<sup>th</sup> OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, to be held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 1-2 October, 2023, the 5<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers, to be held in the fourth quarter of 2023.

17. Lastly, H.E. TAHA invited the OIC Member States to attend the trade promotion activities including 18<sup>th</sup> OIC Trade Fair to be held in Lahore, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 16-18 June 2023 and 3<sup>rd</sup> OIC Tourism Fair to be held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 20-22 November 2023.

*(A copy of the text of the message of H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim TAHA is attached as Annex III.)*

18. On behalf of all members of the Committee, the meeting was also addressed by the Head of Delegation of State of Qatar, H.E. Saeed ALBRAIDI, Head of Regional and International Organizations of Ministry of Commerce and Industry. H.E ALBRAIDI, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for hosting and CCO for organizing the Meeting. He also extended his condolences to the earthquake victims and their families in Türkiye and wished a quick recovery for the injured ones.

19. H.E. ALBRAIDI also underscored the necessity to improve the e-commerce capacities of the OIC Member States through digital transformation techniques and their optimal usage. He also underlined the crucial role of digitalization in opening horizons to new opportunities for cooperation within the scope of the COMCEC.

### **Sideline Event**

20. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held virtually on May17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

*(Report of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex IV.)*

### **Working Sessions**

21. The working sessions of the Meeting were chaired by H.E. A. Rıdvan AĞAOĞLU, Vice President of Strategy Budget of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye.

- The agenda of the Meeting was adopted by the Committee.

*(A copy of the Agenda is attached as Annex V.)*

- The Committee reviewed the progress in the implementation of the programs and projects of the COMCEC and made recommendations thereon as well as prepared the draft Agenda of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

*(The Recommendations and the supplementary recommendations of the Committee are attached as Annex VI and Annex VII)*

*(The Draft Agenda of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex VIII)*

## **Closing Session**

22. At its Closing Session Chaired by H.E. Abdullah Rıdvan AĞAOĞLU, Vice-President of Strategy and Budget of the Presidency of Republic of Türkiye, the Committee adopted its Report together with its Annexes.

23. Afterwards, Mr. Talal AL-NAMASH, Acting Undersecretary for Economic Affairs of Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait, extended his condolences to the government and the people of Türkiye due to the earthquakes occurred in February 2023 and hit several cities of the Republic of Türkiye and his prayers for the forgiveness to the ones who have lost their lives. He also thanked the Republic of Türkiye for the warm hospitality provided to all delegations and the COMCEC Coordination Office for the excellent arrangements made for this Meeting.

24. Underlining the global challenges including political uncertainties, adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and increasing interest rates, Mr. AL-NAMASH stressed the importance of cooperation efforts under the COMCEC, particularly the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial resolutions as well as recommendations.

25. Mr. AL-NAMASH also pointed out that the theme of the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session titled “Improving E-commerce Capacities of the OIC Member Countries” is quite pertinent. He stressed that the subject bears utmost importance for enhancing trade among the OIC Member Countries.

26. Afterwards, the message of H.E. Hissein Brahim TAHA, the Secretary General of the OIC, was read out by Mr. Naghi JABBAROV, Director General of Department of Economic Affairs of the OIC. In his message, H.E. TAHA congratulated all delegations for their active participation and successful conclusion of the 39th Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC. H.E. TAHA also extended his profound thanks to the Republic of Türkiye and the COMCEC Coordination Office for excellent preparations and to all OIC Institutions for their contributions to the success of the Meeting. Highlighting the concise and action oriented format of the recommendations of the Follow-up Committee, H.E. TAHA also thanked the COMCEC Coordination Office in their endeavors towards the implementation of the relevant resolution of 38th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC.

27. Finally, H.E. TAHA invited all Member States and relevant OIC institutions to actively participate in the 18th OIC Trade Fair, to be held in Lahore, Pakistan, on 16-18 June 2023, the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development to be held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 1-2 October, 2023, and the 5th Islamic Conference of Labor Ministers to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2023.

28. Finally, H.E. Rıdvan AĖAOĖLU made his closing statement. At the outset, H.E. AĖAOĖLU condemned in the strongest terms, Israeli security forces' recent raid on Al-Aqsa Mosque violating the sanctity of al-Haram al-Sharif and the subsequent bombing of Gaza. H.E. AĖAOĖLU stated that these brutal attacks against the worshipers in al-Aqsa Mosque are not acceptable. H.E. AĖAOĖLU expressed that the OIC family has stood by the Palestinian brothers and sisters, and continue to do so concerning the Palestinian cause.

29. Then H.E. AĖAOĖLU also expressed his heartfelt thanks to all the delegates for their active participation and valuable contributions.

30. H.E. AĖAOĖLU underlined the significance of the cooperation efforts among the Islamic countries under the COMCEC especially considering the difficulties faced due to global uncertainties. He highlighted the progress in the flagship programs and projects of the COMCEC including Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member Countries (TPS-OIC), the OIC Arbitration Center, and COMCEC Project Support Programs.

31. Regarding the TPS-OIC, expressing its potential to increase the trade volume among the Member Countries, H.E. AĖAOĖLU welcomed the Member Countries' views on broadening and deepening the framework of the System in the upcoming years.

32. H.E. AĖAOĖLU stated that valuable support of all Member Countries and the OIC Institutions bears great importance for raising awareness about the efforts of the OIC Arbitration Centre both at OIC and global levels.

33. H.E. AĖAOĖLU finally highlighted the significance of the projects implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC COVID Response (CCR), and the COMCEC Al- Quds Program, and he conveyed his wishes for every success to all the project owners and implementation partners.

34. H.E. AĖAOĖLU concluded his speech by reiterating his thanks and appreciations to all the Members of the Follow-Up Committee for their active participation and precious contributions. He also expressed his thanks to the representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, Rapporteur, the COMCEC Coordination Office, representatives of the OIC Institutions namely, SESRIC, IOFS, IsDB, ICIEC, ICDT, ITFC, ICD, ISFD, ICCIA, SMIIC, interpreters, translators and other staff taking part in organization of the Meeting for their valuable contributions and efforts which helped rendering this meeting a success.

*(A copy of the text of the Closing Statement by H.E. Rıdvan AĖAOĖLU is attached as Annex IX.)*

## ANNEX VI

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 39TH COMCEC FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE

1. **Commending** the endeavors towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and The Ministerial Policy Recommendations by the member countries and the relevant OIC Institutions, the Committee **invited** the Member Countries to exert every effort, to the extent possible, to implement the Policy Recommendations and to harness the benefits of the current facilities/mechanisms, in particular the COMCEC Working Groups and COMCEC Project Support Programs, and **requested** the OIC Institutions to support the Member Countries to this end.
2. The Committee **called upon** the Member Countries to utilize the COMCEC Policy Follow-up System to submit necessary information and data on the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations in their respective countries and **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to regularly report the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Sessions, the Follow-up Committee Meetings and other relevant OIC fora.
3. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the OIC General Secretariat, CCO, SESRIC, IOFS, ICDT, IsDB, ITFC, ICIEC, ICD, ISFD, SMIIC, and ICCIA for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and the Ministerial Policy Recommendations.
4. **Underlining** the importance of the realization of the objectives set by OIC 2025: Programme of Action and active follow up of the economic and commercial section of the Programme by the COMCEC, the Committee **requested** the OIC General Secretariat to regularly submit comprehensive progress reports on the implementation of the Programme to the COMCEC Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings.
5. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, the Committee **requested** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to sign and ratify the agreements in the economic domain for furthering economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.
6. **Considering** the importance of an equitable and fair multilateral trading system for sustainable growth of the countries, and **taking note** of the current technical assistance provided by WTO Member States of the OIC to the Non-Participating States for their accession efforts to the WTO, the Committee **called upon** IsDB and ICDT to keep on extending their technical assistance to the Member States in the context of the multilateral trade negotiations and coordinate the position of the Member Countries within the WTO with a view to setting up a common platform of negotiations in the framework of 13<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in February 2024 in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.

7. **Welcoming** that the TPS-OIC has been effectuated as of July 1st, 2022 in line with relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and the decisions of the TPS-OIC Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC), the Committee **requested** the Participating States, which have not done so yet, to complete their internal procedures and **called upon** the Member Countries, which have not yet signed or ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements to do so at their earliest convenience and complete other procedures for joining the System.

8. **Underlining** the significant role of TNC in considering the issues experienced in the implementation of the TPS-OIC as well as discussing the road-map for the period ahead, the Committee **commended** the convening of the TNC Meeting virtually on 6-7 June 2023 and **called upon** the TPS-OIC Participating States to actively participate in this meeting and report the status of implementation in their respective countries thereon.

9. **Commending** the efforts of the ITFC in financing SMEs, OIC LDCs, and intra-OIC trade through diversifying its portfolio and extending more financing for the food and agriculture sector that has a direct and prominent impact on improving productivity, job creation, increasing export revenues, and alleviating poverty, the Committee **requested** ITFC to report its operations on the intra-OIC trade to COMCEC Sessions and Follow-Up Committee Meetings.

10. **Also recalling** the relevant resolution of the 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session on developing a well-designed MSME Program, the Committee **requested** the CCO, in collaboration with the interested Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions, to finalize the technical preparations through, among others, conducting a survey to get insights about the needs and expectations of the Member Countries and organizing technical meetings (when needed) with a view to launch the programme during the 39th COMCEC Ministerial Session.

11. **Taking note** of the progress in the efforts towards the OIC Business Intelligence Programme, the Committee **requested** the ICIEC, in cooperation with SESRIC, to complete necessary technical preparations for launching the Programme.

12. **Commending** the efforts of SMIIC in the area of standardization, metrology and accreditation and their impact on trade facilitation and capacity building, the Committee **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.

13. The Committee **welcomed** the proposal to intensify and expand the existing efforts in the field of competition law and policy among the Competition Authorities and relevant national institutions in the OIC Member Countries in charge of competition and **requested** SESRIC to undertake the necessary technical work, in cooperation with the interested Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions and to report the progress regularly to COMCEC Ministerial and Follow-up Committee Meetings.

14. **Taking note with appreciation** the proposal made by the representative of Palestine on the need for a regular network for the experience sharing in the field of green economy among the relevant Institutions of Member Countries, the Committee **invited** the Member States to encourage their relevant institutions to benefit from experiences of the Palestinian National Platform called ‘‘Taqat’’ which promotes networking and capacity-building to address the growing need in this important field.

15. **Recognizing** the importance of in-person participation of SMEs for trade facilitation, the Committee **requested** OIC Member Countries to incentivize SMEs through subsidies to participate in the ICCIA sector-specific forums, particularly from Palestine, G5 Sahel states, and geographically distant member countries.

16. **Acknowledging** the important role of the OIC Arbitration Center for the settlement of commercial and investment disputes and **commending** the efforts resulted in the effectuation of the Center, the Committee **called upon** the Member Countries to encourage their relevant institutions to actively participate in the activities of the OIC Arbitration Center with a view to making use of services provided by the Centre.

17. **Taking into consideration** to the crucial role of private sector financing in mobilizing private investments and ensuring sustainable economic growth of the Member States, the Committee **invited** the Member States to better utilize the facilities of the ICD through the solid projects aimed at creating competition, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities.

18. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to support active promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah International Fund, which includes shares from the OIC COMCEC 50 Shariah Index, launched under the coordination of OIC Exchanges Forum to the investors and the finance community in their respective countries.

19. The Committee **requested** the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum to complete the technical preparations on the OIC Gold Project, based on block-chain model, in cooperation with central banks of the interested Member States.

20. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, the Committee **requested** the Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum to expedite the necessary legal, administrative and technological preparations for the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate Electronic Platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange and **invited** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to identify their authorized bodies as well as notify them to the Forum’s Secretariat for enhancing coordination.

21. **Reiterating** the importance of the Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project as one of the most significant development projects aimed at enhancing the movement of people and goods among the African OIC Member States, the Committee **requested** the General Secretariat, in cooperation with the IDB Group, to expedite their communications with volunteering



Member States for holding 2nd OIC Transport Ministerial Meeting as soon as possible with a specific agenda on the project mentioned above.

22. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, the Committee **requested** the ICDT and SESRIC, in close cooperation with the relevant OIC institutions and international key stakeholders, to organize training and promotional events for the benefit of West African Countries Members with respect to the regional project entitled “*Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa*” to boost community-based tourism in the region and thereby support the local economy within the West African region.

23. **Also recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, the Committee **called upon** the Member States to continue supporting their relevant institutions, tourism companies and tour operators etc. to further their efforts through, among others, organizing promotion campaigns and additional tours to Quds al-Sharif for supporting Palestinian residents of Al-Quds and to demonstrate solidarity with them.

24. **Considering** the strategic importance of increasing coordination and coherence of policy actions on food security and nutrition at the OIC-level, the Committee **called upon** the Member States to actively participate in the Ninth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development to be held in Doha/State of Qatar on 1-2 October 2023

25. **Underlining** the importance of “IOFS Strategic Vision 2031” for scaling-up agriculture, rural development and food security in the OIC geography, the Committee **invited** the Member States to support to the extent possible the efforts of IOFS in the following areas within the framework of the Strategy pillars, including i) Governance Enablement, ii) Food Crisis Response, iii) Capacity building, iv) agri-food industry development, and v) resource mobilizations, and requests relevant OIC Institutions to accordingly assist in that process.

26. **Recognizing** the heavy burden of high unemployment rates of the youth in the OIC Member Countries and their vital role of their high employability for reducing poverty and increasing economic growth, the Committee **called upon** the Member Countries to actively involved in the efforts of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group, focusing on the issue of youth unemployment to develop sound policy options for the equitable access of the youth to employment services and equipping training and education institutions as well as their personnel with the newest infrastructure and **called upon** the Member Countries and concerned OIC Institutions to actively participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) to be held in the fourth quarter of 2023.

27. **Recognizing** the efforts of SESRIC in the execution of the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025, the Committee **requested** SESRIC to continue providing regular progress updates to both COMCEC Sessions and Follow-up Committee Meetings and **also requested** SESRIC to identify potential challenges and propose strategic responses to ensure the continued successful implementation of the Road Map.

28. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the COMCEC Sessions, the Committee **requested** the CCO to carry on compiling the relevant OIC Institutions' activities aligned with the prioritized SDG areas for submission to the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

29. **Commending** the efforts of SESRIC in conducting annual reports on the progress towards achievement of the prioritized SDGs in the OIC Member Countries and submission to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions on a regular basis, the Committee **requested** SESRIC to continue to carry out statistical training activities with a focus on prioritized SDGs for the benefit of National Statistical Offices of the Member States within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

30. **Commending** the efforts of the COMCEC High Level Digital Transformation Forum for the exchange of experiences among the Member Countries in digital transformation area in particular through training programs, and **welcoming** the offer of the Digital Transformation Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, as the Secretariat of the Forum, to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Forum in the last quarter of 2023, the Committee **requested** the Member States and relevant OIC Institutions to actively participate in this important high-level event.

31. **Highlighting** the importance of thorough examination of the impacts of e-commerce on the member countries due to its complex, dynamic, multi-faceted and rapidly evolving nature, the Committee **commended** the endeavors of the COMCEC Trade Working Group, which will undertake the necessary preparations, including, among others, formulation of a set of policy recommendations for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Meeting and **called upon** the Member States to actively participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Trade Working Group to be held in October, 2023.

32. The Committee **requested** the CCO to circulate a questionnaire including following themes among the Member States to explore their views on the possible themes of the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the COMCEC.

Theme 1: Improving Quality Infrastructure in the OIC Member Countries

Theme 2: Digital Transformation in Payment Systems in the OIC Member Countries

Theme 3: Sustainable Livestock Production for Ensuring Food Security in the OIC Member Countries

Theme 4: Developing Intelligent Transportation Systems in the OIC Member Countries

Theme 5: Developing and Branding Gastronomy Tourism Destinations within OIC

Theme 6: Alleviating Adverse Effects of Natural Disasters on Poor Segments of Society in the OIC Member Countries

33. The Committee **prepared** and **decided** to submit the Draft Agenda to the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

## ANNEX VII

### SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 39<sup>TH</sup> COMCEC FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE MEETING

1. The Committee **welcomed** the Report on the Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy submitted by the CCO highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy and **commended** the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to the implementation of the Strategy.
2. The Committee **welcomed** the significant increase in the number of activities conducted by the OIC institutions for the realization of the COMCEC Strategy.
3. The Committee **welcomed** the initiation of nineteen projects to be implemented in 2023 under the COMCEC Project Funding and invited the Member Countries to intensify their efforts to harness the benefits of COMCEC Project Funding, particularly with a view to materialize the Ministerial Policy Recommendations.
4. The Committee **also welcomed** the enlargement of the scope of the COMCEC Al Quds Programme with new thematic areas such as entrepreneurship, job creation, and youth empowerment, e-commerce and SME development, and the initiation of five projects to be implemented by the Ministry of National Economy of Palestine under the Program in 2023.
5. The Committee **took note with appreciation** the report presented by the OIC General Secretariat on the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the OIC-2025: Program of Action.
6. The Committee **welcomed** the convening of the Sixth Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) on 14-15 December 2022, in Jeddah, OIC Headquarters.
7. **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 20th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on 1 May 2023, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Improving E-Commerce Capacities of the OIC Member Countries, the Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to actively participate in its 21st Meeting to be organized with the same theme in October 2023.
8. The Committee **welcomed** the activities conducted by the CCO, SESRIC, ICDT, IsDB, ITFC, ICIEC, ICD, IOFS, ICCIA, and SMIIC in the area of trade aligned with the COMCEC Strategy since the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.
9. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Palestine, Lebanon, Morocco, and SMIIC for the successful implementation of the following projects in 2022 under the 9th project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:
  - The project entitled “Enhancing Palestinian Limestone-SMEs Internationalization” implemented by Palestine with Jordan as the beneficiary country,
  - The project entitled “Developing a Roadmap for Establishing National Trade Facilitation Body in Lebanon” implemented by Lebanon with Malaysia and Türkiye as beneficiary countries,
  - The project entitled “Accelerating customs clearance of goods between OIC

Member countries through the exchange of Electronic Certificate of Origin” implemented by Morocco with Türkiye, Malaysia and Indonesia as beneficiary countries,

- The project entitled “Promotion of OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards use in the Asian and Arab Region” to be implemented by SMIIC with 17 beneficiary countries.

10. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Bangladesh, Cameroon, Iran, Suriname, Türkiye and SMIIC for the following projects to be implemented in 2023 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “Developing Export Competitiveness of Potential Halal Products of Bangladesh ” to be implemented by Bangladesh in partnership with Türkiye,
- The project entitled “OIC/SMIIC Halal Auditor and foundation Training for Cameroon ” to be implemented by Cameroon,
- The project entitled “Capacity-building and Institutional Strengthening for Rules of Origin in OIC Member States” to be implemented by Iran in partnership with Türkiye,
- The project entitled “Supporting and Ensuring SMEs in Suriname and Guyana to Continue Business during Crisis” to be implemented by Suriname with Guyana and Türkiye,
- The project entitled “Raising Awareness for Multilateral/Mutual Recognition According to the OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards” to be implemented by Türkiye with six beneficiary countries,
- The project entitled “Halal food and meat Detection Methods Training and Inter-laboratory Comparison for OIC Countries” to be implemented by SMIIC with ten beneficiary countries.

11. The Committee **further commended** the efforts of Senegal for the successful implementation of the project titled “Resilience Program against Covid-19 for the Digital Management of Agricultural Markets” in 2022 within the scope of 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for COMCEC COVID Response.

12. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to ICDT for the following studies and the activities in trade domain;

- The organization of a workshop on TIR/eTIR and CMR/eCMR of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region in Djibouti on 13th and 14th December 2022 in collaboration with the IsDB, UNECE and the IRU.
- The national workshop on customs procedures for the benefit of Gabon in partnership with the Customs Administration of the Kingdom of Morocco (March 13th - 17th, 2023 in Libreville),
- The national workshop on the notification of TFA category C procedures for the benefit of Guinea in collaboration with UNCTAD and the World Bank (June 7th - 9th, 2023 in Conakry).
- The launch of technical assistance for the digitization of customs procedures (e-Phyto, e-vet), in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF), for the benefit of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (May 24th, 2023, in Lagos), Togo (June 17th, 2023) and Indonesia.

13. The Committee **appreciated** the role played by the CCO and ICDT as the Secretariat of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) in supervising trade negotiations and building capacity related to the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States.
14. The Committee also **welcomed** the readiness of the ICDT and CCO to organize awareness-raising workshops on the TPS-OIC and its impact on the private sector in Nigeria, the Arab region, and at the level of ECOWAS and CEMAC in the year of 2023.
15. Considering the importance of enhancing business relations among the OIC Member States, the Committee **invited** the Member States to actively participate in the following fairs, exhibitions, and forums organized by the ICDT:
  - 18th OIC Trade Fair, "18th TFOIC", June 16th -18th, 2023, in Lahore, Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
  - Pakistan-Africa Business Forum, June 17th, 2023,
  - 5th OIC Health Expo, June 22nd - 25th, 2023, Dakar - Republic of Senegal,
  - 2nd Cotton, Textile, and Clothing Exhibition of the OIC Member States, November 9th – 12th 2023 Abidjan - Republic of Cote d'Ivoire,
  - ICDT-Côte d'Ivoire Investment Forum (ICDT INVEST DAYS), November 11th - 12th, 2023, Abidjan - Republic of Côte d'Ivoire,
  - 3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States, from 20th to 22nd November 2023 at Doha - State of Qatar,
  - OIC Coffee Meet Cameroon, 28th -29th November 2023, Yaoundé – Republic of Cameroon,
  - 9th Exhibition of Halal Products in the OIC Member States, in the second half of 2023 in Tunis - Republic of Tunisia.
16. The Committee **requested** ICDT to continue holding sector specific fairs in cooperation with the Member Countries and submit on regular basis, progress reports on trade fairs and 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.
17. The Committee **expressed** its thanks and appreciation to the IsDB Group and ICDT for organizing WTO-related training courses and seminars and **called upon** the 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 the WTO activities and reporting them to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other relevant fora.
18. The Committee **requested** the ICDT and IsDB to develop a technical assistance program for the benefit of the State of Palestine on WTO-trade negotiations, trade facilitation, training local negotiators, market access strategies of the national SMEs through reverse linkage program with other Member Countries.
19. The Committee **called upon** the WTO members of the OIC to assist non-WTO Members of the OIC in their accession process to the WTO.

20. The Committee **also called upon** the Member Countries and the relevant OIC institutions to extend support to the Member Countries who need technical assistance on trade facilitation practices towards the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.
21. The Committee **appreciated** the trade finance, promotion and development, and capacity-building activities of ITFC and the mobilization of funds from the international market and development partners for funding trade finance operations in the Member States, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 25 percent.
22. The Committee **took note with appreciation** that ITFC's cumulative approvals and disbursements in trade financing reached, since its inception in 2008 until the end of 2022, USD 69.9 billion and USD 58.4 billion, respectively as well as **took note with appreciation** that ITFCs cumulative funds mobilized from partner banks and financial institutions, since its inception reached USD 43 billion.
23. The Committee **took note of** the trade promotion and capacity development initiatives being implemented by ITFC under its various flagship programs including Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS), CIS Region Trade Development Program, Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program (AATB), KSA SME Export Empowerment Programme, West Africa SMEs Program.
24. The Committee **took note of** the efforts of the ITFC in implementing Integrated Trade Solution Programs in favor of OIC Member Countries such as Indonesia, Egypt, Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.
25. The Committee **also took note of** ITFC's efforts for the diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments, supporting training programs on Islamic finance and promoting Islamic Finance solutions at international fora.
26. The Committee **took note of** the efforts of the ICIEC as the only multilateral export credit and investment insurance Corporation in the world that provides shariah-compliant insurance and reinsurance solutions.
27. The Committee **took note with appreciation** of the ICIEC's contribution to IsDB Group's Food Security Response Program (FSRP) through a pledge of USD 500 million in insurance capacity over three and a half years (July 2022 to End-2025).
28. The Committee **also took note with appreciation** of the ICIEC's volume of business insured in 2022, which stood at USD 11.6 billion to bring its cumulative amount of business insured since inception to USD 95 billion.
29. The Committee **commended** ICIEC for its contribution to the implementation of the Strategic Preparedness and Response Program (SPRP), in cooperation with the IsDB Group, providing cover amounting to USD 1.4 billion to support efforts of MSs in the COVID-19 pandemic, including USD 528 million for the healthcare sector, USD 824 million towards Supporting imports of essential commodities, and USD 62 million to Support recovery of SMEs from the economic impacts of the pandemic.

30. **Taking note of** the efforts exerted by ICIEC in partnership with SESRIC, ICDT, and ICCIA for organizing the 1st Capacity Building Programme in March 2023 for the potential users of the Programme, the Committee **requested** the ICIEC in cooperation with SESRIC, ICDT, and ICCIA to conduct the 2nd Capacity Building Programme in the 3rd Quarter 2023.
31. The Committee **commended** the efforts of SMIIC for conducting following activities in its field of competence;
- The 5th meeting of the SMIIC AC on 08-09 May 2023 in Istanbul,
  - Awareness seminar on SMIIC and Halal Supply Management System Standards for Industrial Engineering University Islam Indonesia on 21 February 2023,
  - Training on “SMIIC Procedures for the Technical Work and SMIIC Information System (IS) for TAJIKSTANDARD, AZSTAND, SON, BSTI, YSMO, SOBS, UNBS, and UZSTANDARD Staff, virtually on 27 February 2023,
  - OIC/SMIIC 6 Foundation Training on 13-24 March 2023, virtually,
  - OIC/SMIIC 9:2019 Halal Tourism Services foundation training from 15-16 March 2023 virtually,
  - OIC SMIIC 1:2019- General Requirement for Halal Food Foundation Training was conducted virtually on 06-08 March 2023,
  - OIC/SMIIC 1, 2, and 24- Foundation Training was virtually organized for Japan Halal Association staff on 03-05 April 2023.
32. The Committee **commended** the Capacity Building activities of SMIIC for OIC Member States in the fields of quality infrastructure.
33. **Emphasizing** the role of ICCIA, as an engine of mobilizing investment, contributing to policy-making related to the private sector development, and undertaking different initiatives for the capacity building of the chambers of commerce of the OIC region, the Committee **welcomed** the continuous efforts of ICCIA towards initiating a wide range of workshops for the member chambers with a view to enhance the capacity and quality of their institutions through ICCIA Academy and **invited** the OIC Member Countries to encourage their public - private sector organizations to take part in ICCIA’s mega sector specific forums and events organized for the development of the private sector in OIC member Countries.
34. The Committee **took note of** efforts and following activities of the ICCIA in organizing 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.
- ICCIA's Regional Forum "Microfinance in Africa: Promising Opportunities and an Innovative Model" Nouakchott, December, 19-20th 2022,
  - Green Entrepreneurship in Pakistan: Opportunities & Challenges held on 8th December 2022 at Karachi School of Business & Leadership (KSBL)
  - Culture & Creative Economy: “Unlocking the Creative Economy” 28th February 2023, Federation House, Karachi,
  - Angel Investors Summit ICCIA Headquarters Karachi-Pakistan, 18th March 2023
  - Manafea Forum- The Way to a Promising Future Makkah Chamber Headquarters, 10th April 2023

35. The Committee also **took note of** following activities of the ICCIA to be conducted in 2023 and **encouraged** the Member States to actively participate in these activities;
- Sustainable Agriculture Forum, Azerbaijan, 1st-2nd June 2023,
  - OIC Food Festival, Lahore, Pakistan, 16-18th June 2023 (during the 18th OIC Trade Fair),
  - Third Microfinance Forum, Chad, June/July 2023,
  - Sustainable Tourism Forum, Pakistan, October 2023,
  - Microfinance and Transition to Sustainability Regional Workshops, 2023,
  - Entrepreneurship for MSMEs Leaders - Finance, 2023,
  - Workshop on Digital Transformation for SMEs, Mauritania, 2023,
  - Workshop on Digital Transformation for SMEs, Chad, 2023,
  - Best of Entrepreneurship Series, Pakistan 2023,
  - Regional Best of Entrepreneurship Asia, Pakistan 2023.
36. **Taking note of** the vision of the tripartite MANAFEFA partnership between the Islamic Chamber, Makkah Chamber, and Madinah Chamber, to promote Makkah and Madinah as the hub of financial and business activities in the Islamic world, the Committee **invited** the OIC Member Countries to encourage their member chambers to actively participate in the series of events and forums conducted under the tripartite MANAFEFA.
37. **Taking note of** the continuous efforts of the ICCIA to establish Microfinance institutions and the initiation of the feasibility study in collaboration with IsDB in the G5 Sahel region in Africa, namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger, the Committee **requested** ICCIA in mobilizing available funds from international organizations working particularly for poverty alleviation, small farmers and green economy, to fund the creation of operational manuals for ICCIA Islamic Microfinance Institutions.
38. The Committee **took note** that as of end of first quarter of 2023, ICD's gross cumulative approvals stand at \$6.5 billion, and cumulative disbursements totals \$ 4.3 billion.
39. The Committee **took note with appreciation** the dedicated cooperation efforts of ICD to develop more than 5 joint transactions worth over \$100Million where ICD partnered with ITFC and ICIEC during last year to capture synergies across Islamic Development Bank Group Entities.
40. The Committee **took note** contribution of ICD to address the food security challenges facing OIC member countries through its \$270 million allocation, and takes note with appreciation its already approved more than \$50 million worth of transactions.
41. The Committee **took note with appreciation the conduct of** training workshop by SESRIC on "Promoting Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship in OIC Africa French-Speaking Member Countries", on 14-16 March 2023, and Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme by SESRIC on "Entrepreneurship Skills Development" for the benefit of TVET teachers and trainers on 08-19 May 2023.



42. The Committee **took note with appreciation** of the convening of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group on May 2022, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Improving Cooperation among Central Banks in terms of Digital Currencies: Challenges and Prospects for OIC Member Countries”.
43. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively participate in its 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be organized with the same theme of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting in October 2023.
44. The Committee **commended** the efforts of SESRIC for the successful implementation of the project entitled “Strengthening Financial Literacy and Promoting Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries” with 30 beneficiary countries in 2022 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.
45. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of SESRIC for the project entitled “Improving the Role of Islamic Finance in Supporting Microenterprises and SMEs in Post Pandemic Period ” to be implemented in 2023 for the benefit of 40 Member Countries within the framework of the 10<sup>th</sup> Call of the COMCEC Project Funding.
46. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the SESRIC for the conduct of following training courses in the field of financial cooperation:
- Online Statistical Training Course on “Government Finance, Fiscal and Public Sector Statistics” on 10-12 January 2023,
  - Training Course on “Islamic Banking and Finance for Central Banks and Monetary Authorities” on 06-08 March 2023,
  - Webinar on “Reporting Data on Islamic Financial Services Sector” on 14 March 2023,
  - Training Course on “Islamic Debt and Equity Markets” on 16-18 May 2023.
47. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the OIC Exchanges Forum and its Task Forces and **invited** the Member States to actively participate in the activities organized under this Forum.
48. The Committee also **welcomed** the efforts carried out by the Task Forces of COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum namely capacity building, market development, Islamic finance and financial literacy and **called upon** the Member States to support the efforts of the Forum through participating in its meetings and contributing to the accomplishment of the mandates of the Task Forces.
49. **Welcoming** the training and capacity-building programs organized by the SESRIC towards the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of Member States, the Committee **requested** the 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).
50. The Committee **took note with appreciation of** the convening of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on 3 May 2023, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of "Measuring the Environmental Impacts of Transport Infrastructures in OIC Member Countries".

51. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to actively participate in its 21st Meeting to be organized with the same theme of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting in October, 2023.
52. The Committee **commended** the efforts of The Gambia and SESRIC for the successful implementation of the following projects in 2022 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:
- The project entitled “Improving Human and Institutional Capacity for the Development of Key Performance Indicators in the Transport Sector of the OIC Countries ” implemented by the Gambia with Senegal and Nigeria as beneficiary countries
  - The project entitled “Improving the Regulatory Framework for PPPs in Transport Sector in the OIC Member Countries ” implemented by SESRIC with 29 beneficiary countries.
53. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Benin, the Gambia, Jordan and SESRIC for the following projects to be implemented in 2023 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:
- The project entitled “Increasing Human and Institutional Capacities for the Establishment of a Road Safety Lead Agency” to be implemented by the Gambia with Morocco, as the beneficiary country,
  - The project entitled “Implementation of a Mechanism for Renewing the Fleet of Road Transport Vehicles in Benin” to be implemented by Benin with Burkina Faso as the beneficiary country,
  - The project entitled “ Detailed Feasibility Study for Passenger Transport at specific portions of Hejaz Railway Alignment” to be implemented by Jordan with the partnership of Türkiye,
  - The project entitled “ Increasing the Utilization of Innovative Financing Tools to Maintain Transport Infrastructure and the Services of Transportation Service Providers (TSPs) in the OIC Member Countries” to be implemented by SESRIC with 20 beneficiary countries.
54. The Committee **further commended** the efforts of The Gambia for the successful implementation of the project titled “Alleviating the Negative Impacts of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Air Transportation Sub-Sector of the Gambia and OIC Countries” in 2022 in partnership with Türkiye within the scope of 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for COMCEC COVID Response.
55. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to SESRIC for the conduct of the report entitled “Transportation for Development in OIC Member Countries: Implications for Trade and Tourism & Challenges for Landlocked Countries” and the Statistical Training Course on “Transport Statistics” on 03-04 May 2023 within the framework of SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.
56. **Considering** the vital role that tourism plays in the economic and social development of OIC Member States, the Committee **commended** the organization of the following activities conducted by SESRIC and ICDT:
- Training webinar on Digitalization of Tourism services in OIC countries on May 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023,
  - Training Webinar on Gastronomy Tourism in September 2023,

57. The Committee **took note with appreciation** the convening of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group on 4 May, 2022, in a virtual-only format with the theme of “Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness in the OIC Countries.”
58. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in its 21st Meeting to be organized with the same theme of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting in October 2023.
59. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Nigeria and Uganda for the successful implementation of the following projects in 2022 within the framework of the 9th Call of the COMCEC Project Funding:
- The project entitled “A Two-Day Training on Human Resource Management in Tourism Sector” implemented by Nigeria with the Gambia as the beneficiary country,
  - The project entitled “Risk Analysis and Crisis Planning and Management for Community Based Tourism” implemented by Uganda with Sudan, Nigeria and Mozambique as the beneficiary countries.
60. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Uganda and Mali for the following projects to be implemented in 2023 within the framework of the 10th Call of the COMCEC Project Funding:
- The project entitled “Enhancing the Capacity of Tour and Travel Personnel for Adapting to Changing Trends in Tourism Sector” to be implemented by Uganda,
  - The project entitled “Accommodation Establishments Quality Improvement Program in Tourism Sector in 4 OIC Member Countries” to be implemented by Mali with Burkina Faso, Guinea and Niger as the beneficiary countries.
61. The Committee **further commended** the efforts of Sierra Leone for the successful implementation of the project titled “Preparation of COVID-19 Hygiene Protocol and Training of Employees within the Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality Sector” in 2022 within the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for COMCEC COVID Response.
62. The Committee **took note with appreciation of** the efforts of the SESRIC for organizing training courses and seminars in tourism sector, particularly on halal tourism and tourism statistics within the framework of the SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes.
63. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host the 11th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum to be held in 3rd quarter of 2023 and **called upon** the Member States to actively participate in this event.
64. **Took note with appreciation of** the convening of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group on 11 May, 2023, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Ensuring the Sustainability of Agricultural Inputs to Combat Food Insecurity in OIC Member Countries ”.
65. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in its 21st Meeting to be organized with the same theme of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting in October, 2023.

66. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Benin, Türkiye, ICCIA and IOFS for the successful implementation of the following projects in 2022 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “Promote Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture to Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition in West Africa” implemented by Benin with five beneficiary countries,
- The project entitled “Capacity Building on New Technologies to Reduce Post-Harvest Losses” implemented by Türkiye with six beneficiary countries,
- The project entitled “Creating Awareness on the Importance of Agriculture Commodity Exchange Markets” implemented by ICCIA in partnership with 7 Member Countries,
- The project entitled “Building the Capacity of OIC Member States in Food Security Governance” implemented by IOFS in partnership with 20 beneficiary countries.

67. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Benin, the Gambia, Malaysia and Türkiye for the following projects to be implemented in 2023 within the framework of the 10th Call of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “Increasing Agricultural Productivity in West Africa through Promoting Village Beekeeping” to be implemented by Benin in partnership with Uganda,
- The project entitled “Capacity Building on Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting in the Agriculture Sector” to be implemented by the Gambia,
- The project entitled “Needs Assessment on the Adoption of Sustainable Approaches for Rice Cultivation in Facing Climate Change” to be implemented by Malaysia,
- The project entitled “Capacity Building on Using Remote Sensing Systems in Agriculture” to be implemented by Türkiye in partnership with Malaysia.

68. The Committee **further commended** the efforts of Azerbaijan, Benin and Türkiye for the successful implementation of the following projects to implemented in 2022 within the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for COMCEC COVID Response:

- The project entitled “Reduction of Food Loss and Waste (FLOW) during COVID-19 Pandemic through Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Socially Responsible Practices” implemented by Azerbaijan,
- The project entitled “Increase Rice Productivity to Ensure Food Security and Sovereignty in Benin” implemented by Benin,
- The project entitled “Resilience in the Seed Sector with the Rising of Risks after Covid-19” implemented by Türkiye with four beneficiary countries.

69. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the SESRIC for the conduct of following reports and trainings in the field of agriculture :

- Outlook report titled “ State of Food Security in the Least Developed OIC Member Countries”,
- Report entitled “Agricultural Production and Trade Complementarities among OIC Member Countries” by SESRIC in collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) to be submitted to the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCFSAD), which is scheduled to be

held in 2023,

- Online Training Workshop on “Water Governance and Integrated Water Resources Management in the OIC Member Countries within the framework of SESRIC’s Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB) on 24-26 January 2023,
- Online training Course on “Productivity Enhancement of Cotton by Using Modern Agronomic Practices” within the framework of SESRIC’s Cotton Capacity Building Programme (Cotton-CaB) on 14-16 February 2023.

70. The Committee **took note with appreciation of** the convening of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group on 10 May, 2023, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Effective Vocational Education and Training Strategies to Reduce Youth Unemployment in the OIC Member Countries.”

71. The Committee **called upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to actively participate in its 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting to be organized with the same theme of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting in October, 2023.

72. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Türkiye and SESRIC for the successful implementation of the following projects in 2022 within the framework of the 9th Call of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “Impacts of Digitalization in Social Assistance Program for Forced Migration” implemented by Türkiye with Oman and Cameroon as beneficiary countries,
- The project entitled “Fostering Information Technology (IT) Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of Public Employment Services (PES) in the OIC Member Countries” implemented by SESRIC with 12 beneficiary countries.

73. The Committee **also commended** the efforts of Benin and SESRIC for the following projects to be implemented in 2023 within the framework of the 10th Call of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “Improving interoperability between information systems of social assistance programs” to be implemented by Benin in partnership with Türkiye,
- The project entitled “Promoting digital technologies for an integrated and efficient social protection systems in the OIC Member Countries” to be implemented by SESRIC with 15 beneficiary countries.

74. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the SESRIC for preparing the following reports and organizing training courses/workshops and webinars under the agenda item on alleviating poverty:

- Reports entitled “People with Disabilities and Special Needs in OIC Countries” and “Safeguarding Family Values and the Institution of Marriage in OIC Countries” and “State of Elderly in OIC Member Countries”,
- Online Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Graphic Design and Photo Print Techniques” Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme on 13-15 December 2022,
- Online Statistical Training Course on “SDG 1 (No Poverty) Indicators”: Within the framework of SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme on 17-18 January 2023 on 21-22 February 2023,

- Webinar on “Transforming Administrative Registers for Statistical Data Production” on 14 February 2023 within the framework of the Programme of Action for 2021-2025 set under the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030,
- Online Training Course on “Social Insurance Database Management” on 01-02 March 2023,
- Training Course on “Optimal Design of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Protection” on 07-09 March 2023,
- Statistical Training Course on “SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) Indicators on 02-04 May 2023,
- Training Workshop on “Developing Effective, Reliable, and Affordable Social Protection Services for Vulnerable Groups”: on 02-04 May 2023,
- Orientation Workshop on “Tobacco Questions for Surveys of Youth (TQS-Youth) on 09-10 May 2023.

75. **Taking note with appreciation** of the efforts of SESRIC for the implementation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025.

76. **Taking note with appreciation** of the efforts of the ISFD for mobilizing resources, the Committee **reiterated** its request to the Member Countries, which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and make fresh contributions to finance more poverty alleviation projects in Member Countries.

77. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the SESRIC for conducting the project titled “Promoting Digital Technologies for an Integrated and Efficient Social Protection Systems in the OIC Member Countries”.

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