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REPORT

OF

THE OIC SECRETARY GENERAL

TO THE 39TH SESSION OF

THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC (COMCEC)

ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE $2^{ND}-5^{TH}\ DECEMBER,\ 2023$

-: **INDEX** :-

SL NO.	CONTENTS	PAGE NUMBER
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development	3
III.	Employment and Productivity	6
IV.	Intra-OIC Trade and Investment	8
v.	Tourism Sector Development	14
VI.	Cooperation in the Domain of Transport	15
VII.	Role of the Private Sector	17
VIII.	Poverty Alleviation Programmes	18
IX.	Conclusions	22
X.	Annex	23

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. The present Report provides an overview of the progress made on the implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, the relevant resolutions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, COMCEC and other ministerial level OIC Meetings, since the convening of the 38th COMCEC General Assembly Session, held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 26th 29th November 2022.
- 2. The Report provides updates on OIC-wide efforts to implement the OIC programmes and projects in such sectors as agriculture and food security; trade and investment; tourism development; poverty alleviation and capacity building during the period under review. It also includes contributions from the relevant OIC institutions and highlights the series of activities conducted by them.
- 3. During the period under review, the Second Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting was held in Jeddah, on 22nd- 24th November, 2022, to consider the Mid-Term Review Document of the implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, entitled "**Road to 2025: Gains, Challenges and Opportunities**", with a view to assessing the realization of its goals and objectives. The Meeting underscored the importance of the OIC Programme of Action for socio-economic development of OIC Member States. The Meeting also stressed the need to design a new OIC programme of action for the decade 2026-2035 with concrete deliverables. The Mid-Term Review Document was endorsed by the 49th CFM, held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16th -17th March 2023.

II. AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- 4. Agriculture remains one of the most important sectors in many OIC Member States as a source of livelihood and employment for millions of people. In this regard, during the period under review, the following activities were carried out towards the implementation of OIC policies and decisions in the domain of agriculture, rural development and food security:
 - (a) Ninth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development
- 5. The Ninth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCFSAD) was held on 1st-2nd October 2023 in Doha, Qatar.
- 6. The 9th MCFSAD under the theme "*Toward Achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Member States*" discussed priorities and challenges related to enhancing food security in the OIC Member States. It also reviewed the implementation of resolutions of the previous Conferences, including the activities of IOFS, and financing of projects in the domain of agriculture and food security in OIC Member States. The highpoint of the 9th MCFSAD was the decision to establish sessional Steering Committees on the establishment of an OIC Food Security Reserve System; and implementation of the OIC Programmes of Action for the Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities (Rice, Wheat, Cassava), under the Chair of 9th MCFSAD and comprising representatives of OIC Member States and relevant OIC institutions, to provide oversight and strategic guidance on these projects.

7. The 9th MCFSAD also welcomed the offer made by the Republic of Chad to host the 10th MCFSAD in 2025 and encouraged Member States and the OIC Institutions to actively participate in it. Other highpoints of the 9th MCFSAD include: signing of the Statute of Islamic Organization for Food Security by Jordan, Gabon, Yemen and Iraq; mandating the General Secretariat, in coordination with the relevant OIC institutions, to undertake a study and develop a business model and cooperation framework for contract farming, assessing the needs and potentialities of the Member States; urging Member States to put in place the necessary financial infrastructure and legal frameworks aimed at promoting financial inclusion for rural farmers through providing access to financial products, fertilizers, inputs and services, including Islamic financing models; and calling on Member States to enhance intra-OIC cooperation in the food and agriculture sector to build more resilient food systems, share knowledge and best practices in order to help develop domestic production capacities, among others.

(b) Training Programmes and Publication

- 8. Within its mandate, SESRIC has continued to organize training programmes in the area of increasing productivity of the agriculture sector and sustaining food security for the benefit of OIC Member States. Accordingly, during the year under review, SESRIC prepared an outlook report entitled "State of Food Security in the Least Developed OIC Member Countries". The report highlights the recent state as well as the constraints and challenges of agricultural development and food security in the OIC Least Developed Countries (OIC-LDCs), exploring major issues such prevalence of undernourishment and food insecurity, implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for agriculture and food security, and climate change, among others. The report also makes a set of policy recommendations aimed at improving resilience of agro-food systems in the OIC-LDCs. SESRIC prepared its regular report titled "Agriculture and Food Security in OIC Member Countries 2023", which was presented as the main technical background document for the 9th MCFSAD in Doha, Qatar. SESRIC, in partnership with the IOFS, also prepared a report on "Agricultural Production and Trade Complementarities among OIC Member Countries".
- 9. SESRIC, within the framework of its Cotton Capacity Building Programme, organized a Training Course on "<u>Productivity Enhancement of Cotton by Using Modern Agronomic Practices</u>" for the benefit of experts from 12 OIC African Member States on 14th -16th February, 2023, through an online video conferencing platform. The main objective of the training course was to strengthen the technical capacities of the researchers and cotton experts at the National Cotton Institutions in OIC African Member Countries.
- 10. SESRIC organized two Statistical Training Courses on " *SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators*" on 2nd -4th May, 2023, and "<u>Agriculture Statistics and Food Security Analysis</u>" on 29th -30th May, 2023, for the benefit of 62 experts from 24 OIC Member States.
- 11. SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) and the Directorate General of Water Management under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye, organized an online Training Workshop on "<u>Water Governance and Integrated Water Resources Management in the OIC Member Countries</u>". This was on the

- 24th-26th January, 2023, and it benefited 112 experts and executives from the National Water Resources Authorities of 26 OIC Member States.
- 12. Within the framework of the Reverse Linkage Project between Bangladesh and Türkiye on "*Enhancing Capacity in Cotton Varieties Development*", SESRIC, in collaboration with the IsDB, and Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye, organized four training activities for the benefit of 50 experts from the Cotton Development Board CDB), under the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh, during May-September 2023.
 - (c) Activities of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS)
- 13. The Sixth Meeting of the General Assembly of Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) was held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 3rd October 2023. The Sixth General Assembly Meeting of IOFS discussed various issues relating to administration, budget, activities and projects of the Organization and adopted several resolutions.
- 14. The Sixth General Assembly **elected Amb. Askar Mussinov of Kazakhstan as the Director General** of IOFS for a period of 4 years, effective from 1st January, 2024. The General Assembly also approved the **establishment of an Association of Agricultural Academies** whose primary objective shall be to enhance cooperation and collaboration amongst Agricultural Universities in OIC Member States, as they endeavor to promote sustainable agricultural development, food security, and nutrition in Member States. The General Assembly further resolved to **establish an IOFS Fund** to be used as one of the mechanisms for enhancing food security in OIC Member States. In this regard, the General Assembly welcomed the decision of the Government of the **State of Qatar to provide a US\$ 2 million grant to IOFS Fund** for execution of projects.
- 15. In the period of November 2022 October 2023 several activities have been carried out within the framework of IOFS programmes, specifically under the **Africa Food Security Initiative (AFSI)**, **Afghanistan Food Security Program**, and **IOFS 2031 Strategic Vision**.
- 16. These activities include:
 - The International Training Workshop on <u>Addressing the Challenges of Food Security</u> in the Sahel Countries, Niamey, Niger, 15th -19th May, 2023;
 - The <u>Capacity Building Activity involving the exchange of experiences between Asian</u> <u>and African rice experts</u>, Gazipur, Bangladesh, 20th-22nd August, 2023;
 - The Training on "<u>Agronomic Methods on Cassava in Mozambique</u>", Maputo, Mozambique, 28th-29th August, 2023;
 - A Regional Conference on "<u>Resilient Agriculture in IOFS Member States: Climate Adaptation and Food Security"</u> in Tunis, Tunisia, 12th -13th September, 2023;
 - Delivery of <u>200 tons of wheat as a humanitarian aid to Afghanistan</u>, 15th -16th April 2023; and
 - *The 2nd International Forum for Agri-biotechnology*, Astana, Kazakhstan, 4th-5th July, 2023, among others.

(d) Elaboration of a Strategic Plan for Ensuring Food Security in OIC Member States

- 17. The 49th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, which was held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16th-17th March, 2023, mandated IOFS, IsDB and SESRIC to design a *Strategic Plan* for ensuring food security in OIC Member States and submit the same for the consideration of the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development.
- 18. Towards the implementation of this Resolution, in May 2023, a Task Force comprising experts from IOFS, IsDB and SESRIC was formed to prepare a <u>Draft Strategic Plan for Ensuring Food Security in OIC Member States</u>. The first draft was presented for the consideration of the 9th MCFSAD, which was held in Doha, Qatar, on 1st 2nd October 2023, which in turn requested IOFS to hold regional consultations among the three OIC geographical groups in collaboration with SESRIC and IsDB to determine priorities of OIC Member States for inclusion in the strategic plan. It also requested the IOFS to submit the comprehensive plan for consideration by the 10th MCFSAD in 2025.

III. EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY

19. Intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of labour, employment and social protection is aimed at improving decent work and occupational safety and health in OIC member states as well as workforce mobility across OIC countries. During the year under review, the OIC and its relevant institutions have continued to carry out activities aimed at helping job-seekers in OIC countries develop their personal and organizational skills, knowledge, and abilities, as well as improving their competitiveness and consequently their performance. This is more so considering the fact that the unemployment rate in OIC Member States as a group was 7.2% against the world average of 6.2% in 2021. Creating decent job opportunities remains a priority for the majority of OIC countries. Accordingly, during the period under review the following activities were accomplished:

(a) 5th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers

- 20. As it was reported to the 38th Session of COMCEC, that the Government of the United Arab Emirates graciously offered to host the 5th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) during the fourth Quarter of 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the world, including OIC Member States, the 5th ICLM was postponed. In December 2022, UAE formally withdrew its offer to host the 5th ICLM. In view of this development, the General Secretariat requested Member States to indicate their willingness to host the 5th ICLM in 2023.
- 21. Subsequently and in reply to the General Secretariat's request, the Republic of Iraq, the State of Libya, Burkina Faso and the Republic of Azerbaijan notified the General Secretariat about their willingness to host the 5th ICLM in 2023. Following due consultations, it was agreed that the Republic of Azerbaijan should be the one to host the 5th ICLM. Consequently, the 5th ICLM is set to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 21st 23rd November, 2023.

- 22. At its 5th Session, the ICLM will exchange views on the current challenges affecting workers and labour markets in the OIC Member States. It will also reviewe the progress on the implementation of OIC programmes and initiatives in the field of labour and employment, including the OIC Labour Market Strategy, and activities of the relevant OIC institutions in this field.
- 23. The Conference is expected to emphasize the importance of improving occupational safety and health standards for stronger resilience in the future. It will also underscore the urgent need for human resources development, especially through up-skilling and re-skilling of the workforce in OIC Member States as a response to the changing world of work amidst digitalization and greening of economies.
- 24. The 5th ICLM will call for effective implementation of the already approved cooperation frameworks, including i) *Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Skills; and ii) Bilateral Agreement on Exchange of Workforce*. It will also express support for the continued implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection, and OIC Labour Market Strategy, and, to this end, invite OIC Member States to participate actively in their effective implementation.

(b) Establishment of the OIC Labour Centre

- 25. One of the major priorities of the General Secretariat during the period under review was the strengthening of the various executive institutions for socio-economic cooperation among OIC Member States and for the implementation of the various programmes of the Organisation in the domain of labour and employment. To this end, the inauguration of *OIC Labour Centre*, a new specialized institution of the OIC, will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 22nd November 2023, concurrently with the 5th ICLM.
- 26. The OIC Labour Centre represents the OIC executive arm charged with the implementation of OIC cooperation projects in the area of labour, employment and social protection. Certainly, the new institution should seek to mobilize national and OIC-wide responses to the challenges of unemployment and social protection in OIC countries. By the time of its launching, 10 OIC Member States had signed the Statute of OIC Labour Centre, which was opened for signature since its adoption towards the end of 2016. Consequently, the 1st General Assembly of the new specialized institution will be held during the inauguration of OIC Labour Centre. After its inauguration, the General Assembly will elect the Executive Board and the Director General of OIC Labour Centre's Secretariat. It will also approve the structures of this new executive OIC institution.

(c) Publication and Training courses

27. Within its mandate, SESRIC has continued to prepare publications and organize training programmes in the area of labour, employment and social protection for the benefit of OIC Member States. Accordingly, during the period under review, SESRIC prepared its regular report titled "OIC Labour Market Report 2023", which will be presented as the main

technical background document for the 5th ICLM held in Baku, Azerbaijan, 21st-23rd November, 2023. SESRIC also organized, in virtual format, the following activities for the benefit of experts from the relevant national institutions in OIC Member States:

- 1) Training Workshop on "*The Role of Routine Inspections in Preventing Hazards*" on 29th -30th November, 2022;
- 2) Training Course on "Preventing Workplace Hazards" on 6th -7th December, 2022;
- 3) Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on "*Graphic Design and Photo Print Techniques*" on 13th-15th December, 2022;
- 4) Training Course on "Optimal Design of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Protection" on 7th 9th March, 2023;
- 5) Two Training Webinars on "Engaging Employers in Apprenticeship Opportunities and Other Types of Work Based Learning" and "New Approaches in Job and Vocational Counselling Services" on 26th -27th April, 2023; and
- 6) Online Training Course on "*Fundamentals of Occupational Hygiene*", on 30th -31st October, 2023, among others.
- 28. Within the framework of the 10th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Malaysian Social Security Organisation (SOCSO) and the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, implemented in 2023 a project titled "Promoting Digital Technologies for an Integrated and Efficient Social Protection Systems in the OIC Member Countries".

IV. INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT

29. Intra-OIC trade activities feature cooperation actions and interventions in the area of trade promotion, financing and facilitation, and export credit insurances. Other areas of activity include halal sector development, investment promotion and capacity building programmes, including outcome of the various consultations and coordination with regional and international partners.

(a) Recent Outlook of Intra-OIC Trade and Investment

- 30. According to ICDT data estimates as of May 2023, intra-OIC net trade volume reached US\$ 436.57 billion in 2022 compared to US\$ 367.88 billion in 2021, i.e. an increase of 18.67%. The growth of the volume was due to the soaring prices of the commodities worldwide and the increase of local production to respond to the Member States' demands and also exchange rate of USD and Euro along with the Ukraine Crisis. Besides, the implementation of some bilateral and regional trade and investment agreements contributed to this growth of intra-OIC trade volume. The intra-OIC trade share in the overall foreign trade of Member States rose slightly by 1.22% increasing from 19.03 % in 2021 to 19.26% in 2022.
- 31. The top ten intra-OIC trading countries in 2022 were: United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Malaysia, Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan, Oman, Bangladesh and Qatar. These countries registered 73.33 % of the intra-OIC net trade reaching US\$ 640.25 billion in 2022.

- 32. As of May 2023, a total of 27 countries reached the 25% target of intra-OIC trade target set up in the OIC-2025: Programme of Action. These countries are the following: Somalia, the Gambia, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Benin, Tajikistan, Oman, Iraq, Sudan, Bahrain, Togo, Jordan, Djibouti, Sierra-Leone, Pakistan, Senegal, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Guinea Bissau, Chad, Comoros, Mali, Turkmenistan, Yemen, Cameroon and Suriname.
- 33. As for the world trade of OIC countries as a group, the share of OIC countries increased from US\$ 3.8 trillion in 2019 to US\$ 4.5 trillion in 2022, i.e. a 22.6% increase. This was a result of the enhancement of trading strategic commodities and the fluctuating commodity prices and environment of the global economy and the implementation of trade promotion activities at bilateral and regional levels. The trade share of the OIC countries accounted for 9.6% in 2019 against 9.2% of world trade in 2022, i.e. a reduction of 4%, mainly due to the fragility of OIC Economies during COVID-19 crisis and the disruption of the global of value chains (GVCs).
- 34. The global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) fells by 12% in 2022 to \$1.3 Trillion due to the pandemic crisis due to the less attractiveness of FDI in some developing countries in clean energy only \$544 billion against \$1.7 Trillion. The decline of FDI in industrialized economies was about 37% and reached \$378 billion and African countries by 44%.
- 35. Investment flows to OIC countries followed a similar course as the world trend and fell by 1.6% from to \$137.8 billion in 2021, compared to \$135.7 billion in 2022.

(b) Trade Financing, Investment and Export Credit Insurance

- 36. Since its establishment in 2008 with a mandate to enhance trade among OIC Member States, through providing trade finance and trade-related technical-assistance, the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation's (ITFC) total cumulative approvals and disbursements reached US\$ 69 billion and US\$ 57.5billion, respectively. In 2022, ITFC provided US\$6.8 billion of trade finance approvals, an increase from US\$6.5 billion in 2021, while disbursements reached US\$7.4 billion, almost a 42% increase from last year's disbursement of US\$5.2 billion.
- 37. Since the inception of ITFC in 2008, the Corporation has approved more than US\$10.8 billion to sustain food security in OIC Member Countries. Approvals for the Food and Agriculture Sector culminated at US\$1.8 billion in 2022 from US\$419 million in 2008. This represents a jump of 342% and illustrated the efforts that have been made by ITFC to support the vital sector since inception.
- 38. In 2022, ITFC added 8 new banks to its list of partner institutions in Member Countries, bringing the total number of ITFC partner banks to 36. The total financing approved for SMEs and private sector in 2022 was IS\$ 757 million, a 10% increase from the prior year. Since 2008, the cumulative approvals in favor for private sector and SME clients stand at US17.1 billion, representing 25% of the trade finance portfolio.
- 39. The Commonwealth Secretariat has partnered with ITFC to undertake two series of workshops related to digital boot camp trainings to build the capacity of women-owned

- MSMEs across the west central African country. Approximately 100 women owned MSMEs are expected to be beneficiaries of this partnership.
- 40. Expanding the Arab Africa Trade Bridges (AATB) Program ITFC and partner institutions including Afreximbank continue to expand and implement the AATB Program, which is designed to promote trade as a tool to expand economic opportunities and support inclusive and sustainable growth across the Arab and sub-Saharan OIC member countries.
- 41. The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) continued to be proactive in helping OIC Member Countries in mitigating risks associated with the difficulties and challenging economic, political and financial conditions in the global environment. ITFC has shared 28 financing deals and nine engagements with The Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and ICIEC in 2022 out of which 12 financing deals have been approved and 9 joint activities organized.
- 42. In 2022, ICIEC supported a combined US\$ 6.11 billion of intra-trade and intra-investment among OIC Member States, representing a 36% increase as compared to the previous year. Out of that figure, US\$ 5.34 billion represented intra-OIC trade among OIC Member States, and US\$0.77 billion represented intra-investment among OIC Member States.

(c) Trade Facilitation

- 43. The General Secretariat has continued to sensitize member states on the need to give effect to the various OIC multilateral trade instruments in force. In this regard, the General Secretariat submitted a Note Verbale to all Member States on 17th February 2022, along with its attachment entitled "Brief on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPS-OIC)". In its Note Verbale, the General Secretariat requested all Member States to sign and ratify all three OIC trade agreements and submit their updated concession lists in order to complete the necessary procedures for the effectuation of the System. The status of signing and ratification of OIC economic agreements, including TPS-OIC is annexed to this Report (Annex-I).
- 44. The following 13 OIC Member States: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Türkiye, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan and Jordan have sent to the TNC Secretariat the List of Products for tariff concessions under the TPS/OIC. The TNC Secretariat requested the concerned Member States to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience.
- 45. **Trade Negotiating Committee Meeting**. The TPS-OIC Trade Ministers convened on 25th November 2021, on the sidelines of the 37th Session of COMCEC. The participating member states reconfirmed 1st July, 2022 as the effectuation date of the TPS-OIC and indicated their willingness to deepen their cooperation in the area of trade in the said Meeting. In addition, the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Meeting was held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 27th November, 2022, on the margins of the 38th COMCEC Session. The said Committee Meeting approved the following decisions: (i) preparation of a checklist in order to track record of

implementation (ii) redistribution of concession lists through diplomatic channels, (iii) resolution of HS codes transposition issues with the technical assistance TNC Secretariat, (iv) organization of a follow-up meeting at expert level, and (v) clarification of modalities to apply on the preparation of GCC's concession list with all its technical and legal implications by the TNC Secretariat,

(d) Trade related capacity building programmes and publication

- 46. SESRIC organised a Virtual Statistical Training Course on "*International Trade Statistics* and Balance of Payments" on 13th -15th September 2022 for the benefit of experts from the National Statistical Organizations of 14 OIC Member Countries.
- 47. As per the request of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC prepared and submitted a comprehensive research study in December 2021 on Halal Industry in OIC Member Countries that analysed the then state of the Halal Industry in terms of finance, food, tourism and lifestyle markets. Among others, the report particularly overviewed the state of the Islamic tourism sector in OIC Member Countries and provided a set of policy recommendations on ways and means to unleash its potential in the OIC Group. The report is available on the SESRIC Website.
- 48. ICDT published the **2022** Annual OIC Halal Economy Report. The Launching Ceremony, which was organized by ICDT, was held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 27th November 2022, on the sidelines of the 38th Session of COMCEC.
- 49. SESRIC continues updating its OIC Statistic Database (OICStat) which serves as the primary online statistical source for users all over the world and from the period of January to June 2022, 240 new indicators were added in the OICStat Database which increased the number of total indicators hosted at OICStat to 1,615.
- 50. SESRIC and International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB) conducted in 2022 a joint research study on the "Impacts of Trade Facilitation and Logistics Performance on Trade Flows: The Case of Landlocked African OIC Countries. The Report is available on the SESRIC website (https://www.sesric.org/joint-reports.php).

(e) Investment Promotion

1) OIC Investment Forum in Africa

51. In line with the Resolution of the 48th CFM, the General Secretariat, in coordination with the host country and the relevant OIC institutions, was supposed to organize an OIC Investment Forum in Africa. The General Secretariat, in cooperation with its relevant institutions, has already prepared a Concept Note on the Forum. The General Secretariat received offers from 3 OIC Countries in Africa for hosting the said Forum in 2023. They are the Republic Mali, Republic of the Gambia, and Republic of Chad. Later the Republic of Gambia withdrew in favour of the Republic of Chad. Consultations between the Republic of Mali and the

Republic of Chad have not yet been concluded. Consequently, the Forum cannot be held in 2023. When the consultations are concluded, the venue and new dates of the Forum will be communicated to all stakeholders.

52. The main objective of the Forum is to explore investment opportunities in various sectors of the national economies in African OIC Member States. Other critical objectives of the Forum will include, among others: identify the frameworks and drivers contributing to a favorable business environment in African OIC Member States; create an opportunity for business leaders to explore the challenges and opportunities in key strategic commodity sectors; provide a platform for OIC public and private stakeholders to meet directly with policy makers at national and regional levels with a view to sharing ideas on ways of improving the business climate; generate the opportunity for public and business actors to discuss ways of enhancing competitiveness by exchanging views on issues such as access to finance and external markets.

2) Second Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGGE) on the Draft Protocol of Establishment of a Permanent Mechanism for the Settlement of Investment Disputes

- 53. In implementation of the relevant CFM resolutions, the OIC General Secretariat, in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Trade Development (ICDT) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), organized the Second meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGGE) in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 14th 16th September 2023. The main objective of the meeting was to finalize the Draft Protocol of Establishment of a Permanent Mechanism for the Settlement of Investment Disputes within the framework of the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the OIC Member States.
- 54. The meeting examined the articles of the Draft Protocol of Establishment of a Permanent Mechanism for the Settlement of Investment Disputes on which the First IGGE Meeting held in Casablanca, Morocco, in October 2022, did not reach a consensus. The experts made comments and textual suggestions on Articles of the Draft Protocol which were not agreed in the 1st IGGE meeting. It requested the General Secretariat, in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Trade Development and the Islamic Development Bank, to incorporate the proposals made during the 2nd meeting in the relevant articles of the Draft Protocol, and re-submit the revised Draft Protocol to OIC Member States for consideration. The meeting also recommended to organize the next IGGE at the earliest possible time to maintain the momentum of the experts towards fulfilling the mandate to finalize the Draft Protocol. With regard to the possibility of using the OIC Arbitration Centre for settlement of investment disputes, IGGE suggested that this matter should be further studied. The Republic of Türkiye and the OIC Arbitration Centre in collaboration with the General Secretariat was invited by the experts to submit a detailed study on the matter to the next meeting of the IGGE.

(f) Standards and Halal Sector Development

- 55. SMIIC develops OIC/SMIIC standards on behalf of OIC and gives special emphasis to the development of halal related standards as the competent authority of OIC on halal issues. For the last couple of years, SMIIC has gained great momentum on the development of new standards in the OIC and has to date published 56 OIC/SMIIC Standards, where 20 of them are on halal issues.
- 56. The 18th General Assembly (GA) Meeting of SMIIC was held on 1st November 2023, in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kindgom of Saudi Arabia. The 18th General Assembly Meeting of SMIIC approved the report of external financial auditor for SMIIC General Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2022. The Meeting also approved the 2024 SMIIC budget proposal, and the annual mandatory contributions of Member States to the 2024 SMIIC Budget.
- 57. Halal Expo 2023 and the 9th World Halal Summit with the theme "A Gateway to Global Halal Economy: Unveiling the Potentials" will be held on 23rd 26th November 2023 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, in cooperation with SMIIC and ICDT.
- 58. The SMIIC Academy will be launched soon, a prestigious educational project focused on promoting and advancing standards, certification, and accreditation in the halal industry. The SMIIC Academy will offer a range of high-quality training programs, including Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), technical webinars and more.
- 59. In 2023, 20 trainings with a total participant number of 414, have been organized by SMIIC General Secretariat. SMIIC project "*Promotion of OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards use in the Asian and Arab Region*" project has been final listed under the COMCEC Project Funding and completed.
- 60. SMIIC General Secretariat co-organized and successfully conducted a comprehensive two days training program on Introduction to SMIIC, its activities, and OIC SMIIC Halal standards for 66 participants from the Chadian Standardization Agency (ATNOR) staff, and stakeholders on 11th 12th September 2023, in N'djamena, Republic of Chad.
- 61. The 49th Session of the CFM, which was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, on 16th- 17th March, 2023, adopted a Resolution on Granting the Islamic Halal Bodies Accreditation Forum the Status of an OIC Affiliated Institution and called upon the OIC Member States and relevant OIC affiliated bodies to cooperate with this forum to carry out the tasks entrusted to it.
- 62. One of the agreed role of SMIIC Accreditation Council (AC) is to establish accreditation and certification schemes in halal domain based on OIC/SMIIC standards to be implemented by Islamic Forum for Halal Accreditation (IFHAB). Within this spirit, the AC has started technical cooperation with IFHAB for the betterment of its technical documents such as IFHAB Statue, Rules of IFHAB Membership, Code of Ethics for IFHAB Members and Criteria for Signing of Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA), and many other procedural arrangements.

V. TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

63. As it was reported to the 37th Session of COMCEC, the 49th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), commended the celebration of the City of Tourism Award, and encouraged OIC member states to actively participate in the commemorative programmes to be undertaken in their respective countries. All member states were also encouraged to organize annual events on Islamic tourism in order to promote intra-OIC tourist flow.

(a) 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers

64. The Republic of Azerbaijan hosted the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) in Baku on 27th -29th June 2022 under the theme "*The Role of Local Communities in Tourism Development*". The Republic of Uzbekistan has offered to host the 12th ICTM in 2024. The date and other details will be communicated in due course.

(b) 8th Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism

65. The OIC General Secretariat and the Republic of Azerbaijan, in its capacity as Chair of the 11th ICTM, organized the 8th Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 3rd May 2023. The Coordination Committee Meeting reviewed the implementation of the Resolution on Tourism Development among the Member States, approved by the 11th ICTM, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, in June 2022, and adopted a Matrix on the effective implementation of the said Resolution. In line with the decision of the 7th Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism, held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 26th June 2022, the 8th Coordination Committee also reviewed and approved the updates to the current criteria for assessment of the OIC City of Tourism with a view to improving the said document. The Committee agreed to send the said updated Selection Criteria to the 12th ICTM for final approval. The Committee also agreed to hold the 9th Coordination Committee Meeting in the Republic of Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the 12th ICTM.

(c) Tourism Capacity Building Programs

- 66. Within the framework of its Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), the following capacity building training activities, among others, were implemented by SESRIC:
 - Online Training Webinar on the 'Gastronomy Tourism in OIC Countries', on 4th-5th October 2023,:
 - Online Training Webinar on 'Digitalization of Tourism Services in OIC Countries', on 24th-25th May 2023.

(d) OIC Private sector Forum on Tourism

• The Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce of Guyana, through the OIC General Secretariat, organized a virtual "*Introductory Session on Muslim-Friendly Tourism*" on 29th August 2023, to explore the potential of Islamic Tourism in the Republic of Guyana.

• The 11th OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Forum will be held virtually on 7th November 2023.

(e) Tourism research and publication

- 67. SESRIC prepared a report on "International Tourism in the OIC Countries 2022: Prospects and Challenges amid the COVID-19 Pandemic" as a technical background document for the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), which was held on 27th -29th June 2022 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.
- 68. SESRIC is hosting 12 indicators under the Tourism category of the OICStat Database, which are regularly updated.
- 69. SESRIC prepared the 2022 edition of its annual report titled "OIC Economic Outlook", which, in particular, highlights the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the trade, transport, and tourism sectors. In so doing, the report presents a set of policy implications on how to address challenges brought about by the pandemic, and how to achieve recovery in the trade, transport, and tourism sectors in OIC Member Countries.

VI. COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF TRANSPORT

70. The OIC Member States recognize that transport is among the key catalysts of economic development and international competitiveness, in view of its role as a critical logistics and service support sector. The improvement of transport and communications facilities among the OIC member states remains an important area of intra-OIC cooperation. In this regard, this section summarizes the recent developments and planned OIC activities in this important sector.

a) Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers

- 71. With regard to reviving the OIC Ministerial Meeting on Transportation, the first edition of which was held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 7th-10th September, 1987, it is regrettable to state that in January 2022, the Republic of Sudan formally withdrew its offer to host the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers due to the prevailing political in the country. In view of this development, the General Secretariat is presently waiting for a concrete offer to host the conference from any OIC Member State.
- 72. There is a need for OIC Member States to develop a clear and well-defined OIC cooperation framework in the domain of transportation, which will be the basis for developing transport corridors and networks aimed at enhancing physical connectivity and facilitating trade and investment in OIC Member States. In doing so, the rejuvenating the OIC Conference of Transport Ministers could be crucial. It is important to note here that the 48th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers, which was held in Pakistan on 22nd -23rd March, 2022, welcomed the initiative of the Republic of Indonesia to host the future editions of the OIC Conference of Transport Ministers, although she was not specific as to when it will be ready to host one.

b) Second Stakeholders Meeting on the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project

- 73. The General Secretariat has continued to sensitize the concerned Member States on the need to include the respective national segments along the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor in their national development plans and submit their well-designed projects for securing adequate technical support and financing from OIC Member States and its development partners.
- 74. The General Secretariat also organized a Consultative Meeting with the African Group Member States of the OIC in Jeddah on 17th October, 2022, during which the need for the concerned Member States to include this project in their priority national projects was emphasized. The meeting also recommended to organize the 2nd Stakeholders' Meeting on this Project as soon as possible, as well as to hold talks with the African Union (AU) to build synergies in areas of common interest in this Project.
- 75. In a related development, the delegation of the OIC General Secretariat met with the officials of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA) NEPAD on the sidelines of the Second Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, which was held in Dakar, Senegal, on 2nd 3rd February, 2023. During this meeting, it was emphasized that given the striking similarity between the OIC project and the AU's Dakar-Djibouti transport corridor, the possibility of establishing coordination, synergy and alliance between the OIC and AUDA-NEPAD for the implementation of the common aspects of the on-going transportation projects of two organisations could be viable. The meeting also agreed to continue working together and concretizing joint actions with regard to AU Dakar-Djibouti Transport Corridor and OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project, so as to avoid duplication of efforts and wastage of resources. The AUDA-NEPAD also agreed to participate in the 2nd Stakeholders' Meeting on the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project, after receiving a formal invitation, to share more information on their infrastructural projects that have relevance to the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project.
- 76. Against this background, the General Secretariat is presently making necessary arrangements for organizing the 2nd Stakeholders' Meeting on this Project in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, during the first quarter of 2024. This event would enable the participating OIC Member States to present their national segments of the project. It will also bring together the various stakeholders, with the hope that they will articulate their possible contributions towards the project, and highlight how their envisaged partnership will accelerate the execution of this project.
 - c) Publications and Capacity building programmes in the Transportation Sector
- 77. During the year under review, SESRIC completed a study on "Transportation for Development in OIC Member Countries: Implications for Trade and Tourism and Challenges for Landlocked Countries" to examine the current state of the transport sector and potential constraints to connectivity across OIC Member States.

- 78. Within the framework of the 10th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC implemented in 2023 a project titled "Increasing the Utilization of Innovative Financing Tools to Maintain Transport Infrastructure and the Services of TSPs in the OIC Member Countries". The Project activities included:
 - Training Course on "Increasing the Utilization of Innovative Financing Tools to Maintain the Transport Infrastructure and the Services of TSPs" (28th-29th August, 2023) for the benefit 68 participants from relevant national transportation authorities of 23 OIC Member States:
 - Workshop on "Increasing the Utilization of Innovative Financing Tools to Maintain the Transport Infrastructure and the Services of TSPs" (1st-2nd November, 2023, Istanbul, Türkiye), for the benefit of 25 participants from relevant national transportation authorities of 19 OIC Member States; and
 - Field Visit on the "*Implementation of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in Türkiye*" (3rd November, 2023, Istanbul, Türkiye).
- 79. SESRIC also organized a Statistical Training Course on "*Transport Statistics*" on 3rd -4th May, 2023, for the benefit of 38 experts from 16 OIC Member States.

VII. ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- 80. Private sector growth is widely acknowledged to be an essential component in promoting sustainable socio-economic development and providing more economic opportunities in any given society. Recognizing this, the various CFM sessions called on member states to mainstream the role of the Private sector for the advancement of socio-economic development and cooperation within the OIC. Accordingly, this section of the report summarizes the activities of the relevant OIC institutions in this sector.
 - (a) 35th Board of Directors' Meeting of ICCIA
- 81. The 35th Board of Directors Meeting was held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 17th 18th July, 2023.
- 82. During the Meeting, it was agreed to change ICCIA's name to be "The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development" (ICCD) and present the decision to the General Assembly members for approval in Qatar. The Meeting reviewed the significant achievements accomplished by ICCIA's General Secretariat over the last year: ICCIA's attainment of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification, which affirms the commitment to the standards related to quality, environmental management, health and safety. The meeting also approved the launching of the ICCIA's Scholarship Programme, and other planned activities of the ICCIA for the year 2023.

(b) ICCIA projects

83. As part of its ongoing efforts to support and promote sustainable development in OIC Member States, ICCIA has initiated several projects. These projects include: Green Waqf Initiative; Digital Transformation of the Chambers and SMEs; and ICCIA Arts and Crafts Platform.

(c) OIC Arbitration Centre

84. The Board of Directors of the OIC Arbitration Centre (OIC-AC) met on 1s^t April 2023 and decided to add an Executive Committee to the existing structure. Two Executive Committee meetings of OIC-AC was held on 6th May 2023 and 6th July 2023. The meeting deliberated on the registration of the Centre according to internal law of the host country and the appointment of employees. The EC established the Rules Committee with Board members H.E. Ali Al-Zarooni, Fayyad Al Qoda, Mohamed Ridza and Ibrahim Bayar.

(d) OIC Private Sector Forum

- 85. In line with the 49th CFM Resolution, the General Secretariat, in coordination with the host country, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the relevant OIC institutions, will organize an OIC Private Sector Forum in 2024. The main objective of the Private Sector Forum is to strengthen the role of the private sector in OIC Member States as an engine of growth, while capitalizing on the experiences and lessons learned from different parts of the OIC region, and institutionalizing policy dialogue at OIC level on the development of the private sector. The Forum is target to be held after the upcoming holy month of Ramadan in 2024 in Amman and the exact date of the Forum will be confirm in due course.
- 86. Other specific objectives of the Forum are: mainstreaming the role of the private sector in socio-economic development during recovery and post-pandemic era; increasing the share of the Private Sector in GDP and employment; promoting private sector investment; strengthening the role of the private sector in accelerating implementation of national and OIC programmes of economic development through better mobilization of their resources and potential; and enabling networking opportunities between the private sector actors from OIC Member States to support intra-OIC trade and investment.

VIII. POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

87. Alleviation of poverty remains a major challenge to the developmental efforts of OIC member states. To this end, the various OIC poverty alleviation initiatives are aimed at creating jobs by fostering skills, competitiveness and entrepreneurship. Accordingly, this segment highlights the latest developments with regard to OIC poverty alleviation programmes and activities.

(a) Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD)

- 88. The 38th Session of COMCEC reiterated its earlier call on OIC Member States to redeem their respective pledges to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and make fresh contributions to finance more poverty alleviation projects. It also requested the ISFD to enhance its endeavors for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources and to report back about the progress.
- 89. By the end of 2022, the ISFD capital contribution reached US\$2.6 billion, committed by 48 OIC Member States (US\$1.6 billion) and the IsDB (US\$1 billion). This represents 26 % of the targeted capital of the Fund of US\$ 10 billion. The largest commitments were made by Saudi Arabia (US\$ 1 billion) and Kuwait (US\$ 300 million). The total amount of paid contributions stood at US\$2.532 billion, of which US\$1 billion was paid by the IsDB and US\$1.532 billion by Member States.
- 90. As the ISFD's capital is an endowment (Waqf), operations, which are for the essential grants and concessional loans, are funded from the retained income. Since its inception in 2007, the ISFD has cumulatively approved around US\$1.3 billion of concessional loans, grants, and investments to finance projects and programmes for poverty alleviation in OIC Member States. The cumulative grants have reached US\$134 million, while the loans US\$1.10 billion and the investments US\$81 million. In total, 51 OIC Member States benefited from the ISFD financing.
- 91. The main sectors of the ISFD financing have been (i) Agriculture (25%); ii) Health (20%); (iii) Education (18%); (iv) Energy (12%); (v) Economic Empowerment and Microfinance (11%); and (vi) Community Development (5%). The OIC LDCs have been the main beneficiaries, receiving more than 74% of the Fund's financing.
- 92. The ISFD is in need of funds to expand its activities towards alleviating poverty and improving social services and infrastructure. Accordingly, the General Secretariat continues to sensitize the Member States to pay-up their subscribed contributions to the Fund and announce additional pledges to meet the target of US\$10 billion set for the Fund by the OIC Leaders in 2005.

(b) Special Programme for the Development of Africa

- 93. The SPDA was launched in 2008 and aimed at advancing pro-poor socio-economic activities. The sectoral priorities under the SPDA are geared towards promoting economic growth and regional integration. The SPDA focuses on (i) agriculture and food security; (ii) water and sanitation; (iii) power generation and distribution; (iv) transport infrastructure; (v) education; and (vi) eliminating major communicable diseases.
- 94. In November 2012, when the approval phase of SPDA was completed, the level of funding commitments to the Programme by IsDB Group reached US\$5 billion. A total of 480 projects had been approved for financing under the SPDA in 22 OIC African member states.

- 95. Since then, the focus has been on deepening the implementation of approved projects to ensure that the expected outcomes are achieved. In this regard, it is noteworthy that the following projects were completed successfully, while other are still under implementation phase:
 - i. Roseires Dam in Sudan (US\$53.33 million.);
 - ii. Basic Urban Infrastructure for Social Housing Project in Bamako, Mali (US\$6.7 million);
 - iii. Social Housing Project in Bamako, Mali (US\$5.7 million); Linguere-Matam Road, Senegal (US\$12.12 million);
 - iv. Construction of the Dapaong-Ponio-Border Road, Burkina Faso (US\$7 million);
 - v. Construction of Koudougou Dedougou Road Project, Burkina Faso (US\$ 10 million);
 - vi. Construction of Bassar- Katchamba Road Project, Togo (US\$7.5 million); and
 - vii. Post-Conflict Reconstruction Programme for the Centre-North-West in Cote d'Ivoire (US\$20 million), among others.
- 96. The implementation of SPDA is getting close to its end and an analysis of projects completed will be undertaken in due course in order to assess achievements under SPDA. As of October 2022, 55.4% of the approved projects were completed, while 35.5% of the approved projects were still in implementation stage. In addition, 9.2% of the total approved projects were cancelled due to challenges relating to project readiness and institutional capacity of some OIC Member States.
- 97. In view of the foregoing, the Consultative Meeting with African Group Member States of the OIC which was held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 17th October, 2022, requested the IsDB to prepare a Project Assessment Report on the implementation of the SPDA and submit it to the concerned Member States for consideration with a view to elaborating a successor programme.
 - (c) Seminar on the theme: "Akhuwat's Business Model for Microfinance Interventions in the OIC Member States"
- 98. In line with the relevant resolution of the 48th Session of the CFM, which was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 22nd-23rd March, 2022, the General Secretariat, in coordination with the Islamic Development Bank, organized a seminar on the theme: *Akhuwat's Business Model for Microfinance Interventions in the OIC Member States*, in Jeddah, Saudia Arabia, on 9th March 2023. During the seminar, leaders of the Pakistan-based Akhuwat Foundation shared their experiences towards alleviating poverty through empowering socially and economically marginalized segments of the society. The seminar also featured presentation on the various components of the IsDB's initiative code named "*Economic Empowerment Approach for Poverty Alleviation in OIC Member States*." The IsDB initiative is aimed at providing economic opportunities to the poor through providing financial and non-financial solutions that help them to get appropriate access to the required inputs to achieve not only financial inclusion, but also to enable them to contribute to the economy (economic inclusion).

- 99. At the end of its proceedings, the Seminar formulated conclusions and recommendations related to measures to develop human resources and strengthen institutions concerned with interest-free microfinance programmes. Some of these recommendations were as follows:
 - a) The organization of the joint OIC-IsDB seminar was a kick-start initiative to promote the "Akhuwat" Business Model and such exercises should be continued as yearly events to include other proven and tested microfinance models of the OIC Member States;
 - b) The Akhuwat Foundation is ready to share its knowledge and experiences, including support in establishment of interest-free microfinance model and training of staff, with interested OIC Member States; and

Eliminating poverty in OIC Member States, especially in the least developed ones, cannot easily happen without financial inclusion of the poor people in these countries, the majority of whom live in rural areas. Interest-free microfinance models, such as Akhuwat's model, should be popularized in interested OIC Member States. Sufficient grants should be sourced to establish such models, among others.

(d) Publication and Training courses

- 100. Within its mandate, SESRIC has continued to prepare studies and organize training programmes in the area of poverty alleviation for the benefit of OIC member states.
- 101. During the period under review, SESRIC prepared reports on "People with Disabilities and Special Needs in OIC Countries", "State of Elderly in OIC Member Countries" and "Safeguarding Family Values and the Institution of Marriage in OIC Countries" and presented them to 2nd OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development held in Cairo, Egypt, in June 2023. SESRIC also prepared its regular report titled "OIC Health Report 2023", which evaluates the performance of OIC member states by analyzing the latest trends in major health indicators at the OIC group level as well as at the individual country level.
- 102. SESRIC also organized the following activities for the benefit of the relevant national institutions in the OIC Member States:
 - Two Statistical Training Courses on "*SDG 1 (No Poverty) Indicators*" on 17th-18th January 2023, and 21st-22nd February 2023;
 - Online Training Workshop on "Developing Effective, Reliable, and Affordable Social Protection Services for Vulnerable Groups" on 2nd-4th May 2023;
 - Statistical Training Course on "Social Protection Statistics" on 9th-10th August, 2023;
 - Statistical Training Course on "*Social Protection and SDGs Indicators*" on 16th-17th August, 2023; and
 - Online Training Course on "*Developing Regional Poverty Reduction Policies and Strategies*" on 22nd-23rd November, 2023, among others.

IX. CONCLUSION

- 103. The COVID-19 pandemic increased the vulnerabilities of OIC countries, especially its Least Developed Countries in areas that are key to their socio-economic development. A transformative recovery policy aimed at building the long-term resilience of OIC countries is critical. In this regard, the OIC countries should exert more efforts to create an enabling environment to promote production and trade and to attract more foreign investments.
- 104. In view of the rising global food prices, which are increasing food insecurity in many OIC countries, there is a critical need for OIC Member States to develop a strategy aimed at addressing the root causes of food insecurity in OIC countries as well as increasing their productive capacities. There is also a need for the Member States to effectively implement the Resolutions adopted at the 9th MCFSAD and actively participate as well as increase their involvement in various OIC programmes in this crucial sector and submit their reports regularly to General Secretariat.
- 105. Further efforts are necessary to coordinate policies and initiatives for the promotion of employment and decent work. To this end, the upcoming 5th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers as well as launching the OIC Labour Centre during this year, will give further boost to the activities and initiatives of the OIC towards addressing unemployment in OIC Member States.
- 106. Furthermore, the continuation and expansion of OIC trade and investments related activities remains an effective tool for increasing intra-OIC trade and investment as well as facilitating the integration of OIC member states in the global economy. In the same vein, development assistance by well-endowed OIC member states to needy OIC member states contributes to their economic growth, thus becoming an important component of intra-OIC cooperation and solidarity during post pandemic era. In this regard, the convening of the OIC Investment Forum in Africa will highlight the investment potential of Africa and will attract investments to the region. It is also hoped that the OIC Private Sector Forum will highlight and draw the attention of Member States, once again, to the central role the private sector can and should play in the socio-economic transformation of Member States.
- 107. In order for the Member States to harness and benefit from the enormous socio-economic potential available in the Group, greater cooperation, harmonization and synergizing of efforts, plan and strategies is required more than ever before. A quick scan of the global forces shaping the geo-political and political economy of the world today, can only lead to one inevitable conclusion of the urgent need for greater cooperation and coordination among Member States in all sectors.

OIC General Secretariat Department of Economic Affairs, 26th October 2023

Annexure-I

<u>LIST OF MEMBER STATES</u> <u>WHO SIGNED/RATIFIED THE DIFFERENT AGREEMENTS AND STATUTES ON</u> ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES

	General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation		mic, Technical and ercial Cooperation Protection and Guarantee of Investments		Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System		Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS)		TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM (TPS)-OIC Rules of Origin		Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council		Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union		Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC)		Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)		Statute of OIC Labour Centre (OICLC)	
NAMES OF 1/8 MEMBER of the 8 STATES Tripoli		pted as per Resolution. No 1/8-E of the 8th ICFM Tripoli/Libya 16-22/05/1977		To Adopted as per Resolution No 7/12-E of the 12 th ICFM Baghdad/Iraq 1-5/06/1981		Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 6th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 7-10/10/1990		Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 21st COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 22-25/11/2005		Adopted as per Resolution No. I of the 23 rd COMCEC Istanbul, Turkey 14-17/11/2007		Adopted as per Resolution No 16/13-E of the 13 th ICFM Niamey/Niger 22-26/08/1982		Adopted as per Resolution No 17/15-E of the 15 th ICFM Sana'a/Yemen 18-22/12/1984		Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 14th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 1-4/11/1998		Adopted as per Resolution No.3/40-E of the 40 th CFM Conakry/Guinea 9-11/12/2013		ed as per to 2/43-E of the of CFM Uzbeikistan 10/2016
	(1)		(2)		- 1	(3)	(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify
Afghanistan	8/10/2010	4/2/2018-	8/10/2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/2/2018	-	-	-	-	7/11/2012	10/12/2013	20/7/2016		
Albania	-		16/11/1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Algeria	20/05/1980	19/03/2007	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01/12/2007	-	23/10/2007	-	-		
Azerbaijan	20/06/2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/06/2006	-	20/06/2006	16/12/2016	-	-	23/11/2017	01/10/2018
Bahrain	21/05/1980	30/08/1980	-	-	25/11/2005	01/06/09	-	29/06/2009	12/09/2013	05/06/2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30/03/2021	30/03/2021
Bangladesh	05/12/1977	18/04/1978	04/11/1997	-	04/11/1997	17/01/04	24/11/2006	02/11/2009	15/02/2011	23/06/2011	10/09/1983	05/12/2001	-	16/04/1988	-	01/01/2021	28/4/2016	4/7/2017		
Benin	13/8/2012	-	13/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	22/11/2013	11/02/2015	-	27/06/2019	
Brunei Darussalam	20/5/2015	2/11/2017-	-	-	20/5/015	2/11/2917-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Burkina Faso	23/12/1985	_	_	19/05/1992	14/9/1993	_	10/6/2009	_	10/6/2009	-	21/10/2001	_	_	_	21/10/2001	15/04/2013	10/12/2013	26/1//2016		
Cameroon	23/01/1978	11/07/1983	25/10/1994	26/09/1995	24/10/1994	26/09/1995	24/11/2006	20/4/2015	17/11/2007	-	-	-	-	_	-	07/07/2000	28/4/2016	-		
Comoros	28/04/1978	16/01/1981	30/06/2012	-	7/10/2010	-	7/10/2010	_	7/10/2010	-	30/06/2012	-	30/06/2012	-	30/06/2012	-	10/12/2013	_		
Cote d'Ivoire	07/11/2009	-	07/11/2009	-	07/11/2009	-	17/9/2012	-	17/9/2012	-	-	-	12/4/2016	-	12/4/2016	25/11/2017	12/4/2016	-		
Djibouti	21/04/1979	-	25/08/1982	-	25/01/2012	2/12/2012	25/01/2012	-	25/01/2012	-	18/05/2010	-	18/05/2010	02/12/2012	18/05/2010	16/12/2016	10/12/2013	-		
Egypt	08/11/1977	06/06/1978	-	16/12/1978	15/11/1996	31/12/1999	24/11/2005	-	-	-	-	-	11/06/1987	07/05/1988	-	7/11/2012	26/2/2016	2018		
Gabon	23/01/1978	21/01/1908	-	21/01/2008	-	21/01/2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/04/2012	5/5/2012	-	-		
Gambia	21/05/1980	11/08/2009	04/09/1993	11/08/2009	05/09/1993	11/08/2009		31/1/2013		31/1/2013	08/11/1995	29/10/2012	08/11/1995	27/4/2011	24/11/2006	30/08/2012	10/12/2013	27/11/2016		
Guinea	26/12/1977	10/02/1981	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	17/11/2007	-	12/09/2007	1	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	-	2/08/2012	10/12/2013	-		
Guinea-Bissau	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	10/12/2013	-		
Guyana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Indonesia	30/04/1979	08/01/1980	01/05/1983	03/12/1983	04/02/1992	14/07/2011	6/09/2011	-	6/09/2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	05/11/2019	-	-		
Iran	08/11/1995	07/11/1995	08/11/1995	15/09/1994	08/11/1995	12/05/1993	27/04/2009	22/12/2010	-	11/11/2012	08/11/1995	-	04/09/1993	06/10/1993	-	5/5/2012	10/12/2013	-		
Iraq	02/07/1978	1978	-	9/7/2015	24/10/2001	15/12/2011	-	-	-		-	27/10/2002	21/11/2001	09/02/2014		9/2/2016	-	-		
Jordan	29/12/1977	10/05/1979	04/11/1998	25/02/1999	01/02/1993	21/12/1998	24/11/2005	13/02/2007	12/09/2007	9/10/2007	26/10/1994	-	12/03/1988	08/04/1989	24/11/2005	13/02/2007	-	-		
Kazakhstan	25/11/2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/11/2018	10/12/2013	21/11/2014		
Kuwait	05/12/1977	10/05/1980	18/11/1981	12/04/1983	26/11/2004	17/04/2013	20/10/2011	29/12/2014	20/10/2011	29/12/2014	-		-	-		05/11/2019	15/05/2016	15/5/2016		

	General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation		nd Protection and Guarantee		,		Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS)		TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM (TPS)-OIC Rules of Origin		Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council		Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union		Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC)		Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)		Statute of OIC Labour Centre		
NAMESOE	Adopted as per Resolution. No 1/8-E MEMBER STATES Adopted as per Resolution. No 1/8-E of the 8th ICFM Tripoli/Libya 16-22/ab/5/1977		1/8-E No 7/12-E of the 12 th of the 8 th ICFM ICFM		Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 6th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey		Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 21st COMCEC		Adopted as per Resolution No. I of the 23 rd COMCEC		No 16/13-E of the 13 th		Adopted as per Resolution No 17/15-E of the 15th ICFM		Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 14th COMCEC		Adopted as per Resolution No.3/40-E of the 40 th		Adopted as per Resolution No.2/43-E of the 43rd of CFM		
						uv Turkey 10/1990			of the 23" COMCEC Istanbul, Turkey		ICFM Niamey/Niger		Sana'a/Yemen 18-22/12/1984		Istanbul/Turkey 1-4/11/1998		CFM Conakry/Guinea		43ra of CFM Taskkent/Uzbeikistan		
					/-10/10/1770		22-25/11/2005		14-17/11/2007		22-26/08/1982		10-22/12/1704		1-4/11/1770		9-11/12/2013		Tusanera/Oquemsaan		
	(1)		(2)			(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
	Sign	Sign Ratify		Sign Ratify		Sign Ratify		Ratify	Sign Ratify		Sign Ratify		Sign Ratify		Sign Ratify		Sign Ratify		Sign Retify		
Kyrgyz Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	3/5/2015	-	-			
Lebanon	15/11/1996	26/11/2003	15/11/1996	06/03/2005	15/11/1996	11/7/2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18/11/2008	-	7/11/2012	-	-			
Libya	05/12/1977	15/04/1978	25/10/1994	13/02/1996	05/02/1992	02/11/1992	-			-			-	04/01/1989	-	15/12/2008	15/04/2014	08/03/2021	23/03/2022		
Malaysia	18/05/1978	14/01/1981	30/09/1987		30/06/2004	23/08/2004	27/03/2006	20/05/2006	17/11/2007	14/10/2008					-	19/11/2014	ı	-			
Maldives	17/12/1977	-	-	-	-	11/04/2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-			
Mali	27/04/1978	08/08/1981	-	24/05/1982	-	-	-	-	-		20/10/2011	-	-	-	-	03/05/2005	10/12/2013	16/042020			
Mauritania	08/11/1977	09/05/1979	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	20/7/2016-	6/11/2012	-	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	29/10/2014	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	10/12/2013	-	02/03/2019		
Mazambique	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28/4/2016	-			
Morocco	23/01/1978	16/04/1979	02/11/1981	07/05/1990	29/09/1993	25/7/2006	24/10/2008	07/03/2013	24/10/2008	07/03/2013	26/10/2000	25/07/2006	30/12/1985	-	-	31/07/2006	25/2/2021	-	22/01/2023		
Niger	18/05/1978	07/08/1978	10/09/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	08/12/1984	-	-	10/9/2010	-	10/9/2010	10/12/2013	12/12/2015			
Nigeria	04/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	-	09/11/2009	-	09/11/2009	-	4/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	-	09/11/2009	-	29/08/2019	-			
Oman	15/04/1980	28/04/1981	25/10/1994	10/12/1994	06/05/2007	08/07/2007	24/10/2008	20/01/2009	24/10/2008	20/01/2009	-	-	-	-	-	-		-			
Pakistan	14/01/1978	1978	20/12/1981	10/07/1982	25/10/1994	11/10/1993	17/02/2007	20/11/2007	03/09/2008	13/04/2012	-	1989	-	30/04/1986	16/7/2010	16/7/2010	15/04/2019	13/07/2020			
Palestine	28/04/1978	18/03/1980	15/03/1982	15/03/1982	10/09/1992	12/07/2011	27/12/2010	20/12/2011	27/12/2010	20/12/2011	22/05/1983	16/04/2013	03/01/1987	11/11/1986	07/11/1999	19/8/2014	10/12/2013	8/3/2016			
Qatar	24/9/1978	09/09/1980	26/10/2000	05/11/2002	26/11/2004	11/03/2007	23/10/2008	27/10/2009	07/11/2009	02/09/2009	21/10/2001	05/11/2002	•		-	25/11/2017	28/4/2016	26/12/201 7			
Saudi Arabia	14/01/1978	27/06/1979	23/06/1985	17/09/1984	10/09/1992	01/01/2007	02/06/2008	08/06/2009	09/11/2009	11/08/2010	-	11/04/2004	-	-	-	15/04/2013	15/03/2016	30/09/2018	11/11/2018		
Senegal	25/12/1977	28/02/1979	17/06/1987	30/06/1994	09/09/1991	30/06/1994	-	-	-	-	17/06/1987	04/02/1989	17/06/1987	04/02/1989	17/11/2007	5/5/2012	11/7/2017	-			
Serra Leone	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	09/11/2009	-	09/11/2009	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	10/12/2013	-			
Somalia	24/12/1978	-	19/12/1983	25/11/1984	08/11/2009	13/05/2010	08/11/2009	13/5/2010	08/11/2009	13/5/2010	09/11/2009	13/05/2010	09/11/2009	13/05/2010	08/11/2009	13/05/2010	10/12/2013	-			
Sudan	14/01/1978	-	20/12/1981	30/05/2002	13/05/1992	-	18/03/2013	-	18/03/2013	-	04/09/1993	26/08/2006	04/09/1993	26/8/2006	26/10/2000	28/01/2003	10/12/2013	-	02/03/2019		
Suriname	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	22/11/2013	10/12/2013	-			
Syria	04/06/1978	15/07/1980	21/10/2001	04/01/2010	26/11/2004	27/11/2005	23/05/2006	30/07/2008	24/10/2008	15/04/2010	-	02/04/2002	-	-	07/11/1999	-	-	-			
Tajikistan	04/11/1997	-	04/11/1997	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28/4/2016	-			
Tchad	27/04/1978	-	-	-	14/01/1992	-	-	-	-		06/02/2013	-	-	-	-	01/01/2021	27/07/2022	-			
Togo	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29/42021		
Tunisia	27/01/1979	13/04/1980	10/06/1982	11/11/1983	21/01/1993	31/07/2000	25/11/2005	-	12/09/2007	-	06/01/1983	11/11/1983	08/11/1995	14/02/2000	18/09/2001	27/03/2006	14/3/2021	-			
Turkey	29/12/1977	02/07/1982	16/07/1987	09/02/1991	23/09/1991	28/11/1991	24/11/2005	02/05/2008	12/09/2007	02/11/2009	-	-	-	-	07/11/1999	15/07/2010	10/12/2013	22/10/2019	11/7/2017		
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	-			
U. A. E.	29/12/1977	1979	12/02/1989	14/01/1989	26/11/2004	15/08/2005	24/11/2006	12/10/2008	12/09/2007	12/10/2008	30/05/1989	21/03/1989	30/05/1989	21/03/1989	24/11/2006	05/04/2009	12/01/2015	25/10/2017			
Uganda	08/08/1978	14/11/2001	26/11/1987	10/02/1987	05/09/1993	14/11/2001	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22/11/2013	10/12/2013	-			
Uzbekistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	4/11/2018	-	-			
Yemen	29/12/1977	•	12/06/1982	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	25/10/1994	26/3/2008	25/10/1994	01/01/2021	14/11/2006	-	-	•	40		
TOTAL:	49	32	38	29	40	31	31	18	30	18	25	17	24	19	23	39	37	16	10	2	

10th April , 2023