

Original: English



**ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA**

**40<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC**

**(22-23 May 2024)**

**COMCEC Coordination Office**

**May 2024**

[www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org)

For further information:  
COMCEC Coordination  
Office Necatibey Cad. No:  
110/A 06570 Yüce-tepe  
Ankara - TÜRKİYE

Tel. : 90 312 - 294 57 10

Fax : 90 312 - 294 57 77

Web : [www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org)

E-mail : [comcec@comcec.org](mailto:comcec@comcec.org)

Original: English



**DRAFT AGENDA  
40<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC  
(22-23 May 2024, Ankara)**

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation
3. The Implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action
4. Intra-OIC Trade
5. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
6. Deepening Financial Cooperation
7. Improving Transport and Communications
8. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
9. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
10. Alleviating Poverty
11. Cooperation on Digital Transformation
12. Preparations for the Exchange of Views on “Digital Transformation of Payment Systems in OIC Member Countries”
13. Draft Agenda of 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Report

-----

## **INTRODUCTION**

This document provides background information about the current status of the COMCEC's cooperation areas, programs, and projects for its 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee, to be held on 22-23 May 2024 in Ankara.

The document provides background information and the required actions on the Draft Agenda Items from 2 to 13. As the remaining Agenda Items are self-explanatory, they are not included in the Document.

The reports and studies to be submitted under each agenda item will be available on the COMCEC's website ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org)).

## ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA ITEMS

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### **Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation**

COMCEC continues its efforts in light of the COMCEC Strategy. The Working Groups (WG), as part of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, provide a regular platform for the Member Country experts for discussing the policies and practices in each cooperation area to create a common understanding and approximate policies among the Member Countries. The COMCEC Project Funding, another important implementation instrument of the COMCEC Strategy, enables Member Countries registered with the Working Groups, as well as the relevant OIC Institutions, to submit concrete cooperation projects for the realization of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

Within this framework, the Working Groups will conduct their 22<sup>nd</sup> round of meetings (21<sup>st</sup> Meeting for the Financial Cooperation) in May 2024 and elaborate on important themes in each cooperation area. The details about the developments in each Working Group are given under the relevant agenda item. Within the scope of the COMCEC Project Funding, 15 projects were completed in 2023. Moreover, 25 projects will be implemented by the Member Countries and the relevant OIC Institutions this year.

Furthermore, regarding the COMCEC Al-Quds Program, five projects were implemented in the 2023. In addition, the program's scope was enriched in 2023 with additional thematic areas, including tourism entrepreneurship, creating job opportunities and empowerment of youth, e-commerce, and SME development. Moreover, eight projects will be implemented under the Program this year. All the details regarding the COMCEC Support Programs are available on the COMCEC website ([programs.comcec.org](http://programs.comcec.org)).

Moreover, cooperation efforts carried out by the relevant OIC Institutions bear great importance for realizing the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy and the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations. In line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, the OIC Institutions organize activities aligned with the objectives and expected outputs of the COMCEC Strategy, as well as the policy recommendations adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions.

In this framework, the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC welcomed the Progress Report on the Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), which highlighted the progress achieved in implementing the Strategy and commended the Member Countries and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions.

The 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC also welcomed the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas and the research studies conducted by the CCO for enriching the discussions in the COMCEC Working Group Meetings. 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 Session 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 and 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.

***Required Action(s):*** The COMCEC Coordination Office will present a report to the Follow-up Committee on the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

The Committee will consider the report for necessary action.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3**

#### **The Implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action**

The OIC Programme of Action for the period of 2016-2025 (OIC-2025: Programme of Action) was adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit held in İstanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 14-15 April 2016.

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 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC requested the OIC General Secretariat to regularly submit comprehensive progress reports on the implementation of the Programme to the COMCEC Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings.

*Required Action(s):* The OIC General Secretariat is expected to submit a comprehensive progress report to the Follow-up Committee on the implementation of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action. The Committee will consider the General Secretariat's report on the subject for necessary action.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4**

#### **Intra-OIC Trade**

Expansion of intra-OIC trade is one of the most important strategic objectives of the COMCEC in the trade domain. In this regard, trade occupies an important place in the COMCEC agenda.

In accordance with the relevant resolution of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Trade Working Group (TWG) will be held with the theme of "Improving Quality Infrastructure in the OIC Member Countries" on 6 May 2024.

Regarding the projects supported under the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding, Bangladesh, Iran, Suriname, Türkiye, and SMIIC implemented five projects in total in the trade cooperation area in 2023, and 16 Member Countries benefited from the projects. Moreover, five projects will be implemented by Bangladesh, Indonesia, Surinam, Türkiye, and Uganda in the trade cooperation area this year.

*Required Action(s):* The CCO will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Trade Working Group and the projects being implemented in 2024 under the COMCEC Project Funding.

There are also some important programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC in the field of trade. Some of the ongoing programs and activities are; TPS-OIC, Islamic Trade Fairs, WTO-Related Technical Assistance, Trade Financing Activities, and Trade Related Activities of SMIIC.

#### **- TPS-OIC**

TPS-OIC (Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member Countries) is the most important project of the COMCEC in the trade area. The System is based on three agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS), and the Rules of Origin. The legal basis of the TPS-OIC was completed in 2011. The System has become fully operational as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Within this framework, welcoming the effectuation of the System, the 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session 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.

Meanwhile, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) submitted its most updated concession lists along specimen impressions of stamps and signatures used in their designated authorities to the TNC Secretariat on behalf of its six member countries namely; Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman.

The Session also expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Türkiye for volunteering to host the Third Round of TNC at ministerial level in an open-ended format in 2024 and requested all Member Countries to actively participate in this important event. In line with relevant resolution, a Ministerial Meeting for the third round of TNC will be held on 10-11 June 2024 in İstanbul.

Required Action(s): As the co-secretariat of the TNC, the CCO will brief the Committee on the recent developments regarding the TPS-OIC. The Committee will consider the recent developments and take appropriate action if necessary.

**- Islamic Trade Fairs**

Islamic trade fairs are held every two years in one of the OIC Member Countries by ICDT in order to promote intra-OIC trade. In addition to the Islamic Trade Fairs, sector-specific exhibitions are also organized by the ICDT in the Member Countries.

The 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session expressed its appreciation to Pakistan for hosting the 18<sup>th</sup> OIC Trade Fair of the OIC Member Countries to be held in the first semester of 2024 in Lahore, Pakistan, in cooperation with ICDT.

The Session appreciated the organization of workshops, webinars, trainings, and Forums by ICDT and partner countries' institutions in the domain of trade and requested the Member Countries to keep on providing the ICDT with data relating to trade and investment statistics and regulations.

Required Action(s): The ICDT is expected to report the recent developments on the Islamic Trade Fairs and sector-specific exhibitions.

**- WTO Related Technical Assistance**

COMCEC encourages its members to join the WTO in order to benefit from the international trade system on an equitable and fair basis. For this purpose, the IsDB Group and ICDT organize training courses, seminars, and workshops on WTO-related issues for the benefit of the Member Countries.

The 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC called upon the IsDB and ICDT to keep on extending their technical assistance to the Member Countries in the context of the multilateral trade negotiations and coordinate the position of the Member Countries.

The 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC also reiterated its request to 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 of local negotiators, market access strategies of the national SMEs through reverse linkage program with other Member Countries and 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.

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

## - **Trade Financing Activities**

Accessing to affordable trade financing is one of the crucial factors for business people to engage in international trade. Trade financing activities are mainly carried out within the IsDB Group's trade financing organ, the Islamic Trade Financing Corporation (ITFC). Moreover, the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) has been providing export credit insurance to mitigate the risks of trade.

The 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC appreciated the trade finance and trade development activities of ITFC and the mobilization of funds from the development partners for funding trade operations in the Member Countries, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 25 percent by the year 2025.

Moreover, the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC requested the ICIEC, in collaboration with the SESRIC, ICDT, and ICCIA to continue their efforts to complete the technical preparations for launching the OIC Business Intelligence Programme and submit a Progress Report to the 40<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Committee Meeting and the 40<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session.

*Required Action(s):* The IsDB Group is expected to report its activities on trade financing and export credit risk insurance. The IsDB Group (ICIEC) is also expected to inform the Committee on the latest developments with regard to the OIC Business Intelligence Program.

## - **Trade-Related Activities of SMIIC**

SMIIC, as the affiliated institution of the OIC, aims to enhance trade among the Member Countries by realizing harmonized standards and eliminating technical barriers among them.

The 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session commended the efforts of SMIIC in the areas of standardization, metrology and accreditation as well as quality infrastructure and their impact on trade facilitation and capacity building and 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. The Session also called upon the Member Countries using OIC/SMIIC Standards to officially adopt the standards according to SMIIC adoption guidelines.

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

## **AGENDA ITEM 5**

### **Enhancing the Role of the Private Sector in Economic Cooperation**

#### - **Private Sector Meetings**

The Private Sector Meetings, organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD) serve as a platform for the private sector of the OIC Member Countries to communicate with each other, and explore the opportunities for trade and investments. Apart from private sector meetings, the ICCD also organizes various sector-specific Forums in the areas of Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Tourism, Islamic Economy, Investment, Digital Economy, and Entrepreneurship to support the sustainable development of the OIC private sector for the resilient economic growth of the member countries.



The 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session also welcomed the continuous efforts of ICCD towards initiating a wide range of workshops for the Member Chambers with a view to enhance the capacity and quality of their institutions through ICCD Academy and invited the OIC Member Countries to encourage their public and private sector organizations to take part in ICCD's sector specific forums and events organized for the development of the private sector in OIC Member Countries.

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

- **OIC Arbitration Centre**

The OIC Arbitration Centre has been operating in İstanbul/Türkiye. The 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC called upon the Member Countries to encourage their relevant institutions to actively participate in the activities of the OIC Arbitration Centre with a view to making use of services provided by the Centre.

Required Action(s): The ICCD and OIC Arbitration Centre are expected to brief the Committee on recent developments. The Committee will consider the issue and take the necessary action accordingly.

- **Financing Private Sector Development**

Islamic Corporation for the Development of Private Sector (ICD), a member of the IsDB Group, works towards the development of the private sector in the Member Countries and provides financing to private sector projects for this purpose.

Taking into consideration the crucial role of private sector financing in mobilizing private investments and ensuring sustainable economic growth of the Member Countries, the 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session commended ICD for its efforts in promoting private sector development and aiding the economic progress of OIC Member Countries by offering financial support and advisory services to the private sector and invited the Member Countries to further utilize the facilities of the ICD through concrete projects aimed at creating competition, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities.

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

Taking into consideration the vital role of Small, and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) for countries' economies in terms of production, investment, employment, and growth and recalling the relevant resolution of the 38<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session and the decision of the 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Follow-Up Meeting on developing a well-designed SME Program, the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC commended the efforts exerted by the interested Member Countries and the relevant OIC Institutions through conducting the research including Surveys and technical meetings towards designing COMCEC SME Program.

The Session took note with appreciation the recommendations of the High-Level Meeting on COMCEC SME Program was hosted by KOSGEB of the Republic of Türkiye on December 3, 2023 in İstanbul on the sidelines of the 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session, invited interested Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions to actively participate in the activities to be conducted under the Program.

Required Action(s): The CCO is expected to brief the Committee on the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC SME Program.

## AGENDA ITEM 6

### Deepening Financial Cooperation

The deepening and widening of financial cooperation provide numerous advantages to individuals, businesses, and nations, such as the distribution of risk, enhanced access to capital and markets, cost-effectiveness, knowledge exchange, promotion of economic growth, stability, efficient resource allocation, utilization of strengths, and fostering innovation.

In accordance with the relevant resolution of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the 21<sup>st</sup> Financial Cooperation Working Group (FCWG) will be held on 30 April 2024 with the theme of “Digital Transformation of Payment Systems in OIC Member Countries”.

With in the scope of the COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC implemented the project titled "Improving the Role of Islamic Finance in Supporting Microenterprises and SMEs in Post-Pandemic Period" for the benefit of 40 Member Countries in 2023. Moreover, Nigeria will implmenet a project in the financial cooperation area this year.

*Required Action(s):* The CCO will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group and the project being implemented in 2024 under the COMCEC Project Funding.

Furthermore, other ongoing activities in the area of Financial Cooperation have been carried out under the OIC Exchanges Forum, COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum, and OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum.

#### - OIC Exchanges Forum

As a special platform and communication channel for the member countries, the OIC Exchanges Forum aims to deepen and widen cooperation among the relevant authorities of the member countries. The Forum has conducted seventeen meetings so far and developed some important projects, including the OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah International Investment Fund and the OIC Gold Exchange Project.

Detailed information about the efforts of the Forum is available on its website (<http://www.oicexchanges.org/>).

The 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session welcomed the offer of Borsa İstanbul, as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, to host the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum in 2024, and invited the Member Countries to actively participate in the activities organized under this Forum.

The 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session called upon the Member Countries to support the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah International Fund, which includes shares from the OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index, developed under the coordination of the OIC Exchanges Forum, to the investors and the finance community in their respective countries. Moreover, the 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session requested the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum to complete technical preparations for the OIC Gold Exchange Project, based on the block-chain model, in cooperation with Central Banks of the interested Member Countries

*Required Action(s):* As the Secretariat of the Forum, Borsa Istanbul is expected to inform the Committee of the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum as well as the OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah International Investment Fund, and to report the progress towards the realization of the above-mentioned Gold Exchange Project. The Committee will discuss the issue and take necessary action.

## **- COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum**

As a regular platform exerting efforts towards increasing coordination and cooperation in the fields of regulatory and legal infrastructure among the Member Countries, the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum conducted twelve meetings till now. Detailed information about the efforts of the Forum is available on the Forum's website (<http://www.comceccmr.org/>).

The 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session welcomed the offer of the Capital Markets Board (CMB) of the Republic of Türkiye, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum in 2024 and requested all the Member Countries to actively participate in this Meeting.

Furthermore, the 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, 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 and invited the Member Countries, which have not done so yet, to identify their authorized bodies as well as notify them to the Forum's Secretariat for enhancing coordination.

*Required Action(s):* As the Secretariat of the Forum, the Capital Markets Board of Türkiye is expected to brief the Committee on recent developments regarding the endeavours of the Forum. The Committee will discuss the issue and take necessary action.

## **- OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum**

The OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum has been providing a regular platform to discuss monetary, banking, and financial issues, along with the efforts aimed at deepening the cooperation and coordination among Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries. Detailed information about the efforts of the Forum is available on the Forum's website (<http://comceccentralbanks.org/>).

The 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session welcomes the offer of the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye as the Secretariat of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum, to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum in 2024, and requested the Member Countries to actively participate in this Meeting.

Furthermore, commending the training and capacity-building programs, particularly on Islamic banking and finance, financial stability, and monetary policy, organized by SESRIC for the benefit of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States, the Committee requested SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the benefit of the relevant national institutions of the Member States within the framework of the Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB).

*Required Action(s):* As the Secretariat of the Forum, the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye is expected to inform the Committee about the activities of the Forum.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7**

### **Improving Transport and Communications**

Transport ensures the everyday mobility of people and is crucial to the production and distribution of goods, besides communications' having a key position in sectoral infrastructures. In this regard, the field of transport and communications has a certain degree of importance due to its contribution to the economic and social development of the Member Countries.

In accordance with the relevant resolution of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) will be held on May 6, 2024, with the theme of “Developing Intelligent Transportation Systems in the OIC Member Countries”.

Regarding the projects supported under the COMCEC Project Funding, three projects were implemented by Benin, The Gambia and SESRIC in transport sector, and 22 Member Countries in total benefited from the projects. Moreover, the Gambia will implement a project in transport area in this year.

*Required Action(s):* The CCO will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the TCWG, the project being implemented in 2024 under the COMCEC Project Funding as well as other developments regarding the cooperation in this field.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8**

### **Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector**

As one of the cooperation areas of the COMCEC, tourism industry is one of the vital sectors in many countries by generating foreign exchange, creating new income, and increasing employment opportunities. Therefore, the COMCEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) has held several meetings on various aspects of the tourism sector and its sub-categories.

In accordance with the relevant resolution of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Tourism Working Group will be held on 2 May 2024, with the theme of “Developing and Branding Gastronomy Tourism Destinations within OIC”.

The Session also expressed its appreciation to Türkiye for hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with the theme “The Prospects and Challenges of Climate-Friendly Tourism in the Era of Sustainability.”

Regarding the projects supported under the COMCEC Project Funding, two projects were implemented by Mali and Uganda in 2023 in the tourism area, and five Member Countries benefited from them. Moreover, five projects will be implemented by Mali, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, and SESRIC in the tourism cooperation area this year.

*Required Action(s):* The CCO will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting and the projects implemented in 2023 under the COMCEC Project Funding as well as other developments regarding the cooperation in this field.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9**

### **Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security**

Agriculture is one of the significant cooperation areas defined in the COMCEC Strategy. In accordance with the relevant resolution of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Agriculture Working Group will be held on 30 April 2024, with the theme of “Developing Livestock Production and Fishery to Foster Food Security for a Sustainable Agricultural Development in OIC Countries”.

Concerning the projects supported under the COMCEC Project Funding, four projects were implemented by Benin, The Gambia, Malaysia, and Türkiye in 2023 in the agriculture domain, and seven Member Countries benefited from the projects.

Moreover, nine projects will be implemented by Azerbaijan, Benin, the Gambia, Niger, Nigeria, Qatar, Türkiye, SESRIC, and COMSTECH within the Agriculture cooperation area this year.

*Required Action(s):* The CCO will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group, the projects being implemented in 2024 under the COMCEC Project Funding, and other developments in this cooperation area.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10**

### **Alleviating Poverty**

Poverty remains at the top of the global development agenda due to regional and global political and socioeconomic challenges. Unfortunately, achievements in poverty alleviation in the last decades have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic and other ongoing turbulences.

In accordance with the relevant resolution of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Poverty Alleviation Working Group (PAWG) will be held on 2 May 2024, with the theme of “Alleviating Adverse Effects of Natural Disasters on Poor Segments of Society in the OIC Member Countries.”

Under the COMCEC Project Funding, two projects were implemented by Benin and SESRIC in 2023 and 36 Member Countries in total benefited the projects. Moreover, two projects will be implemented by Türkiye and SESRIC in the poverty alleviation cooperation area this year.

*Required Action(s):* The CCO will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of PAWG and the projects being implemented in 2024 under the COMCEC Project Funding.

Moreover, ongoing cooperation efforts in the area of poverty alleviation have been carried out under the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA), Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC- VET), and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### **- Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA)**

Following the third Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in 2005, a special fund called as Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) was established under the Islamic Development Bank. Since it was officially launched in 2007, the fund has aimed to reduce poverty in the Member Countries. Another important initiative of IsDB, launched in 2008, is the Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA). Along with creating more employment, this fund aims to enhance economic growth and agricultural production in African Member Countries.

Taking note with appreciation of the efforts of the ISFD for mobilizing resources, the 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session reiterates 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.

*Required Action(s):* The IsDB Group is expected to submit reports on the implementation of the ISFD and SPDA and to inform the Committee on the implementation of the aforementioned programs.

## **- OIC-VET Program**

SESRIC has been carrying out the Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) since 2009 to contribute to the delivery of quality vocational education and training by relevant education authorities of the OIC Member Countries.

Commending the efforts of SESRIC in the execution of the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025, the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC requested SESRIC to continue providing regular progress updates to both COMCEC Sessions and Follow-up Committee Meetings and to identify potential challenges and propose strategic responses to ensure the continued successful implementation of the OIC-VET Programme.

*Required Action(s):* SESRIC is expected to inform the Committee on the latest developments on the implementation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025 and other ongoing training activities within the scope of the OIC-VET Program.

## **- Implementation of SDGs**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the UN Special Summit in September 2015, presenting a more ambitious and comprehensive global development agenda.

Commending the efforts of SESRIC in conducting annual reports on the progress towards achievement of the SDGs in the OIC Member Countries and submission to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions on a regular basis, the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC requested SESRIC to continue to carry out statistical training activities with a focus on SDGs for the benefit of National Statistical Offices of the Member Countries within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

The 39<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session also requested the CCO to carry on compiling the relevant OIC Institutions' activities aligned with the SDG areas for submission to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

*Required Action(s):* SESRIC is expected to brief the Committee on the preparations regarding its report on the progress towards achievement of the SDGs in the OIC Member Countries to be submitted to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC. The CCO will inform the Committee on preparations for compiling the list of activities of the relevant OIC Institutions' aligned with the prioritized SDG areas to be submitted to the 40<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session.

## **AGENDA ITEM 11**

### **Cooperation on Digital Transformation**

In line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, the cooperation efforts in the digital transformation is an important cooperation area of the COMCEC. Within the scope of the efforts in this important area, the 39 COMCEC Session took note with apr Agenda. Furthermore, the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation the Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on “COMCEC High Level Digital Cooperation Initiative/Programme” hosted by Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 on the sidelines of 38<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session, in particular, the commitment of the Member Countries to continue their cooperation in this field under the “COMCEC High-Level Digital Transformation Forum”.

Within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding, two projects will be implemented by Sierra Leone and Türkiye in the digital transformation cooperation area this year.

Required Action(s): As the Secretariat of the COMCEC High-Level Digital Transformation Forum, the Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye is expected to brief the Committee on the Forum’s endeavors.

## **AGENDA ITEM 12**

### **Preparations for the Exchange of Views on**

#### **“Digital Transformation of Payment Systems in OIC Member Countries”**

Exchange of views sessions are held regularly at the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. The 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC decided the theme of the Ministerial Exchange of Views of the next COMCEC Session as “Digital Transformation of Payment Systems in OIC Member Countries” and requested the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group in its 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 40<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session.

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

## **AGENDA ITEM 13**

### **Draft Agenda of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC**

The draft agenda of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC will be considered by the Follow-up Committee under this agenda item.

-----  
-----