

Original: English

REPORT OF THE 44th MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

(16 May 2024, Virtual Meeting)

- The 44th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held virtually on May 16th, 2024.
- The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Selçuk KOÇ, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to OIC General Secretariat and COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), the following OIC Institutions attended the Meeting:
 - Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
 - Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
 - Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD)
 - Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)
 - Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
 - Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD)
- The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items for discussion:
 - Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy
 - The List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Aligned with the COMCEC Strategy and COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations
 - Utilizing COMCEC Project Funding for the implementation of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations
 - Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the SDGs in OIC Member Countries
 - Preparations for Annual Report on the Progress Towards Achieving the Prioritized SDGs at the OIC level
 - Activities of the OIC Institutions Serving to the Implementation of the SDGs
 - COMCEC Flagship Projects
 - OIC Business Intelligence Programme
 - Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions for the Benefit of Palestinian People/ Al-Quds Sharif as well as Geographically Distant OIC Member Countries and Observer Countries
 - Any Other Business

Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy

- **The List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Aligned with the COMCEC Strategy and COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations**
- Highlighting the commendable efforts and contributions of the OIC institutions towards the realization of the COMCEC Strategy and the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, the Committee reviewed the completed and planned activities of the relevant OIC Institutions directly serving the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations and activities serving to the objectives of COMCEC Strategy since the 39th COMCEC Ministerial Session based on the cooperation areas.
- At the outset, the Committee was briefed by the CCO in terms of the activities of OIC Institutions related to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations and the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy.
- With this framework, the Committee was informed that according to the activities of OIC Institutions reported through the COMCEC Online System from December 2023 to May 2024, 98 activities of the OIC Institutions have been completed so far, and 81 activities were scheduled to be held in the upcoming period. It was noted that the reported activities have been mainly conducted/planned in the fields of Trade, Poverty Alleviation, and Agriculture, respectively. The Committee welcomed the growing number of activities of the OIC Institutions aligned with COMCEC Ministerial Resolutions and the COMCEC Strategy.
- Afterwards, the OIC Institutions informed the Committee about their activities in line with the COMCEC Ministerial Resolutions and the COMCEC Strategy. The Committee underlined the importance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions and appreciated their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations as well as the realization of the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy.
- The Committee took note with appreciation of the efforts of SESRIC in contributing to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations through specifically designed activities such as capacity building and training programmes.

- **Utilizing COMCEC Project Funding for the implementation of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations**
 - The Committee was informed about the projects implemented under the COMCEC Project Support Programs. It was highlighted that 25 projects are being implemented by OIC Member Countries and OIC Institutions under the COMCEC Project Funding (CPF) in 2024.
 - Moreover, the Committee requested the OIC Institutions, to the extent possible, to involve in the projects of the OIC Member Countries as project partners by providing technical assistance in designing and implementing their projects to encourage Member Countries to become project partners under the COMCEC Project Funding.
 - The Committee commended the SESRIC's involvement in 2 projects of Member Countries in the areas of agriculture and poverty alleviation IOFS's involvement in 2 projects in the areas of agriculture, SMIIC's involvement in one project in the area of trade as project partners. Lastly, COMSTECH will conduct a project in the area of agriculture.

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

- The Committee was informed by SESRIC regarding the preparations for the annual report on monitoring the progress towards the achievement of the SDGs in the OIC Member Countries to be submitted to the 40th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC.
- The Committee commended the efforts of SESRIC in conducting annual reports indicating the status of the implementation of the SDGs in the Member Countries.
- Furthermore, according to the SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC institutions reported to the COMCEC Online System, 10 activities have been completed, and 96 activities have been planned on the prioritized SDGs in 2024.
- With reference to the Annual Development Effectiveness Report issued by ICD (IsDB Group), the Committee welcomed the efforts of ICD towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Member Countries.

COMCEC Flagship Projects

- The Committee was informed by the CCO on the progress and recent developments in the implementation of the COMCEC Flagship Projects/Programs such as TPS-OIC, OIC Arbitration Centre and OIC/COMCEC International Investment Fund, COMCEC SME Program, and the COMCEC High-Level Digital Transformation Program.

- Under this agenda item, welcoming the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat and relevant OIC Institutions towards raising awareness of OIC Member Countries about the COMCEC Flagship Projects/Programs, the Committee called upon them to further continue their efforts on this matter.

OIC Business Intelligence Programme

- Commended the efforts of ICIEC in collaboration with SESRIC, ICDT, and ICCD in conducting capacity building programs for the ‘users of OBIC’ and recalling the relevant resolution of 39th COMCEC Ministerial Session, the Committee requested the ICIEC, in collaboration with the SESRIC, ICDT, and ICCD to continue their efforts to complete the technical preparations for launching the OIC Business Intelligence Programme as soon as possible.

Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions for the Benefit of Palestinian People/ Al-Quds Sharif as well as Geographically Distant OIC Member Countries and Observer Countries

- The Committee was briefed by the OIC Institutions regarding their activities, projects and existing and newly launched programs for the benefit of Palestinian people and Al-Quds Sharif and geographically distant OIC Member Countries such as Guyana and Suriname, as well as Observer Countries.
- The Committee appreciated the efforts of the OIC Institutions and requested them to continue their efforts including the possible joint activities, projects, and programs.
- Taking note of the briefing made by IOFS on the humanitarian food relief appeal towards Gaza by IOFS, the Committee took note with appreciation the efforts of IOFS and invited the relevant OIC Institutions, to the extent possible, to support this initiative.
- The Committee commended that SESRIC organized 17 activities for the benefit of Palestinian people since the 39th COMCEC Ministerial Session, and Palestinian counterparts participated in the 4th Meeting of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) held on 29 February-1 March 2024 in Marrakech, Morocco.
- The Committee also commended that ICCD launched “Empowering Palestine’s Economic Initiative” on the sidelines of its 39th General Assembly held in December 2023 to contribute to the recovery of the Palestine economy by mobilizing the private sector.
- The Committee took note with appreciation that ICDT prioritized the participation of Palestinians in its various activities, such as ICDT Invest Days by showcasing Palestinian women products in collaboration with Bayt Mal Al Quds Committee.

- The Committee welcomed that SMIIC will conduct trainings on the halal products standard and testing as well as on OIC/SMIIC standards with the participation of Palestinian counterparts this year.
- Moreover, the Committee also welcomed that SMIIC will provide stands/desks for Palestinian companies at the Halal Expo and World Halal Summit to be held in 2024.
- The Committee commended that under the COMCEC Al Quds Program in 2024, 8 projects are being implemented for bolstering economic empowerment and skill development in Al Quds Al Sharif through fostering technical and vocational capacity, supporting SMEs, empowering women and developing e-commerce capabilities of youth, among others.
- The Committee expressed its appreciation to the relevant OIC Institutions for their efforts and contributions to Palestinian People in Al-Quds Al Sharif.
- Concerning the projects implemented for the benefit of geographically distant countries, the Committee noted that the project of Suriname titled “Increasing Internationalization of SMEs in Suriname and Guyana” is being supported under the CPF by the CCO.

Any Other Business

- The Committee Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

