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ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA

40TH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(2-5 November 2024)

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DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE 40TH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(2-5 November 2024)

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to give background information about the current status of the cooperation areas, programs, and projects of the COMCEC for its 40th Ministerial Session, to be held on 2-5 November 2024 in İstanbul.

The document provides background information and the required actions on the Draft Agenda Items from 2 to 14. 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 uploaded to the COMCEC'swebsite (www.comcec.org).

ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM 2
Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation

COMCEC is continuing its efforts in line with the COMCEC Strategy. The Working Groups (WG), as part of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, provide a regular platform for the Member Countries' experts to discuss the policies and practices and share experiences in each cooperation area to create a common understanding, and approximate policies among the Member Countries. The COMCEC Project Funding, as a policy support instrument, enables Member Countries, registered with the Working Groups, as well as the relevant OIC Institutions, to submit concrete projects for the realization of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

Within this framework, since the 39th Session of the COMCEC, the Working Groups have conducted their 22nd and 23rd rounds of the Meetings (21st and 22nd Meetings for the area of Financial Cooperation) and elaborated on important themes in each cooperation area. The details about the developments in each Working Group are given under the relevant agenda item.

In terms of the projects realized under the COMCEC Project Funding, 17 projects were implemented in 2023 within the scope of the 10th Project Call. Moreover, 24 projects are being implemented by the Member Countries and the relevant OIC Institutions this year. The 12th project call was made on October 1st, 2024.

Furthermore, within the framework of the COMCEC Al-Quds Program, 5 projects were implemented in the 2021-2022 period. The scope of the program has been enriched with new thematic priorities including tourism entrepreneurship, creating job opportunities and empowerment of youth, e-commerce, and SME development. In this regard, 5 projects were implemented in 2023 under the Al-Quds Program. Moreover, 8 projects are being implemented this year. All the details regarding the COMCEC Support Programs are available on the COMCEC website (programs.comcec.org).

Moreover, cooperation efforts carried out by the relevant OIC Institutions bear great importance for the realization of 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, 39th Session of the COMCEC welcomed the Progress Report submitted by the CCO, providing an overview of the major achievements in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy commended the Member Countries and the relevant OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to its implementation, and requested the Member Countries and the relevant OIC

Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy. Moreover, the Session welcomed the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in each cooperation area and the research studies conducted by the CCO for enriching the discussions in the COMCEC Working Group Meetings. The Session also commended the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member Countries in their fields of competence and welcomed the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings in 2024.

Furthermore, commending the valuable outcomes of projects financed by the COMCEC since 2014, the Session invited Member Countries to intensify their efforts to harness the benefits of COMCEC Project Funding, particularly with a view to materializing the Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

Required Action(s): The CCO will present a progress report to the Session with respect to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. The Session will consider the report submitted by the CCO for necessary action.

- Report of the 40th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee

The COMCEC Follow-up Committee, in its 40th Meeting held on 22-23 May 2024, reviewed the implementation of the programs and projects on the agenda of the COMCEC, prepared the draft agenda of the 40th COMCEC Session and proposed a set of recommendations for the Session.

Required Action(s): The 40th Session of the COMCEC will be briefed by the Rapporteur of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC on the recommendations of the Follow-up Committee Meeting.

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 13th 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 39th 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 on the implementation of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action. The Session will consider the General Secretariat's report on the subject for necessary action.

AGENDA ITEM 4
World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries

In line with the relevant decision of the 12th Session of the COMCEC, SESRIC has been preparing an annual report on recent world economic developments and their implications on the OIC Member Countries and submitting it to the COMCEC Sessions.

The Annual Economic Report provides an overview of the global and regional economic and financial developments as well as several policy recommendations for OIC Member Countries. The 39th Session of the COMCEC entrusted SESRIC to continue monitoring world economic developments and their implications on OIC Member Countries as well as continue to report thereon to the annual sessions of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to submit an annual report on recent world economic developments and their implications on the OIC member countries. The Member Countries will share their experience regarding the recent economic developments.

AGENDA ITEM 5
Intra-OIC Trade

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

In accordance with the relevant resolution of the 39th Session of the COMCEC, Trade Working Group, in its 22nd and 23rd Meetings, has focused on the theme of "Improving Quality Infrastructure in the OIC Member Countries."

Regarding the projects supported under the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding, five projects are being implemented by Bangladesh, Indonesia, Suriname, Uganda, and Türkiye, respectively in trade domain in 2024.

Required Action(s): The CCO will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 22nd and 23rd Meetings 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 one of the most important project s of the COMCEC in trade domain. The System is composed of 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.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 37th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC and the decision of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Meeting held in June 2021, the System has become fully operational as of July 1st, 2022.

In this framework, welcoming the effectuation of the System, the 39th COMCEC 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.

The 39th COMCEC Ministerial Session welcomed the convening of Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegations on 4 December 2023, on the margin of the 39th COMCEC Ministerial Session, where Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations deliberated on issues regarding the OIC trade agenda, particularly TPS-OIC. The Session also expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Türkiye for volunteering to host the Third Session of TNC on TPS-OIC at the Ministerial level in 2024 and requested all Member Countries to actively participate in this important event.

In line with the relevant resolution of 39th COMCEC Ministerial Session, the Third Ministerial Meeting of TPS-OIC TNC was held in İstanbul on June 10-11 2024, under the chairmanship of Ministry of Trade, the Republic of Türkiye. Aforementioned Meeting took note of the initial discussions on a draft "Negotiation Strategy and Work Plan for Potential Expansion of TPS-OIC" presented by the Republic of Türkiye.

Required Action(s): As the co-secretariat of the TNC, the CCO will brief the Session on the recent developments regarding the TPS-OIC. The Session 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 39th COMCEC Ministerial Session appreciated ICDT's activities conducted in 2023 and invited the Member Countries to actively participate in the following fairs, exhibitions, and forums to be organized by the ICDT in 2024.

The 39th COMCEC Session requested ICDT to continue holding sector specific fairs in cooperation with the Member Countries and submit on regular basis, progress reports on trade fairs and other specialized fairs as well as exhibitions to the COMCEC Sessions and to organize investment promotion activities such as high-level forums and capacity building programs at national and regional level in order to enhance intra-OIC Investment.

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.

Considering the importance of an equitable and fair multilateral trading system for sustainable growth of the countries and taking note of the current technical assistance provided by WTO Member Countries of the OIC to the Non-Participating States for their accession efforts to the WTO, 39th Session of COMCEC and 40th Follow-up Committee of 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 within the WTO.

The 39th Session of the COMCEC 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.

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

- **Trade Financing Activities**

Access to affordable trade financing is one of the important 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 39th Session of the COMCEC and the 40th Follow-up Committee 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. The 40th COMCEC Follow-up Committee requested ITFC to continue reporting its operations on the intra-OIC trade to COMCEC Sessions and Follow-Up Committee Meetings.

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 39th COMCEC Ministerial Session, the 40th COMCEC Follow-up Committee also requested the ICIEC, in cooperation with SESRIC, ICDT, and ICCD to continue their efforts to complete the technical preparations for launching the OIC Business Intelligence Programme (OBIC) and regularly submit progress reports related to the OBIC to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, and Follow-up Committee Meetings.

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 Session of 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 39th COMCEC Session and the 40th Follow-up Committee commended the efforts of SMIIC in the area of standardization, metrology and accreditation 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 and called upon the relevant Member Countries, which use OIC/SMIIC Standards, to officially adopt the standards according to SMIIC adoption guidelines.

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

AGENDA ITEM 6
Enhancing the Role of 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 crucial 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.

Emphasizing the role of ICCD, as an engine of mobilizing investment, the 39th COMCEC Ministerial Session 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 - private sector organizations to take part in ICCD's mega sector specific forums and events organized for the development of the private sector in OIC Member Countries.

39th COMCEC Session and 40th COMCEC Follow-up Committee took note of the efforts and activities of the ICCD in organizing various sector specific forums in the areas of sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism, Islamic economy, investment, digital economy, and entrepreneurship to support the sustainable development of the OIC private sector for the resilient economic growth of the Member Countries.

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

- **OIC Arbitration Centre**

The OIC Arbitration Centre provides services to the OIC Member Countries and the private sector in the settlement of commercial and investment disputes. In this respect, the 39th 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 Session on the recent developments. The Session will consider the issue and take the necessary action accordingly.

- **Financing Private Sector Development**

As a multilateral development financial institution and part of ISDB Group, Islamic Corporation for the Development of Private Sector (ICD), works towards the development of the private sector in the Member Countries and provides financing to private sector projects for this purpose.

Commending the investment, financing, advisory, and development activities of ICD for supporting the private sector development in OIC Member Countries, the 39th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC invited the Member Countries to better utilize the facilities of the ICD through solid projects aimed at creating competition, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities.

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

Recalling the relevant resolution of the 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session and the decision of the 39th COMCEC Follow-Up Meeting on developing a well-designed SME Program, commends 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.

Taking 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 39th COMCEC Session, invites 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 Session on the recent developments related to COMCEC SME Program.

AGENDA ITEM 7
Deepening Financial Cooperation

The expansion and intensification of financial collaboration are crucial for the socio-economic progress of OIC Member Countries.

In accordance with the relevant resolution of the 39th Session of the COMCEC, the 21st and 22nd Meetings of the Financial Cooperation Working Group were held in 2024, focusing on the theme "Digital Transformation of Payment Systems in OIC Member Countries."

Regarding the projects supported within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding , Federal Republic of Nigeria is implementing the project titled " Digital Finance and Payment Systems Training for SME Value Chain Strengthening " in 2024.

Required Action(s): The CCO will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 21st and 22nd Meetings of the Financial Cooperation Working Group as well as the projects 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 conducted 17 meetings so far and developed some important projects including the S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index and OIC Gold Exchange. The 18th Meeting of the Forum was held on October 1st, 2024. Detailed information about the efforts of the Forum is available on its website (http://www.oicexchanges.org/).

The 39th COMCEC Session called upon the Member Countries to support the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah International Fund, which includes shares from the OIC COMCEC 50 Shariah Index, developed under the coordination of OIC Exchanges Forum, to the investors and the finance community in their respective countries.

Moreover, the 39th COMCEC Session requested the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum to complete technical preparations on the OIC Gold Exchange Project, based on 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 Session of the recent developments regarding the activities of the Forum as well as the S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index, and to report the progress towards the realization of the above-mentioned Gold Exchange Project. The Session will discuss the issue and take necessary action.

- **COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum**

The COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators (CMR) Forum serves as a regular platform exerting efforts towards increasing coordination and cooperation in the fields of regulatory and legal infrastructure among the Member Countries. The Forum has convened twelve times so far. The 13th COMCEC CMR Forum will be held on October 16th, 2024. Detailed information about the efforts of the Forum is available on the Forum's website (http://www.comceccmr.org/).

The 38th COMCEC Session took note with appreciation of the completion of the GEFAS Platform (Real Estate Based and Developing Financial Instruments Information System) designed to be an information hub for real estate-themed capital market instruments and invited the interested Member Countries to encourage their relevant authorities to join this platform and provide the necessary information to be published in GEFAS.

Furthermore, recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, the 39th Session of the COMCEC 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 Session on the recent developments regarding the endeavours of the Forum. The Session will discuss the issue and take necessary action.

- **OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum**

Since its inception, the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum has been providing a regular platform to discuss monetary, banking, and financial matters, while also intensifying efforts to deepen the cooperation and coordination among Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries. Within this framework, the 6th Meeting of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum was held on September 29th-30th 2024, in İstanbul, Türkiye. Detailed information about the efforts of the Forum is available on the Forum's website (http://comceccentralbanks.org/).

Furthermore, welcoming 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 39th COMCEC Ministerial Session 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 Session about the activities of the Forum.

AGENDA ITEM 8
Improving Transport and Communications

Economic growth and productivity are tied closely to the transport infrastructure and transport systems, which enable higher productivity through lower logistics costs, inventory savings, and access to larger supply and labour markets. Therefore, the existence of a functional transportation system is highly important for economic growth.

In this regard, COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) devoted its 22nd and 23rd Meetings in 2024 with the theme of "Developing Intelligent Transportation Systems in OIC Member Countries" in line with the relevant resolution of the 39th Session of the COMCEC.

Regarding the projects supported under the COMCEC Project Funding, The Gambia is implementing the project titled "Improving Human and Institutional Capacity for the Development of an Institutional Framework for Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) in The Gambia" in partnership with Qatar in 2024.

Required Action(s): The CCO will brief the Committee on the outcomes of the 22nd and 23rd Meetings of the TCWG, the projects being implemented in 2024 under the COMCEC Project Funding as well as other developments regarding the cooperation in this field.

AGENDA ITEM 9
Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector

Tourism industry, which plays a crucial role in the economic and social structure of countries, is one of the important areas of cooperation for the COMCEC. In line with the relevant resolution of the 39th Session of the COMCEC, the Tourism Working Group (TWG) conducted its 22nd and 23th Meetings in 2024 with the theme of "Developing and Branding Gastronomy Tourism Destinations within OIC".

Regarding the projects supported under the COMCEC Project Funding, five projects have been implemented by Mali, Nigeria, Uganda, Togo and SESRIC in 2024, and 17 Member Countries have benefited from these projects.

The 12th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held on 31 May - 2 June 2024 in Khiva, Republic of Uzbekistan, with the theme of "Development of the Tourism Industry in Sustainable and Resilient Way". The 12th OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum was held October 10th, 2024.

Required Action(s): The CCO will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 22nd and 23th Meetings and the projects implemented in 2024 under the COMCEC Project Funding as well as other developments regarding the cooperation in this field.

AGENDA ITEM 10
Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security

Agriculture is one of the significant cooperation areas defined in the COMCEC Strategy. In line with the relevant resolution of the 39th Session of the COMCEC, the 22nd and 23rd Meetings of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group were held in 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, 8 projects are being implemented by Benin, Azerbaijan, The Gambia, Türkiye, Niger, Nigeria, SESRIC, and COMSTECH in 2024 in agriculture domain and 23 Member Countries will benefit from the projects.

Required Action(s): The CCO will brief the Session on the outcome of the 22nd and 23rd Meetings 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 11
Alleviating Poverty

Poverty continues to be one of the most important components of the global development agenda, and the fragile global economy, escalating conflicts, the climate emergency, pandemics as well as the other ongoing turbulences in recent decades have adversely impacted the achievements in poverty reduction.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 39th Session of the COMCEC, the PAWG conducted its 22nd and 23rd Meetings in 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, 2 projects are being implemented by Türkiye, and SESRIC in 2024 and 17 Member Countries in total will benefit from the projects.

Required Action(s): The CCO will brief the Session on the outcomes of the 22nd and 23rd meetings and the projects being implemented in 2024 under the COMCEC Project Funding.

Moreover, the 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 3rd 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 help the reduction of 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.

The 39th COMCEC Ministerial Session and 40th Follow-up Committee also requested the IsDB Group to submit report regularly on the implementation of its programs, in particular ISFD, to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings.

Required Action(s): The IsDB Group is expected to submit reports on the implementation of the ISFD and SPDA and to inform the Session 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 39th 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 Road Map.

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 39th Session of the COMCEC requested SESRIC to continue to carry out statistical training activities focusing on SDGs for the benefit of National Statistical Offices of the Member Countries within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

Furthermore, the 39th COMCEC Session also requested the CCO to carry on compiling the relevant OIC Institutions' activities aligned with the SDG areas for submission to the 40th Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): SESRIC is expected to present its report on the progress towards achievement of the SDGs in the OIC Member Countries. The CCO will inform the Session of the activities of the relevant OIC Institutions' aligned with the prioritized SDG areas.

AGENDA ITEM 12
Cooperation on Digital Transformation

Underlining the emerging trends with respect to digital technologies in all government services in particular amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic, the 37th Session of the COMCEC decided the inclusion of digital transformation as an additional cooperation area in the COMCEC Agenda. Furthermore, the 38th 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, 2022 on the sidelines of 38th 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". Digital Transformation Leaders Online Training Program was held on 9-13 October 2023 within the framework of the Forum.

Moreover, The Digital Transformation Cooperation Area has been added to the sectoral areas to be supported under the COMCEC Project Funding (CPF) in 2023. In this context, two projects have been selected to be supported under the CPF in 2024. Within this framework, the project, titled "Legal and Regulatory Framework for E-Government" is being implemented by Sierra Leone. The project aims to develop a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for e-government in Sierra Leone. Moreover, the project, titled "HackMasters Cyber Security Challenge (Capture The Flag, CTF)" was implemented by Türkiye with 32 beneficiary countries. As part of the project, the Digital Transformation Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye organized a training titled "HackMasters Cyber Security Challenge (Capture The Flag, CTF)."

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

AGENDA ITEM 13
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 39th 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 22nd Meeting, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 40th COMCEC Session.

In line with the above-mentioned resolution, the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group, in its 22nd Meeting, has elaborated on the preparations for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session and come up with some policy recommendations to be submitted to the 40th Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): The CCO is expected to inform the Session of the preparations for the Exchange of Views Session including the recommendations of the Working Group to be submitted to the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session for consideration. The Session will consider the recommendations and take necessary action.

- **Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 41st Session of the COMCEC**

During its 40th Meeting, the COMCEC Follow-up Committee discussed the possible themes for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 41st Session of the COMCEC:

The 40th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee requested the CCO to circulate a questionnaire to explore the Member Countries' views on the subject and report the outcome to the 40th Session of the COMCEC.

Required Action(s): The CCO is expected to present the results of the questionnaire on the theme of the exchange of views session of the 41st Session of the COMCEC. Accordingly, the 40th Session of the COMCEC will decide on the theme of next year's ministerial exchange of views session.

AGENDA ITEM 14
Date of the 41st Session of the COMCEC

The Session will decide on the dates of the 41st Session of the COMCEC and the 41st Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee.

Required Action(s): CCO will propose specific dates for the 41st Session of the COMCEC and the 41st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee. The Session will decide on the dates of the said meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 15
Any Other Business