



**REPORT  
FORTY-FIRST MEETING  
OF THE FOLLOW-UP  
COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC**

**COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE  
ANKARA, 13-14 MAY 2025**

**COMCEC**  
**Standing Committee for Economic and**  
**Commercial Cooperation of the Organization**  
**of the Islamic Conference**

**REPORT**  
**FORTY-FIRST MEETING**  
**OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE COMCEC**

**Ankara, 13-14 May 2025**

**COMCEC Coordination Office**  
**Ankara, May 2025**

**ADDRESS:**

**COMCEC Coordination Office**  
**Necatibey Cad. 110/A**  
**Ankara-TÜRKİYE**  
**Phone : 90-312-294 5710 - 5716**  
**Website: [www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org)**  
**e-mail : [comcec@comcec.org](mailto:comcec@comcec.org)**

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# **R E P O R T**

## **FORTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC COOPERATION**

**(Ankara, 13-14 May 2025)**

**REPORT**  
**FORTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE**  
**FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR**  
**ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE**  
**ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (COMCEC)**  
**(13–14 May, 2025)**

1. The Forty-first Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 13–14 May, 2025 in Ankara, the Republic of Türkiye.

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

- Republic of Türkiye : (Chairman, Permanent)
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia : (Vice Chairman, Permanent Member)
- State of Palestine : (Vice-Chairman, Permanent Member)
- State of Qatar : (Vice-Chairman, Representing the Arab Region)
- Brunei Darussalam : (Vice-Chairman, Representing the Asian Region)
- Senegal : (Vice-Chairman, Representing the African Region)
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan : (Rapporteur)
- State of Kuwait : (Member of the Previous Bureau)
- Republic of Indonesia : (Member of the Previous Bureau)
- Republic of Nigeria : (Member of the Previous Bureau)
- Republic of The Gambia : (Chairman of the 15<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit)

3. The Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), the OIC Labour Centre (OIC LC), the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Development (ICCD) and the OIC Arbitration Centre (OIC-AC) attended the Meeting.

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

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda**

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

5. At the outset, H.E. AĖAOĖLU condemned the genocide being committed by Israel in Gaza, Palestine. H.E. AĖAOĖLU emphasized that it is the responsibility of the entire Muslim Ummah to act in unity, to be the voice of Palestine in the international arena, and to take the necessary steps toward the establishment of lasting peace. He called upon the international community, through this meeting, to once again not remain indifferent to the humanitarian tragedy in Palestine, and to make concerted efforts towards achieving justice and peace.
6. Emphasizing the importance of resolving the Kashmir issue for lasting peace in South Asia, H.E. AĖAOĖLU welcomed the ceasefire between Pakistan and India which slowed down regional tension raised by India's attack on Pakistan on 6 May, 2025. He also voiced his support for Pakistan's call for an investigation into the 22 April terrorist attack and extended condolences to the people and government of Pakistan for the victims.
7. H.E. AĖAOĖLU highlighted that recent tariff increases and protectionist trade policies have deepened uncertainties in the global economy exacerbating vulnerabilities. He noted that, amidst the efforts to overcome the effects of the pandemic and geopolitical tensions, these trends are negatively impacting inflation, trade, investments and growth prospects.
8. H.E. AĖAOĖLU emphasized the need for international cooperation to address global economic challenges. He highlighted that collective action can strengthen financial stability, remove trade barriers, and support sustainable development. He also underscored the vital role of COMCEC projects in reinforcing economic solidarity and providing a sound basis for tackling global issues.
9. H.E. AĖAOĖLU pointed out that increasing trade capacities is essential for the development of countries, enabling them to gain a rightful share in global trade. He expressed confidence that the discussions at the 41<sup>st</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Meeting on "Developing Export Strategies in OIC Member States" will lead to significant progress in this area.
10. Drawing attention to the cooperation efforts among the OIC Member Countries under the umbrella of the COMCEC, H.E. AĖAOĖLU underlined the importance of the TPS-OIC, which has become operational as of July 1st, 2022, as well as the smooth functioning of the System by the Participating States. H.E. AĖAOĖLU welcomed the support of the Member Countries in this regard, and extended an invitation to those who have not yet joined the system to participate.
11. H.E. AĖAOĖLU highlighted the success of the COMCEC SME Program, which aims to expand trade, increase employment, and improve communication among SMEs. He emphasized the importance of adding new areas to the COMCEC Project Funding and the support from Member States for projects in this field. He also underlined the significance of the cooperation efforts in digital transformation area within the scope of the High-Level Digital Transformation Forum.
12. H.E. AĖAOĖLU expressed his belief in the concrete policy recommendations and roadmaps to be developed during the Working Group meetings held this year to contribute

significantly to the cooperation efforts in the relevant fields in the coming period.

13. H.E. AĞAOĞLU lastly touched upon the projects implemented in 2024 and those being implemented in + under the COMCEC Project Support Programs, and expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by all the project owners and partners.
14. H.E. AĞAOĞLU concluded his remarks by thanking the member states and OIC organizations for their valuable contributions and wished them continued success in their future endeavors.

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

15. The message of H.E. Hissein Brahim TAHA, Secretary General of the OIC, was read out by Mr. Naghi JABBAROV, Director General of the Department of Economic Affairs of the OIC. In his message, H.E. TAHA expressed his appreciation to H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye and the Chairman of COMCEC and to the Government and people of Türkiye for hosting the meeting and for their continued support of the OIC initiatives, particularly within the economic and commercial domain.
16. H.E. TAHA highlighted that 2025 marks the target year for achieving 25% intra-OIC trade share. While there has been an increase in intra-OIC trade - from 19.16% in 2023 to 20.36% in 2024, the target remains unmet. He urged Member States to accelerate the implementation of key trade and investment initiatives, including the TPS-OIC, and to support the private sector in strengthening intra-OIC trade relations.
17. H.E. TAHA encouraged the active participation of the Member Countries in the 10<sup>th</sup> OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCFSAD) in the Republic of Chad and the 6<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) in Doha, Qatar.
18. H.E. TAHA referred to the Second Stakeholders' Meeting on the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project, held on 24 February, 2025 in Jeddah, which focused on addressing the implementation challenges and determining a forward strategy.
19. H.E. TAHA informed the Member States about the upcoming OIC Investment Forum in Africa, to be hosted by the Republic of Mali from 2–4 December, 2025, and encouraged all Member States to participate actively.
20. H.E. TAHA acknowledged the efforts of relevant OIC institutions - including the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IsDB Group, IOFS, OICLC, SMIIC, ICCD and IFHAB, for their successful implementation of development projects, training and capacity-building programs aimed at enhancing economic cooperation among the Member States.
21. In conclusion, H.E. TAHA reaffirming the commitment of the OIC General Secretariat to the deepening of economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States, expressed his confidence that the outcomes of the meeting would contribute positively to



the economic well-being of the Islamic Ummah.

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

22. Speaking on behalf of the members of the Committee Representative of Qatar, Ms. Salma DOSARI from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the State of Qatar gave a statement during the 41st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.
23. Ms. DOSARI underlined the rich agenda of the COMCEC, and emphasized the necessity of further profound collaborations and partnerships among the OIC Member Countries and the relevant OIC Institutions. Ms. DOSARI also highlighted the importance of the TPS-OIC as an important mechanism for the strengthening of economic ties and the promotion of intra-OIC trade.
24. Ms. DOSARI expressed her sincere appreciation to the Republic of Türkiye as the host country and the COMCEC Coordination Office for their warm hospitality and for the excellent meeting arrangements.

#### **Sideline Event**

25. The 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on 6 May, 2025.

*(Report of the 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex IV.)*

#### **Working Sessions**

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

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

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

- b. The Committee reviewed the progress in the implementation of the programs and projects of the COMCEC and made recommendations thereon as well as prepared the Draft Agenda of the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

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

*(The Draft Agenda of the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex VIII)*

## Closing Session

27. At the Closing Session, Chaired by H.E. Abdullah Rıdvan AĞAOĞLU, Vice-President of Strategy and Budget of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, the Committee adopted its Report together with its Annexes.
28. Afterwards, Mr. Yaser ABU-QTAISH, Head of Department of the Ministry of National Economy of Palestine, delivered a closing statement. At the outset, he began by expressing his gratitude to the Republic of Türkiye and the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) for their warm hospitality extended and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting of the 41<sup>st</sup> COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meeting.
29. Mr. ABU-QTAISH drew the attention of the participants to the dire political, humanitarian and economic conditions experienced by the State of Palestine as a result of the ongoing Israeli occupation and its illegal practices, which have escalated in an unprecedented manner since October 2023. He stressed that the Gaza Strip is facing a humanitarian catastrophe and real famine as a result of the ongoing war of annihilation and the suffocating blockade being imposed on the Palestinian people, which is being met by alarming international silence.
30. He added that the West Bank is also being subjected to daily attacks and constant raids, resulting in the martyrdom, injury and displacement of many civilians, reiterating the need for urgent action. He expressed his country's deep appreciation of the honorable stance being taken by the brotherly Islamic countries, rejecting the attempts at forced displacement and, most importantly, reaffirming their unwavering support for the rights of the Palestinian people, including the establishment of an independent state.
31. Mr. ABU-QTAISH reiterated his gratitude and appreciation to all the participants and emphasized the importance of their continued support for the Organisation's projects and programs, such as COMCEC Al-Quds Program, aimed at strengthening the determination of the Palestinian people, and called for greater coordination and cooperation in the provision of the necessary support to their vital economic sectors.
32. Afterwards, the message of H.E. Hissein Brahim TAHA, the Secretary General of the OIC, was read out by Mr. Naghi JABBAROV, Director General of the Department of Economic Affairs of the OIC. H.E. TAHA congratulated the Chairman for his excellent leadership of the meeting and all the delegate members for their active participation and the successful conclusion of the Meeting.
33. H.E. TAHA extended his profound thanks to the Government and the esteemed people of the Republic of Türkiye for their constant support for the activities of the OIC, and those of the COMCEC in particular.
34. Finally, H.E. TAHA expressed his desire to see the active participation of the Member States and the relevant OIC institutions in the forthcoming OIC events, namely, the 10<sup>th</sup> OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, the 6<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM), the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Conference on

Transportation in the OIC Member States, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Energy and the OIC Investment Forum in Africa.

35. In his closing statement, H.E. AĖAOĖLU addressed the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Palestine, expressing deep concern over the continued suffering of the Palestinian people, particularly the women, children and the elderly. He said that the Palestinian cause is not merely a struggle for freedom, but also a call for justice and dignity for all of humanity. He called on the Islamic world to continue its support of the Palestinian people in their struggle.
36. H.E. AĖAOĖLU congratulated the participants for the successful conclusion of the 41<sup>st</sup> COMCEC Follow-up Committee meeting and thanked the delegates for their active and constructive contributions. He noted that the Committee had reviewed key areas of cooperation and set the agenda for the upcoming Ministerial Session.
37. He emphasized the need for more inclusive and people-centered approaches to global challenges, especially in light of the increasing inequalities, security concerns and societal issues around the world, and underscored the importance of solidarity and cooperation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
38. H.E. AĖAOĖLU expressed his belief that the growing interest of the Member Countries in the COMCEC Programs and Projects, namely, the TPS-OIC, OIC Arbitration Centre, the COMCEC SME Program and the COMCEC Digital Transformation Program, will contribute significantly to the development of a common agenda in the Islamic Countries.
39. H.E. AĖAOĖLU also highlighted the vital role of the COMCEC Project Support Programs in the realization of the COMCEC Policy Recommendations through their contributions to the enhancement of institutional and human capacity in the Member States.
40. H.E. AĖAOĖLU concluded his speech by reiterating his thanks and appreciation to the Members of the Follow-Up Committee for their active participation and valuable contributions, and to the OIC General Secretariat, Rapporteur, COMCEC Coordination Office, OIC Institutions, interpreters, translators and other staff involved in the organization of the Meeting for their valuable contributions and efforts in rendering the meeting a success.
41. Lastly, H.E. AĖAOĖLU invited all delegates to the 41<sup>st</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session to be held on 1–4 November, 2025.

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

# **A N N E X E S**

# **ANNEX**

## **I**

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

### **41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC**

**(13th-14th May 2025 – Ankara)**

#### **A. MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OIC**

##### **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

- Ms. AMANINA SHAMSULBAHRIN

Officer, Ministry of Finance and Economy

- Ms. ZURAIRATUL AMANEE HAJIAHMAD

Officer, Ministry of Finance and Economy

##### **REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

- H.E. ALKALI FANKA CONTEH

Ambassador, Gambia Embassy in Ankara

- Mr. MOD A K SECKA

Undersecretary, Ministry Of Trade Regional Integration and Employment

##### **REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

- Mr. BANNY RATNO RAMADHANI

Counsellor, Embassy of Republic Of Indonesia in Ankara

- Ms. IKA PERMATA SARI SILALAH

Counsellor, Embassy of Republic Of Indonesia in Ankara

- Ms. MISELLITA MAHARANI

Officer, Embassy of Republic Of Indonesia in Ankara

##### **THE STATE OF KUWAIT**

- Mr. SAAD ALRASHIDI

Director of International Economic Co-Operation Department, Ministry of Finance

- Mr. SOUD ALRASHIDI

Foreign Relation Officer, Ministry of Finance

##### **FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

- Mr. ABDULLAHI YAKUBU MADOB

Ambassador, the Embassy of Nigeria in Ankara

- Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIB ABUBAKAR

First Secretary, the Embassy of Nigeria in Ankara

**THE STATE OF PALESTINE**

- Mr. YASER ABUUQTEISH

Head of Department, Ministry of National Economy

**STATE OF QATAR**

- Ms. SALMA ALDOSARI

International Cooperation and Agreements researcher, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

- Mr. JIHAD H ALHUTHAIL

Director General, General Authority for Foreign Trade

- Mr. QASIM ALALAWI

Senior Expert, General Authority for Foreign Trade

**REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL**

- Mr. MOHAMED SY

First Secretary, Embassy of Senegal in Ankara

**REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**

- Mr. A. RIDVAN AĞAOĞLU

Vice President, Presidency of Strategy and Budget

- Mr. İBRAHİM KÜÇÜKİKİZ

Deputy Director General, Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye

- Mr. ALİ BOZÇALIŞKAN

Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. MAHMUT VARLI

Manager, Borsa İstanbul

- Ms. DEMET IŞIL KARAKURT

Head of Department, Ministry of Trade

- Mr. KUBILAY ŞİMŞEK

Foreign Trade Manager, TOBB

- Ms. AYŞEGÜL DEMİR

Senior Expert, Ministry of Trade

- Ms. GÜLDEN YAVUZ ONCIRAK

Senior Expert, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

- Ms. SELCAN OLCA

Senior Expert, Capital Markets Board Türkiye/Comcec CMR Forum

- Mr. BURAK ERCAN ERDOĞAN

Expert, TOBB

- Mr. KAAŇ GAFFAROĞLU

Expert, TOBB

- Mr. MEHMET SERIN

Expert, Ministry of Culture and Tourism

- Mr. NURULLAH ASIM AKBULUT

Expert, Ministry of Trade

- Ms. IREM ŞAFAK ŞİMŞEK

Expert, Ministry Of Agriculture and Forestry

- Mr. METE ÇEVİK

Head of Department, Halal Accreditation Agency

- Ms. MUSTAFA DENİZ

Expert, KOSGEB

- Ms. PERIHAN DEMIR

Assistant Specialist, Borsa İstanbul

- Ms. YAĞMUR YAŞAYAN

Analyst, Presidential Digital Transformation Office

- Ms. AYSUN UNAL

Assistant Expert, Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye

## **C. THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

- Mr. NAGHI JABBAROV

Director General,

- Mr. HASAN BASRİ ARSLAN



Advisor, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

- Ms. FARHA RAMDZAN BINTI SAAID RAMDZAN FARHA

Officer

#### **D. THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS**

##### **ISLAMIC CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCE STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)**

- Dr. ATILLA KARAMAN

Director

- Mr. ONUR ÇAĞLAR

Director

- Mr. MAZHAR HUSSAIN

Head of Department

##### **ISLAMIC CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)**

- Mr. ISMAIL TAQUI

Head of Department

##### **ISLAMIC CORPORATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR (ICD)**

- Mr. OSMAN BUYUKMUTLU

Head of Department

##### **ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION FOR FOOD SECURITY (IOFS)**

- Mr. ISRAIL TILEGEN

Director

#### **E. SPECIALIZED ORGANS OF THE OIC**

##### **ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IsDB)**

- Dr. NOSRATOLLAH NAFAR

Lead Economist

##### **THE ISLAMIC CORPORATION FOR THE INSURANCE OF INVESTMENT AND EXPORT CREDIT (ICIEC)**

- Mr. ALTAYEB ABBAS FADLALLAH

Senior Specialist, Strategic Planning & Communications, ICIEC/ISDB

**INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC TRADE FINANCE CORPORATION (ITFC)**

- Mr. HOJAMUROD HOJAEV

Senior Manager,

**OIC LABOUR CENTRE**

- Mr. NIJAT MAMMEDZADA

Expert,

**F. AFFILIATED ORGANS OF THE OIC**

**STANDARDS AND METROLOGY INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SMIC)**

- Mr. IHSAN OVUT

Secretary General

- Ms. SEVDE OZBEY

Expert

**ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND DEVELOPMENT (ICCD)**

- Ms. AALIA JAFAR

Head of Department

**OIC ARBITRATION CENTER**

- Dr. UMAR OSENI

Secretary General

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. ALPER CAGRI YILMAZ

Deputy Secretary General

- Ms. MERVE NUR DUYMAZ

Legal Advisor,

**G. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE**

- Mr. SELÇUK KOÇ

Director General

- Mr. GÜRKAN POLAT

Head of Department

- Mr. MEHMET ASLAN

Head of Department

- Mr. MEHMET C. AKTAŞ

Head of Department

- Ms. AYTEN AKMAN KACAR

Senior Expert

- Ms. AYLİN ŞENOL GÜN

Senior Expert

Mr. MEHMET AKİF ALANBAY

Senior Expert

- Mr. KADİR ALTINTOP

Expert

- Mr. AŞKIN ÇETİNKAYA

Expert

- Mr. YUNUS KAYIŞ

Expert

- Ms. MİNE DEMİR

Assistant Expert

- Mr. MUHAMMED ZİYA SARI

Assistant Expert

- Ms. TİLBE GOCUKLU

Assistant Expert

- Ms. BETÜL ÖZAL KARAHAN

Assistant Expert

- Mr. AHMET HİLMİ EROĞLU

Assistant Expert

- Ms. AYŞE ÖZGÜL YÜKSEL

Coordinator

- Mr. SELİM UYAR

Translator

- Ms. HANDE ÖZDEMİR

Translator

- Ms. HAVVA YILMAZ

Officer

- Mr. MUHARREM TEMLİSU

Executive Assistant

- Mr. OĞUZHAN HALİM SAY

Executive Assistant

- Ms. YELİZ DURAN

Executive Assistant

# **ANNEX**

## **II**

Original: Turkish

**OPENING SPEECH BY MR. RIDVAN AĞAOĞLU,  
DEPUTY HEAD OF THE STRATEGY AND BUDGET OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**

**FORTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE  
COMCEC  
(Ankara, May 13, 2025)**

As-Salamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,  
Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Honorable Members of the Follow-Up Committee,  
Distinguished Guests,

First of all, I would like to express my great pleasure in gathering with you and hosting you in Ankara today on the occasion of the 41st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC. I salute you all wholeheartedly with the peace of Allah.

As you know, the Follow-up Committee reviews and monitors the implementation of the programs and projects carried out in line with the decisions taken at the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and sets the agenda for the upcoming COMCEC Ministerial Session, and these works are of great importance for all of us.

This meeting will allow us to discuss the implementation status of the decisions taken at the 40th COMCEC Ministerial Session and review the progress we have made based on our cooperation efforts.

In this regard, I believe the recommendations and draft agenda we will prepare to present to our esteemed ministers at the 41st COMCEC meeting next November will significantly contribute to our cooperation efforts. I thank you in advance for your participation and the valuable opinions you will provide.

Esteemed Participants,

The uninterrupted assaults in Palestine have been continuing for almost two years and are already a black mark on the history of humanity. This crisis is escalating each passing day and deeply shakes all conscientious people. This genocide carried out by Israel illegitimately has caused the loss of tens of thousands of our innocent brothers and sisters, leaving millions of others to face hunger, thirst, and the threat of death. We, as the Islamic world, have to take a more decisive stance against this inhuman massacre. I wish mercy upon all our brothers and sisters who lost their lives during this genocide, and a quick recovery to those wounded.

It is our common moral responsibility to be the voice of our Palestinian brothers and sisters, to make them feel that they are not alone, and to defend their rights on every platform. We must express our commitment to the Palestinian cause louder and louder each time, avoiding the silence to encourage the tyrant.

The entire Islamic Ummah is responsible for acting in unity, being the voice of Palestine in the international arena, and taking the necessary steps for a lasting peace. On the occasion of our meeting, we once again call upon the international community not to remain indifferent to this human tragedy in Palestine and to strive for the achievement of justice and peace.

Dear Representatives of the Member States,

The settlement of the Kashmir dispute is of vital importance for lasting peace, stability, and prosperity in South Asia. We are pleased that the tensions escalated after India's attack on Pakistani territory on May 6th have been lowered with the ceasefire decision agreed by the two countries.

We hope that the necessary mechanisms, including in the area of counter-terrorism, will be established to ensure stability in the region and prevent the recurrence of similar incidents, and support Pakistan's call for an investigation into the terrorist attack on April 22nd.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish mercy upon our brothers and sisters who perished in the attacks and to offer my condolences to the people and government of Pakistan.

Valuable Guests,

The global economy is now more uncertain and risky due to the protectionist trade policies, which have recently gained momentum with tariff hikes. These protectionist inclinations have a detrimental effect on the prospects for the global economy during this sensitive time of attempting to recover from the negative consequences of the pandemic and ongoing geopolitical tensions. These developments cause insecurity in the global markets, exert pressure on inflation, trade, investments, and the growth outlook, and further increase economic vulnerabilities.

Accordingly, in its April 2025 World Economic Outlook, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reduced its 2025 global growth prediction to 2.8% because of the effects of tariff talks and the accompanying protectionist policies. This trend is expected to continue in 2026, with growth projections declining from 3.3% to 3%. Furthermore, the report highlighted the risk of deteriorating development prospects and growing protectionist inclinations resulting in wider financial instability, and said that financial market volatility heightens vulnerability, particularly in nations with heavy debt loads.

We need to strengthen our solidarity and collaboration even more to minimize the impacts of these vulnerabilities and uncertainties on our economies. If we act together, we can strengthen financial stability, remove trade barriers, and support sustainable development.

In this regard, I pay great attention to our cooperation efforts under the COMCEC umbrella. These works are carried out for our Member States and they will reinforce our economic solidarity and provide us with a strong foundation to overcome global challenges. I sincerely believe that if we act in cooperation, we can contribute to building a fairer and more prosperous global system.

Dear Committee Members,

The Islamic world has a deep knowledge and cultural heritage, offering great potential in many fields. Our civilizations' values and experiences, our youthful and dynamic human power, and our rich natural resources are significant pillars in overcoming the challenges of today's world. We should collectively focus on harmonizing these



opportunities with innovative thinking and cooperation to build a fairer, peaceful and prosperous future.

This strong potential offers us significant opportunities in many areas of development. Increasing our nations' trading capabilities and gaining a fair share from the global trade are among the most crucial aspects of the development of our countries. Therefore, reforming and enhancing our export strategies will help us promote economic growth, boost international collaboration, and build a more stable and sustainable economic order.

In light of this, I believe that the discussions and decisions that our distinguished ministers will make on the theme “Improving Export Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”, which was discussed at the 41st COMCEC Ministerial Meeting, will serve our countries to make significant progress in this field.

Distinguished Participants,

I consider the programmes and projects carried out under the umbrella of COMCEC as crucial cornerstones to achieve our development goals. I would therefore like to highlight the importance of making effective use of the opportunities offered by the COMCEC. I am confident that we will make great strides towards accomplishing our development objectives if we fully make use of the COMCEC's initiatives aimed at offering effective solutions to the current economic and commercial challenges faced by the Islamic world.

Among these projects, the most significant one is the Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC), which, as you know, entered into force on July 1st, 2022. The full implementation of the system by the Contracting States is of utmost importance.

As you know, the System has become more inclusive upon the submission of the concession lists by the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council to the Trade Negotiations Committee Secretariat. In addition, it is very valuable that the addition of new areas to the System that will increase trade volume was brought to the agenda at the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the TPS-OIC Trade Negotiations Committee that was held in Istanbul on June 10-11, 2024. These actions, in my opinion, will lend impetus to the TPS-OIC system, our most crucial instrument for boosting international trade.

On this occasion, I would like to invite countries that have not yet engaged in the System to participate in this important project as soon as possible.

Honorable Committee Members,

I appreciate the efforts and contributions of the respective OIC organizations in implementing the decisions we take here in COMCEC. In this context, I am pleased to see the OIC Arbitration Center, which we have launched based on the decisions taken at the respective OIC and COMCEC platforms, is expanding its activities, and I invite all the Member States to benefit the work other services of this Center aimed at the reliable, fast and effective resolution of trade and investment disputes.

On the other hand, the International Investment Fund developed as a halal investment instrument under the OIC/COMCEC 50 Islamic Index, is an important outcome of our work in this field. I would like to express that the efforts of Member States to promote the Fund to investors and encourage them to invest in the Fund are invaluable.

I would also like to touch on the successful implementation of the COMCEC SME Program, which aims to increase our trade volume, increase employment, and improve communication among our SMEs by creating business networks among small and medium-sized enterprises, which constitute the backbone of our countries' economies. In my opinion, it is very important that the areas identified under this Program have been added to the themes supported under the COMCEC Project Funding and that the projects in this field have started to be supported as of this year. The support that the Member States have offered so far and will offer from now on to the projects and activities to be carried out in this context is very valuable.

The work carried out as part of the COMCEC High-Level Digital Transformation Forum has a high added value in terms of responding to the needs that arise in the current environment. In this framework, we are pleased to see that the cybersecurity competition and the advanced cybersecurity training, organized last September with the active participation of member countries, have contributed to building capacity in the field of cybersecurity. I would like to invite all countries to make maximum use of the opportunities offered under this Forum.

Honorable Members of the Follow-Up Committee,

The COMCEC Sectoral Working Groups have addressed important issues this year. I think that the concrete policy recommendations and roadmaps to be identified as a result of the works in this scope will make significant contribution to the efforts of cooperation in relative areas in the upcoming period.

COMCEC Project Support Programs have a very important function in the implementation of these policy recommendations and roadmaps. Accordingly, 156 projects were supported under the COMCEC Project Support Programs from 2014 to 2024. Last year, 24 projects were completed with the valuable contributions of our countries and relevant OIC organizations. I would also like to note that, the favor of member countries will enable the Program to support 23 projects this year.

Distinguished Representatives of the Committee Member Countries,

Carried out in solidarity with Palestine and in support of our brothers and sisters in Jerusalem, the COMCEC Al-Quds program allowed us to implement important projects. Accordingly, eight projects have been implemented in various fields, including vocational training courses that touch the lives of our brothers and sisters in Jerusalem. This year, the program aims to support eight new projects. Inshallah, we will continue to provide such support to our Palestinian brothers and sisters in the upcoming period.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all member countries and OIC organisations for their active participation in our cooperation efforts and sharing experiences. I wish all countries to maintain their achievements in their future undertakings.

May the Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Allah be with you.

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# **ANNEX**

## **III**

Original: Arabic

**MESSAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. HISSEIN BRAHIM TAHA  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC  
COOPERATION (OIC)**

**H.E. Mr. Ridvan Agaoglu, Vice President of the Strategy and Budget of the  
Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye,**

**Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegations,**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Assalamu Aleykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakatuhu.**

It is indeed an honor for me, on behalf of the Secretary General of the OIC, H.E Mr Hissein Brahimi Taha, to address the 41st Follow-up Committee Meeting of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) in this historical city of Ankara.

I wish to express our sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Türkiye, the Government and people of Türkiye, the Chairman and the team of COMCEC, for the arrangements made for this meeting and continuous efforts in supporting OIC programs, especially in the economic domain, including the COMCEC activities and projects.

Despite the progress we have made since last COMCEC Meeting, we are still facing unprecedented challenges such as economic disparities, geopolitical tensions and climate change. Achieving sustainable economic recovery and development requires strengthening local governance structures and encouraging international cooperation. In this respect, our collaboration in the economic domain has continued to accord priority to building the necessary institutional frameworks for active multilateral economic engagement in various sectors, particularly trade, tourism, transportation, agriculture and food security, rural development, labour, employment, finance and social protection.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year, 2025, is the year in which we collectively committed to achieving 25% intra-OIC trade. With eight months remaining, this vision remains of utmost importance. In this context, it is necessary to note that in recent years, there has been a modest progress in terms of increasing intra-OIC trade. According to available data, the intra-OIC trade share in the overall foreign trade of Member States increased by 6.26%, from 19.16% in 2023 to 20.36 % in 2024. This means we are still far behind our target of achieving

25% intra-OIC trade by 2025. Accordingly, there is an urgent need for OIC Member States to expedite the implementation of the various trade and investment related initiatives of OIC, including Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC). Furthermore, the private sector in the OIC countries should be encouraged by the governments to make more trade connections and increase their trades within the OIC region.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the announcement of the US new tariff rates that have sent shockwaves through global markets. In this context, I wish to thank SESRIC and ICDT for their study on the possible impact of this new US trade policy towards the economies of the OIC Member States. I would therefore like to request the said OIC institutions to study further the US new tariff policy and submit a comprehensive study to the COMCEC Ministerial Session.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished guests,

It is imperative that we reaffirm our commitment in fostering economic cooperation and commercial collaboration among the Member States. In this context, continuous activities and several sectoral Ministerial level meetings and Forums are planned in this year as enumerated in my Report. The 10th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCFSAD) will be held in the Republic of Chad. This meeting will discuss the current state of agriculture and food security in the OIC Member States, identify priorities and agree on how to address the challenges related to enhancing food security in OIC Member States. The 6th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) will also be held this year in Doha, State of Qatar, to review the progress in the implementation of the resolutions of the ICLM and the OIC Labour Market Strategy and deliberate on the activities of the OIC institutions within the labor areas such as unemployment, developing workforce capacity and enhancing social protection. In this context, we would like to express our gratitude to the Member States that have joined in signing and ratifying the OIC Labor Centre Statute over the past year, and we hope that this progress may foster closer collaboration and encourage coordination in labor-related matters.

In addition, the Second Stakeholders' Meeting on the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project was held on 24th February 2025 at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The meeting emphasized the need to identify challenges hindering the implementation of the Project, stressed on the importance of agreeing on a way forward, as well as to develop strategies to overcome such challenges. The outcome of this Meeting will be submitted to the Second Ministerial Conference on Transportation in OIC Member States, to be held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, in 2025 or in 2026. In this regard, I wish to express my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for its offer to host the said Ministerial Meeting on Transportation.

It is worth mentioning that the OIC Ministerial Conferences are instrumental in boosting cooperation among the Member States in the areas of economic domain.

The OIC Investment Forum in Africa will also be held in the Republic of Mali, on 2nd – 4th December 2025. I would therefore, encourage all Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned OIC economic events.

In addition, I wish to mention that the relevant OIC institutions namely, COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IsDB Group, IOFS, OICLC, SMIIC, ICCD and IFHAB have implemented several development and promotional projects, training and capacity building programmes on various economic aspects for the benefit of our countries.

Accordingly, the OIC General Secretariat and its above-mentioned relevant institutions will continue to work closely with its Member States to further a collaborative response to facilitate economic development in our countries.

I wish you a very successful meeting, the outcomes of which shall benefit the Islamic Ummah.

**Wassalamu Alaykum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakatihu**

# **ANNEX**

## **IV**



**REPORT OF THE  
46<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE  
(06 May 2025, Virtual Meeting)**

- The 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held virtually on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- 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 Development Bank (IsDB)
  - International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)
  - The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)
  - Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD)
  - Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)
  - OIC Labour Centre (OIC LC)
  - 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
  - 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**

- Underlining 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 40th COMCEC Ministerial Session based on the cooperation areas.
- At the outset, the CCO has presented overview of the activities of the OIC institutions aligned with the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendation and the COMCEC Strategy. In this respect CCO reported that OIC Institutions have conducted 39 activities in Group A and 78 activities in Group B category, since the previous COMCEC Ministerial Session. It was also reported that 45 Group A activities and 117 Group B activities have been planned to be held until the end of this year.
- 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.
- Furthermore, The Committee was informed about the projects implemented under the COMCEC Project Support Programs. It was highlighted that 23 projects are being implemented by OIC Member Countries and OIC Institutions under the COMCEC Project Funding (CPF) in 2025.
- The Committee commended the OIC Institutions for their contributions to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy as well as COMCEC Policy Recommendations.
- 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 for the 13th Call for Project Proposals under the COMCEC Project Funding.

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

- SESRIC has informed The Committee about the two activities on SDG Indicators which were held after the 40<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session for the benefit of national statistical offices. These activities mainly focused on SDG 3 related to good health and well-being and SDG 8 related to decent work and economic growth.
- The Committee was informed by SESRIC about the preparations being conducted by SESRIC for the preparations of seventh report titled “Towards the Achievement of Prioritized Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries” to be submitted to the upcoming Ministerial Session.
- Regarding the SDG related activities of OIC institutions the CCO informed The Committee that, according to the COMCEC Online System, 11 activities have been completed, and 59 activities have been planned on the prioritized SDGs in 2025.

### **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 S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index and Fund, and COMCEC SME Program.
- Underlining the important role of the OIC institutions in increasing awareness in Member Countries about the COMCEC Flagship Projects, The Committee invited the relevant OIC institutions to further enhance their efforts to the extent possible for this purpose.

### **OIC Business Intelligence Programme**

- The Committee was also informed by the ICIEC (IsDB Group) on the work being undertaken towards launching the OIC Business Intelligence Center Programme. The Committee noted training and capacity building programs including the latest one held in Jakarta, Indonesia in February 2025.
- Commending the efforts of ICIEC in collaboration with SESRIC, ICDT, and ICCD in conducting capacity building programs and recalling the relevant resolution of 40th 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.
- Taking note of the briefing made by IOFS on the humanitarian food relief appeal, including 200 plus tons of wheat flour since last January for Gaza by IOFS, the Committee took note with appreciation the critical and timely efforts of IOFS in this respect.
- The Committee commended that SESRIC organized 27 different activities for the benefit of 64 participants from the relevant national institutions of the State of Palestine since the 40<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session.
- The Committee noted with appreciation that the SMIIC's efforts to ensure active engagement of Palestinian counterparts to the capacity building activities within its scope of activities.
- Commending the effort exerted within the framework of COMCEC Al-Quds Program towards enhancement of the socio-economic conditions in Al-Quds, The Committee noted with appreciation that 8 projects are being implemented under this program to support SME's and empower women as well as youth through various vocational education programmes and training activities.
- Concerning the OIC institutions activities towards geographically distant OIC Member Countries, The Committee took note with appreciation the activities of SESRIC namely 12 different activities for the benefit of Guyana and 11 different activities for the benefit of Surinam.
- The Committee was also informed that under COMCEC Project Funding, Suriname will implement a project in the area of SMEs and Guyana will also benefit from the project as the beneficiary country.
- Commending the efforts of the OIC institutions, The Committee requested them to continue their efforts through among others conducting joint activities, projects, and programs.

**Any Other Business**

- The Committee Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

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# **ANNEX**

## **V**

Original: English



**AGENDA OF 41<sup>ST</sup> MEETING  
OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC**

(13-14 May 2025, 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 “Developing/Improving Export Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”
13. Draft Agenda of the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Report

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# **ANNEX**

## **VI**



## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> COMCEC FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE MEETING**

1. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summits on Israeli Aggression Against the Palestinian People held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 11 November, 2023 and 11 November, 2024; of the 15<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit held in Banjul, The Gambia, on 4–5 May, 2024; and of the 20<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary CFM on 7 March, 2025 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the Committee **encouraged** the Member Countries to fully implement the said resolutions.
2. The Committee **urged** to increase joint efforts to coerce Israel and to stop all forms of aggression and barbaric violations against the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and to let the flow of humanitarian aid into the region.
3. The Committee **took note of** the emergency response plan prepared by the State of Palestine to address the repercussions of the Israeli aggression on the State of Palestine, and the crime of mass genocide that it is being perpetrated in the Gaza Strip, and **called upon** the Member Countries, development agencies and relevant national funds to support the emergency response plan for relief and recovery in coordination with the Government of the State of Palestine.
4. **Taking into consideration** the current situation in Palestine, the Committee **called on** the Member Countries to take the necessary measures that would exempt Palestinian goods and commodities from customs duties, duties and taxes of similar effect, without quantitative or qualitative restrictions, which would have a positive effect on strengthening the steadfastness of the Palestinian people on their own territory and supporting the efforts of the State of Palestine to put an end to the Israeli occupation
5. **Commending** the endeavors of the Member Countries and the relevant OIC Institutions to implement the COMCEC Strategy and the Ministerial Policy Recommendations, the Committee **invited** the Member Countries to exert every effort , to the extent possible, to implement the Policy Recommendations and to harness the benefits of the current facilities/mechanisms of, in particular, the COMCEC Working Groups and COMCEC Project Support Programs, namely COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Al-Quds Program and **requested** the OIC Institutions support the Member Countries to this end.
6. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 40<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session, the Committee **called upon** the Member Countries to utilize the COMCEC Policy Follow-up System to submit necessary information and data on the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations in their respective countries, and **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to

regularly report the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Sessions, the Follow-up Committee Meetings and other relevant OIC fora.

7. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the OIC General Secretariat, CCO, SESRIC, ICDT, IsDB, ITFC, ICIEC, ICD, IOFS, SMIIC, OIC LC and ICCD for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and the Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

8. **Underlining** the importance of the realization of the objectives set by OIC 2025: Programme of Action and the active follow up of the economic and commercial section of the Programme by the COMCEC, and **welcoming** the preparation efforts towards developing a full-fledged successor Programme of Action, the Committee **requested** the OIC General Secretariat to submit comprehensive progress reports thereon to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and Follow up Committee Meetings.

9. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, the Committee **requested** the Member Countries that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the agreements within the economic domain to further the economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member Countries.

10. **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 Countries in support of their accession efforts to the WTO, the Committee **called upon** IsDB and ICDT to continue 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, especially in preparation for the 14<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference scheduled for early 2026 in Cameroon.

11. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and **commending** the efforts towards the effective implementation of the TPS-OIC, which has become operational as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, the Committee **requested** the Participating States which have not done so yet, to complete their internal procedures, and **called upon** the Member Countries, which have not yet signed or ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements to do so at their earliest convenience and complete other procedures for joining the System.

12. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host a TNC Meeting on 9 September, 2025 to elaborate on the potential expansion of TPS-OIC through increased product coverage and new disciplines, and **called upon** the

OIC Member Countries that have signed and ratified the TPS-OIC Framework Agreement to actively participate in this meeting, while **inviting** the Member States that are not party to the Framework Agreement to participate in the meeting as observers.

13. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host an additional TNC Meeting on 10 September, 2025 to be attended by the States that have submitted their concession lists specifically for the discussion of implementation issues, and **called upon** the relevant Participating States to actively participate in the meeting.

14. The Committee **took note with appreciation** the organization of workshops, webinars, trainings, fairs, exhibitions, and forums organized by the ICDT and partner countries' institutions in trade domain and **requested** the Member Countries to keep providing the ICDT with statistical data relating to trade, investments and regulations.

15. The Committee **appreciated** trade finance, promotion, development and capacity-building activities of the ITFC, and the mobilization of funds from the international market and development partners for funding trade finance operations in the Member Countries, contributing towards the achievement of the 25 percent intra-OIC trade target.

16. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 40<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session and **taking note of** the Progress Report submitted by the ICIEC on the OIC Business Intelligence Centre (OBIC) Programme, the Committee **requested** the ICIEC, in cooperation with SESRIC, ICDT and ICCD, to continue their efforts to complete the technical preparations for the launch of the OBIC Programme, and to regularly submit progress reports related to the OBIC to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and Follow-up Committee Meetings.

17. **Recognizing** the role of SMIIC in advancing standardization, accreditation and metrology, and taking note of their beneficial impact on enhancing trade facilitation and capacity building, the Committee **invited** the Member States to officially adopt and implement the OIC/SMIIC Standards in line with the SMIIC adoption guidelines.

18. **Acknowledging** the important role of the OIC Arbitration Centre, as an affiliated institution of the ICCD, for the settlement of disputes, the Committee **called upon** the Member Countries to encourage active participation in the activities of the OIC Arbitration Centre, and to encourage the use of the services provided by the Centre to those who seek it.

19. **Taking into consideration** the crucial role of private sector financing in the mobilization of private investments and ensuring sustainable economic growth in

the Member States, the Committee **invited** the Member States to better utilize the facilities of the ICD through solid projects aimed at creating competition, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.

20. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 40<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session on the COMCEC SME Program, the Committee **requested** the active participation of interested Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions in the activities conducted under the Program.

21. **Acknowledging** the continued efforts of the ICCD in advancing the digital transformation, including the development of a Freelance Platform under the Palestine Initiative and the Digital Transformation of Chambers of Commerce, the Committee **encouraged** the Member States, the private sector and OIC institutions to actively engage with these initiatives by supporting investment, training and digital employment opportunities.

22. The Committee **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 and has been developed under the coordination of the OIC Exchanges Forum, to investors and the finance community in their respective countries.

23. The Committee **requested** the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum to complete the technical preparations for the OIC Gold Exchange Project, based on a blockchain model, in cooperation with the Central Banks of the interested Member Countries.

24. **Welcoming** the involvement of 14 Member Countries in the COMCEC Real Estate Electronic Platform within the framework of the Capital Markets Regulatory Forum, the Committee **requested** the Forum Secretariat to expedite the necessary legal, administrative, and technical works to secure the operation of a full-fledged Real Estate Electronic Platform, and **invited** all Member Countries that have not yet done so to identify their authorized bodies, and to notify them to the Forum's Secretariat.

25. The Committee **reiterated** the importance of the Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project as one of the most significant development projects aimed at enhancing the movement of people and goods among the African OIC Member Countries.

26. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> OIC Transport Ministerial Meeting during the term of its Chairmanship of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM).

27. **Taking note** of IOFS initiatives in the field of tech-driven agriculture, the Committee requested IOFS liaise with the Member Countries for the formulation of comprehensive tech-driven agricultural policies aimed at addressing regional challenges, maximize opportunities, establish strong public-private partnerships and fostering the research and development of sustainable agri-tech solutions.

28. **Expressing** its appreciation to SESRIC for its efforts in the execution of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020–2025 with a view to supporting and supplementing the efforts of the TVET authorities of the OIC Member Countries in improving their existing TVET systems, the Committee **requested** SESRIC identify the current challenges and trends in OIC countries in the TVET domain in order to prepare a new roadmap for the 2026–2035 period in line with the new OIC Programme of Action and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in cooperation with the Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions.

29. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the COMCEC Sessions, the Committee **requested** the CCO to carry on compiling the relevant OIC Institutions' activities aligned with the prioritized SDG areas for submission to the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

30. **Commending** the efforts of SESRIC in compiling annual reports on the progress towards the achievement of the prioritized SDGs in the OIC Member Countries for regular submission to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, the Committee **requested** SESRIC continue providing statistical training as part of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme with particular focus on the SDGs for the benefit of National Statistical Offices of the Member Countries.

31. The Committee **acknowledged** SESRIC for its efforts towards OIC Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Network (OIC-SMENET), the OIC Social Security Institutions Network (OIC-SSINET), the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET), the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) and the OIC Disaster Risk Management Network (OIC-DRMNET), and **called upon** the Member Countries to actively participate in activities under these networks and to respond to the questionnaires sent out by SESRIC.

32. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 40<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session, the Committee **requested** the IsDB Group to submit regular reports on the implementation of its programs, in particular ISFD and SPDA, to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings.

33. **Taking note with appreciation** the efforts of the COMCEC High-Level Digital Transformation Forum in exchanging experience among the Member Countries related to the digital transformation, the Committee **called upon** any interested Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions to actively participate in the activities of the High-Level Forum in the upcoming period.

34. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 40<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session, the Committee **commended** the endeavors of the COMCEC Trade Working Group, which will undertake the necessary preparations, including, among others, the formulation of a set of policy recommendations for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 41<sup>st</sup> COMCEC Meeting, with the theme “*Developing/Improving Export Strategies in the OIC Member Countries*”, and **called upon** the Member Countries to actively participate in the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Trade Working Group to be held on 22–23 September, 2025.

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

Theme 1: Developing Effective Trade Financing Tools for Increasing Export in OIC Member Countries

Theme 2: Potential of Crowdfunding for Economic Development in OIC Member Countries

Theme 3: Promoting a Resilient Agriculture and Food Sector against Climate Change in OIC Member Countries

Theme 4: Designing Integrated Multimodal Transport Systems in the OIC Member Countries

Theme 5: Impacts of Climate Change and Mitigation Strategies for Sustainable OIC Tourism

Theme 6: Preventing the Skill Mismatch in Labor Market in OIC Member Countries

36. The Committee **prepared** and **decided** to submit the Draft Agenda to the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

# **ANNEX**

## **VII**

## SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> COMCEC FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE MEETING

1. The Committee **welcomed** the Report on the Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy submitted by the CCO highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy, and **commended** the Member Countries and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to the implementation of the Strategy.
2. The Committee **welcomed** the twenty-three projects that are being implemented in 2025 under the COMCEC Project Funding, and **invited** the Member Countries to intensify their efforts to harness the benefits of COMCEC Project Funding, particularly with a view to materializing the Ministerial Policy Recommendations.
3. The Committee **also welcomed** that eight projects are being implemented by the Ministry of National Economy of Palestine under the COMCEC Al-Quds Programme in 2025 with the aim of improving the well-being of people living in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
4. The Committee **took note with appreciation** the report presented by the OIC General Secretariat on the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the OIC-2025: Program of Action.
5. The Committee **welcomed** the convening of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) on 4–5 December, 2024 at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah.
6. **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on 21 April, 2024 with the theme of “Developing/Improving Export Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”, the Committee **called upon** the Member Countries that have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to actively participate in its 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be organized under the same theme on 22–23 September, 2025.
7. The Committee **welcomed** the activities of the CCO, SESRIC, ICDT, IsDB, ITFC, ICIEC, ICD, IOFS, ICCD and SMIIC related to trade since the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC aligned with the COMCEC Strategy.
8. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Indonesia and SMIIC for the following projects being implemented in the trade domain in 2025 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:
  - The project titled “Enhancing Slaughterhouse Standards for Halal and Food Safety Compliance” being implemented by Indonesia in partnership with Türkiye and SMIIC,
  - The project titled “Enhancing the Capacity of Metrology Laboratories for Improved Quality Infrastructure” being implemented by SMIIC with Türkiye, Sudan and Uganda.



9. The Committee **welcomed** the organization of the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the OIC Member States Health Expo, held on 15–19 April, 2025, in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Social Action, and **invited** the Member Countries to actively participate in the following activities:

- The OIC Investment Forum in Africa, to be held on 2-4 December, 2025, in Bamako, Republic of Mali, under the theme “Unlocking Africa’s Investment Potential” in cooperation with IsDB and other relevant OIC institutions,
- Tourism Expo, to be held on 23–25 October, 2025, in Uganda,
- Halal Expo, to be held on 26–29 November, 2025, in İstanbul, Türkiye.

10. The Committee **appreciated** the CCO and ICDT as the co-secretariats of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) for their supervision of the trade negotiations and capacity building related to the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member Countries.

11. The Committee **requested** the ICDT and CCO continue to raise awareness of the TPS-OIC and its impacts on the private sector for the benefit of OIC Member Countries in the upcoming period.

12. The Committee **called upon** the WTO members of the OIC to assist non-WTO Members of the OIC in their WTO accession processes, and **also called upon** the Member Countries and the relevant OIC institutions extend support to the Member Countries who need technical assistance related to trade facilitation practices towards the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

13. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to SESRIC for its continued efforts in organizing statistical activities in the domain of trade, and **took note with appreciation** the Training Course on “International Trade Statistics” held on 14-15 May, 2025, provided by the Kingdom of Morocco, for the benefit of the National Statistical Offices and relevant national institutions of the OIC Member Countries.

14. **Highlighting** the importance of mobilizing external funds amounting to US\$3.8 billion, accounting for 53% of the total approvals in 2024, the Committee **took note with appreciation** that ITFC’s trade financing approvals for 2024 had reached US\$7.3 billion, reflecting a 6% increase on the US\$6.9 billion figure in 2023; and that the trade financing disbursements had amounted to US\$6.6 billion in 2024, representing a 9% increase on the US\$6.0 billion recorded in 2023.

15. The Committee **took note of** the trade promotion and capacity development initiatives being implemented by ITFC under its various flagship programs, such as the Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program (AATB) and Aid for Trade Initiatives for Arab States (AFTIAS).

16. The Committee **commended** the efforts of ITFC for the launching of the Trade Connect Central Asia+ (TCCA+) in consultation with the following OIC Member Countries: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, aimed at strengthening regional economic

cooperation, access to markets and trade promotion, both among them and with the rest of the world.

17. **Commending** ITFC's Integrated Trade Solutions, through which trade-related technical assistance and financial products are offered to Member Countries with the aim of maximizing the development impact of ITFC trade solutions, the Committee **took note with appreciation** the efforts of the ITFC under its Global SMEs program aimed at improving the access of SMEs to credits and the international market in partnership with local banks the SME-support institutions in the beneficiary countries.

18. The Committee **requested** the ICIEC continue submitting reports of their export credit insurance activities to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and Follow-up Committee Meetings.

19. The Committee **took note with appreciation** of the ICIEC's volume of business insured in 2024, which stood at USD 12.9 billion and ICIEC's role in supporting USD 5.9 billion of intra-OIC business insured in 2024.

20. **Underlining** the importance of a well-functioning Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) among the national halal accreditation bodies of the OIC Member Countries, in alignment with the OIC/SMIIC standards outlined in the OIC Global Halal Quality Infrastructure (OHAQ), the Committee **requested** an acceleration of the efforts towards this goal within the framework of Islamic Forum for Halal Accreditation Bodies (IFHAB).

21. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to actively participate in the Halal Expo İstanbul 2025 and the 11<sup>th</sup> World Halal Summit to be held in İstanbul, Türkiye on 26–29 November, 2025, in collaboration with SMIIC and ICDT.

22. The Committee **welcomed** the efforts of SMIIC for conducting the following activities in its field of competence;

- OIC/SMIIC 3:2019 Conformity Assessment-Requirements for Halal Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Halal Conformity Assessment Bodies Foundation Training, given virtually on 02–03 December, 2024.
- OIC/SMIIC 24:2020 General Requirements for Food Additives and Other Added Chemicals to Halal Food Foundation Training, delivered in Arabic for experts from Arabic-speaking Member States on 09–10 December, 2024.
- Online seminar on Introduction to SMIIC and its Activities and the Technical Work and SMIIC Information System (IS) for Member States' Staff on 21–22 January, 2025.
- OIC/SMIIC 50-1:2022 Halal Pharmaceuticals General Requirements Foundation Training on 27–28 January, 2025 as a two-day online course, with 25 participants from Argentina, Belgium, France, Pakistan, Palestine, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates.

23. The Committee **commended** SMIIC's efforts in the publication of 20 new standards, bringing the total number of OIC/SMIIC standards to 77, thereby contributing to the advancement and harmonization of industry practices.

24. The Committee **called upon** the Member States and relevant private sector entities to support the ICCD in organizing various sector-specific forums dealing with such issues as the digital economy, sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism, Islamic economy, investment and entrepreneurship development, and so to support the sustainable development of the OIC private sector and the economic growth of the Member States, including primarily:

- Sustainable Agriculture Investment Forum, Azerbaijan, 2025.
- Nigeria Halal Conference, Lagos, Nigeria, August 2025.
- Azhab Halal Conference, Baku, September 2025.
- Best of Entrepreneurship Series, Asia (Second Edition), Karachi, Pakistan 24 September, 2025.
- Invest in the Digital Economy Forum, Amman, Jordan, September 2025.
- OIC Halal Conference, held on the sidelines of the Anuga Food Fair, Cologne, 6 October, 2025.
- Best of Entrepreneurship Series, Africa, November 2025.
- Sustainable Tourism Forum, Pakistan, 2026.
- Makkah Halal Forum, 2026.

25. The Committee **took note** of the continuous efforts of the ICCD, working in collaboration with the IsDB, to establish microfinance institutions in Africa's Sahel region, which will contribute significantly to the financial inclusion, poverty alleviation and overall economic empowerment of the region's population.

26. The Committee **encouraged** the OIC private sector entities to participate in the ICCD's Training Academy (ICTA) programs, and thus to benefit from capacity-building opportunities in such critical areas as finance, entrepreneurship and digital transformation by contributing to the competitiveness of their businesses in the global market.

27. The Committee **encouraged** the Member Countries to make use of the Sustainable Chambers Model developed by the ICCD by integrating its training modules and best practices into their national chamber strategies, and thus to enhance the sustainability, improve the service delivery and support the growth of their private sectors.

28. The Committee **took note** of the contributions of the ICD to the development of the private sector through Lines of Finance, Term Finance and Equity Projects in the OIC Member Countries through the US\$663 million in approval allocations in 2024.

29. The Committee **took note with appreciation** the dedicated cooperation efforts of the ICD to develop more than 9 joint transactions worth over US\$516 million, in partnership with the ITFC and ICIEC last year, and to encourage synergies among Islamic Development Bank Group Entities.

30. **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group on 22 April, 2025 under the theme "Promoting Sustainable and Environmentally Friendly Islamic Financial Instruments to Combat the Adverse Effects of Climate Change and Natural Disasters in the OIC Member Countries", the Committee **called upon** the

Member Countries that have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively participate at its 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be held under the same theme on 17–18 September, 2025.

31. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Benin and Sierra Leone for the following projects being implemented in financial cooperation domain in 2025, within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project titled “Experience Sharing in Designing a Legal Framework for Building an Islamic Finance Lead Unit” being implemented by Benin in partnership with Malaysia,
- The project titled “Capacity Building for Strengthening Digital Payment Systems in the Financial Sector”, being implemented by Sierra Leone in partnership with Egypt and Nigeria.

32. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the SESRIC for the conduct of following training courses and webinar in the field of financial cooperation:

- “Monetary and Financial Statistics”, 07–08 November, 2024
- “System of National Accounts”, 20–21 November, 2024
- “Enhancing Vocational Training through Public-Private Partnerships: Best Practices and Strategies”, 4 December, 2024
- “Sustainable Growth and Climate Resilience: Islamic Green Finance in OIC Capital Markets”, 25–26 February, 2025,

33. **Commending** the efforts of the OIC Exchanges Forum, the Committee **welcomed** the offer of Borsa İstanbul, as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, to host the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum in September 2025, and **invited** the active participation of the Member Countries in the activities organized under this Forum.

34. The Committee **commended** the efforts of SESRIC, collaborating with the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, in organizing training and capacity-building activities on various technical and regulatory aspects related to the work of the Stock Exchanges; and **requested** the continuation of such activities for the benefit of the Stock Exchanges and relevant stakeholders in the Member Countries within the framework of SESRIC’s Stock Exchanges Capacity Building Programme (SECaB).

35. **Commending** the efforts carried out by the Task Forces of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum in such areas as capacity building, market development, Islamic finance, financial literacy and sustainability, the Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Capital Markets Board (CMB) of the Republic of Türkiye in its capacity as the Forum Secretariat, to host the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum in 2025, and **invited** all the Member Countries to actively participate in this Meeting.

36. **Welcoming** the training and capacity-building programs organized by the SESRIC towards the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of Member Countries, the Committee **requested** the SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the benefit of the relevant national institutions of the Member Countries within the framework of its Central Banks Capacity Building

Programme (CB-CaB).

37. **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on 24 April, 2025 under the theme of “Enhancing and Sustaining Rural Accessibility in the OIC Member Countries”, the Committee **called upon** the Member Countries registered to the Working Group to actively participate in its 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting, to be organized under the same theme on 17–18 September, 2025.

38. The Committee **commended** the efforts of The Gambia for project titled “Strengthening Human and Institutional Capacity for Data Identification, Analysis and Monitoring to Track Transport Sector Emissions in The Gambia and OIC Countries”, being implemented in partnership with Senegal, Türkiye, Sierra Leone and Nigeria in 2025 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

39. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to SESRIC for its publication of the report entitled “Transportation for Development in OIC Member Countries: Implications for Trade and Tourism & Challenges for Landlocked Countries” in the three official languages of OIC, and for its capacity building activities, including a training course on “Enhancing Efforts for Facilitating Transportation in Landlocked OIC Member Countries” on 29–30 April, 2025 and a webinar on “Developing Sustainable Transportation Strategies to Address Climate Change” on 18 December, 2024, within the framework of SESRIC’s Transportation Capacity Building Programme (Transport-CaB).

40. **Taking note with appreciation** the convening of the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group on 21 April, 2025 with the theme of “Improving the Quality and Sustainability of Heritage Tourism in OIC Countries”, the Committee **called upon** the Member Countries registered to the Working Group to actively participate in its 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting, to be organized under the same theme on 15–16 September, 2025.

41. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Maldives, Malaysia, Uganda and SESRIC for their involvement in the following projects being implemented in the tourism domain in 2025 with COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project titled “Capacity Building of Stakeholders through Experience Sharing in Agrotourism Practices” being implemented by Burkina Faso in partnership with Morocco,
- The project titled “Strategic Planning and Marketing Strategies for the Promotion of Gastronomy Tourism” being implemented by Bangladesh in partnership with Türkiye,
- The project titled “Empowering Sustainable Tourism: Integrating Blue, Green, Circular Economy into Tourism Operations” being implemented by Indonesia in partnership with Egypt, Malaysia, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates and Türkiye,
- The project titled “Enhancing Maldivian Gastronomy Tourism by Increasing the Recognition of Traditional Cuisine” being implemented by the Maldives,
- The project titled “Reimagining Islamic Heritage Tourism: Best Practices and

Critical Success Factors” being implemented by Malaysia in partnership with Uzbekistan, Türkiye, Jordan and Mali,

- The project titled “Effective Management of Tourism Heritage Sites for Enhancing the Quality and Sustainability in Tourism”, being implemented by Uganda in partnership with The Gambia,
- The project titled “Promoting Gastronomy Tourism for the Destination Senegal” being implemented by SESRIC in partnership with Türkiye, Morocco, Senegal, Uzbekistan, Malaysia and the ICDT.

42. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to SESRIC and ICDT for jointly organizing the Online Workshop on “Developing a Pertinent Marketing Strategy for the Destination Senegal”, held on 6–7 May, 2025 within the framework of the Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB) in commemoration of Dakar as the OIC City of Tourism for 2025.

43. **Considering** the role of tourism as a driver of socio-economic development in OIC countries, the Committee **welcomed** the initiatives of the ICDT and SESRIC aimed at assisting the Member States in developing strategies for the tourism sector, and **invited** both institutions to carry out activities in the areas of family tourism, health tourism, gastronomy, and halal tourism, as well as in marketing strategies and digitalization efforts.

44. The Committee **took note with appreciation** of the efforts of SESRIC for organizing the below activities in the tourism field:

- Statistical Training Course on “SDG 8 Indicators”, held on 25–26 February, 2025,
- Workshop on “Developing Pertinent Marketing Strategy for the Destination Senegal”, held on 6–7 May, 2025.

45. **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group on 22 April, 2025 under the theme of “Strengthening the Resilience of Family Farmers and Small-Scale Producers in the Agriculture and Food Sector in OIC Member Countries”, the Committee **called upon** the Member Countries that have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in its 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting, to be organized under the same theme on 22–23 September, 2025.

46. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Azerbaijan, Benin, Egypt, The Gambia, Niger and SESRIC for their contributions to the following projects in the field of agriculture being implemented in 2025 with COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Boosting Competitiveness of Azerbaijani Small Family Farms and SMEs by Adopting Climate-Resilient Agricultural Practices”, being implemented by Azerbaijan in partnership with Türkiye,
- The Project titled “Capacity Building in Efficient Water Management and Agricultural Practices Resilient to the Effects of Climate Change for Market Gardening”, being implemented by Benin in partnership with Morocco and IOFS,
- The Project titled “Enhancing the Capabilities of Farmers in Some OIC Countries by Expanding and Sustainability of Using Organic and Organo-

Mineral Fertilizers”, implemented by Egypt in partnership with Sudan, Benin and IOFS,

- The Project titled “Building Capacities of Livestock Technicians and Smallholder Livestock Farmers on Sustainable Climate Resilient and Innovative Techniques”, implemented by The Gambia in partnership with Mauritania,
- The Project titled “Development of Dairy Production to Ensure Sustainable Food and Nutritional Security in Niger”, being implemented by Niger in partnership with Türkiye,
- The Project titled “Promoting Unconventional Water Resources to Enhance Agriculture Productivity in Water-Scarce OIC Member Countries”, implemented by SESRIC for the benefit of 8 Member Countries.

47. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the SESRIC for the conduct of following research and activities in the field of agriculture:

- Training Course on “Advanced Halal Food Processing Techniques: Ensuring Safety and Quality”, 19–20 February, 2025,
- Workshop “Exploring the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus for Sustainable Development in OIC Countries”, 3 March, 2025,
- Training Course on “Sustainable Cotton Production in OIC Countries: Strengthening Farmer Resilience and Economic Growth”, 11–12 March, 2025,
- Workshop on “Eco-Friendly Livestock Production Practices for Sustainable Agriculture”, 18–19 March, 2025.
- “OIC Water Report” prepared by SESRIC for submission to the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water, to be held in Saudi Arabia,
- “Food Security in OIC Member Countries in Africa” Report prepared by SESRIC in line with OIC-African Programme.

48. **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group on 24 April, 2025 under the theme “Decent Housing for the Poor in the OIC Member Countries”, the Committee **called upon** the Member Countries that have registered to the Working Group to actively participate in its 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting, to be organized under the same theme on 15–16 September, 2025.

49. The Committee **commended** the efforts of SESRIC for the following project being implemented under the poverty alleviation area in 2025 with COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project on “Developing an Effective Roadmap for Facilitating Digital Transition in National VET Systems in OIC Member Countries”, to be implemented by SESRIC for the benefit of 9 Member Countries.

50. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to the SESRIC for organizing activities under the agenda item on alleviating poverty:

- Workshop on “Strengthening TVET Strategies to Increase Youth Employment in OIC Member Countries”, 19–20 November, 2024,
- Workshop on “Energy Statistics, Balance and Accounts – for Informed Energy and Climate Policies”, 10–12 December, 2024,
- Workshop on “Developing Inclusive Education Programs in the Domain of Science and Technology in OIC-Africa Countries”, 4 February, 2025,

- Side Event on “Accelerating Data-Driven Energy Transitions through Collaborative Data Ecosystems” on the Margins of the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Statistical Commission, 18 February, 2025,
- SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) Indicators, 25–26 February, 2025,
- Workshop on “Extending Social Security Coverage to Informal Workers”, 15–16 April, 2025,
- Training Course on “Developing Effective, Reliable, and Affordable Social Protection Services for Women in OIC-Africa Countries”, 15–16 April 2025.

51. The Committee **also commended** SESRIC’s efforts in preparing flagship social development reports entitled “State of Youth in OIC Member States” and “OIC Women and Development Report”, which all contribute to shaping policies aimed at alleviating poverty and improving well-being across the OIC Member States, as well as an outlook report on “Maternal and Child Health in OIC Member Countries in Africa” in line with the OIC-Africa Programme, and the “OIC Health Report” which will be submitted to the 8th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers upon its convening.

52. **Highlighting** the vital importance of robust disaster risk management (DRM) in contributing to enhanced resilience and sustainable socio-economic development within the OIC Member Countries, the Committee **welcomed** the efforts of SESRIC in advancing the technical preparations towards initiating an intra-OIC network of cooperation among the DRM institutions of the Member Countries to focus on trainings towards disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery.

53. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Tajikistan and Türkiye for the following projects being implemented in the digital transformation domain in 2025 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project titled “Enhancing e-Government Capacity for Effective Public Service Delivery”, to be implemented by Tajikistan in partnership with Türkiye,
- The project titled “Capacity Building Programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Public Sector Employees”, to be implemented by Türkiye in partnership with 32 Member Countries.

54. **Commending** the OIC Member Countries that have already signed and ratified the Statute of the OIC Labour Centre, the Committee **encouraged** the remaining OIC Member Countries to complete all the necessary arrangements to accede to the said Statute.

55. The Committee **took note with appreciation** the conduct of COP 29 Presidency High-Level Tripartite Roundtable on Green Jobs and Skills, co-organized by the OIC Labour Centre in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 18 November, 2024.

56. The Committee **commended** the efforts of the OIC Labour Centre for advancing occupational safety and health (OSH) standards in the Member



Countries.

57. **Recognizing** the role of social dialogue in fostering decent work, the Committee **encouraged the** Member Countries to utilize tripartite cooperation mechanisms and to benefit from the facilities of the OIC Labour Centre for the sharing of best practices and experiences.

58. **Considering** the growing need for youth and women's employment opportunities, the Committee **encouraged the** Member Countries to make use of the facilities of the OIC Labour Centre for the development of targeted skills training programmes that are aligned with labour market demands and emerging industries.

59. The Committee **expressed its appreciation** to SESRIC for the conduct of following activities in the field of digital transformation:

- Training Course on “Fostering the Utilization of the Digital Technologies for a Better Employment and Skill Development”, on 11—12 November, 2024,
- Webinar on “AI’s Impact on Labour Market Matching: Insights and Strategies”, on 12 February, 2025,
- Side Event on “Harnessing Technological Developments for Modernizing National Statistical Systems in OIC and ESCWA Member Countries” in the margins of the 56th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, on 06 March, 2025.
- Workshop on “Key Challenges and Opportunities in the Utilization of Emerging Technologies”, on 25-26 March, 2025,
- Training Course on “Information Society and Digitalization”, on 29-30 April, 2025.

60. The Committee **commended** the efforts of Türkiye and Suriname for the following projects being implemented in SME’s domain in 2025, within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

- The project titled “Experience Sharing for Designing a Roadmap on Building an SME Network Platform”, being implemented under the COMCEC SME Program with the partnership of Türkiye, Malaysia, Egypt, Senegal, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan,
- The project titled “Experience Sharing in Digitalization and Sustainable Business Development with Suriname and Guyana”, being implemented by Suriname with the partnership of Guyana and Türkiye.

# **ANNEX**

## **VIII**



**DRAFT AGENDA  
OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF THE COMCEC  
(1-4 November 2025)**

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. World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member Countries
5. Intra-OIC Trade
6. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
7. Deepening Financial Cooperation
8. Improving Transport and Communications
9. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
10. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
11. Alleviating Poverty
12. Cooperation on Digital Transformation
13. Exchange of Views on “Developing/Improving Export Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”
14. Date of the 42nd Session of the COMCEC
15. Any Other Business
16. Adoption of the Resolutions

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# **ANNEX**

## **IX**

Original : English

**CLOSING SPEECH BY MR. RIDVAN AĞAOĞLU,  
DEPUTY HEAD OF THE STRATEGY AND BUDGET OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE  
41ST MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC  
(Ankara, May 14, 2025)**

Esteemed Members of the Follow-up Committee,

Respected Delegates,

Distinguished Participants,

Valuable Guests,

We have just completed the 41st Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the COMCEC. My heartfelt appreciation goes out to you for attending the meeting and for your proactive and helpful contributions to our discussions throughout the meeting.

The Follow-up Committee reviewed the progress in the areas of cooperation that are significant to our nations and established the agenda for the next Ministerial Session, all within the framework of the duties outlined in the COMCEC Statute.

Respected Guests,

The worldwide conflicts, environmental crises, and health problems adversely affect the well-being of individuals and societies. Therefore, adopting inclusive and people-oriented approaches in the face of this unsettling outlook is more essential than ever to achieve our development goals.

Our biggest responsibility today is to work together to create our shared future while acting in unity and consultation. We, as the Islamic world, must mobilize both our material and spiritual resources for a peaceful and prosperous future and find a way to develop together. Every action we take with this conviction will lead to a fairer world in addition to solving the issues of the present.

In this regard, the studies carried out under the umbrella of COMCEC offer us significant opportunities to solve the problems we encounter and to make more robust progress towards our development. I sincerely believe that the increasing favor of the Member Countries in various initiatives, including the Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC), the OIC Arbitration Center, and the SME and Digital Transformation Programs,

will lend impetus to our common development agenda. In my opinion, the policy recommendations developed by the COMCEC Working Groups make a great contribution to our nations' development efforts, particularly in terms of improving institutional and human capacity. The projects carried out under COMCEC Project Support Programs have a very important function in the implementation of these policy recommendations.

Respected Guests,

The 41st Follow-Up Committee meeting allowed us to evaluate the progress in significant programs and projects of the COMCEC and make important recommendations to be presented to the Ministerial meeting to be held in November. InshaAllah, the outcomes of this meeting would benefit the Islamic Ummah as a whole.

Before closing our meeting, I would like to once again touch upon the painful traces of the long-standing brutality in Palestine. The fundamental necessities of life are still denied to our Palestinian brothers and sisters, and thousands of innocent lives, particularly those of women, children, and the elderly, are being taken away from them.

Not only are these instances deeply hurting our organisation, but they are also pricking everyone's conscience. Despite everything, the Palestinian people remain steadfast in their resolve, faith, and noble resistance, and their struggle for a fair world leaves a lasting legacy.

In addition to being a nation's fight for independence, the Palestinian cause is a strong appeal from our brothers and sisters to all humanity for justice and fairness. Keeping this in mind, we must continue to stand against this genocide and support our brothers and sisters more strongly in their justified struggle.

Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to thank the esteemed representatives and participants from the member countries of our Committee, the OIC General Secretariat, and respective OIC Institutions for their attendance in the meeting and valuable contributions. I also want to thank our colleagues at the COMCEC Coordination Office who worked tirelessly before and throughout the meeting, and all technical and administrative staff who helped us successfully organize this meeting.

InshaAllah, I will meet you again at the 41st COMCEC Ministerial Meeting on November 1-4, 2025. I pray to Allah that you have a healthy, peaceful, and successful life.

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi.

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# **ANNEX**

## **X**



Original: English

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS  
CONSIDERED AND/OR PRESENTED  
AT THE 41<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP  
COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC  
(Ankara, 13-14 May 2025)**

1.	Report on the Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy - Progress Report
2.	Report of the OIC General Secretariat on the Implementation of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action
3.	Brief on Trade
4.	Reports of ICDT on the OIC Fairs and Exhibitions
5.	Executive Summary: Annual Report on Trade Between the OIC Member States
6.	Report of the ICDT on the Issues Relating to the Activities of the WTO
7.	ITFC Progress Report on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade
8.	Report on the Activities of SMIC
9.	Report on the Activities of ICCD
10.	Brief on Transport and Communications
11.	Brief on Tourism
12.	Brief on Agricultural Cooperation
13.	Report on the Activities of IOFS
14.	Report and Activities of OIC Labour Centre
15.	Brief on Poverty Alleviation
16.	Brief on Financial Cooperation
17.	SESRIC Activity Report Towards the Implementation of COMCEC Strategy
18.	PROGRESS REPORT Towards the Implementation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025

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