



LABOUR
CENTRE

of the
Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

**Activity Report of the
Labour Centre of the
Organisation of Islamic Cooperation**

**Submitted to
The 41st Ministerial Meeting of the COMCEC**

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List of Abbreviations

Acronym	Full Form
ALO	Arab Labor Organization
AZHAB	Azerbaijan Halal Business Forum
COMCEC	Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of OIC
COP29	29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ILO	International Labour Organization
ICESCO	The Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IOFS	Islamic Organization for Food Security
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
ITCILO	International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
OIC Labour Centre	Labour Centre of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
SESRIC	Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries
UN	United Nations
IOSH	Institution of Occupational Safety and Health
INSHPO	International Network of Safety and Health Professional Organisation
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
GLMC	Global Labour Market Conference
GISHW	Global Initiative for Safety, Health & Well-being

Introduction

This report presents an overview of the technical activities, programs, and projects carried out by the OIC Labour Centre and is prepared for submission to the 41st Ministerial Meeting of the COMCEC, scheduled to take place on 1-4 November 2025 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye.

Following its inauguration in 2023 till date, the OIC Labour Centre has continued the implementation of various initiatives within its mandated programs and projects. This document outlines the activities undertaken by the Centre that are aligned with the relevant agenda items of the COMCEC.

Executive Summary

The years following its inauguration marked a period of unprecedented growth and institutional strengthening for the OIC Labour Centre. These achievements were not only reflected in the signing of new cooperation agreements and Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs), but also in the Centre's ability to convene high-level stakeholders, expand its project portfolio, and consolidate its position as a strategic actor in global labour and development dialogues.

One of the most recent and significant milestones was the organisation of the first Executive Board meeting of the OIC Labour Centre in Baku on 23 September 2025. This historic session was accompanied by a High-Level Roundtable on “Innovative Labour and Employment Strategies in a Changing World of Work: Global Challenges – National Solutions” hosted in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan and a Senior Officials’ Preparatory Meeting for the OIC Labour Centre’s 2nd General Assembly, both held in Baku on 24 September 2025. These gatherings brought together ministers, vice-ministers and senior officials from across OIC Member States and international organizations, enabling frank exchanges on regional labour challenges, future priorities, and the strategic direction of the Centre. This series of events marked a turning point in institutional governance and positioned the Centre as a fully operational, member-driven organisation.

The Centre also reinforced its role as a hub for international partnerships through the conclusion of eight strategic agreements (MoUs and Cooperation Agreements) with IOFS, SESRIC, ITCILO, ADA University, ILO, ALO, IOSH, and INSHPO. These agreements laid the groundwork for joint activities in areas ranging from statistical capacity building and food security linkages to training, social protection, and occupational safety.

In terms of projects, the Centre launched and presented the findings of its flagship initiative “Jobs in a Changing Climate in Central Asia and Azerbaijan”, which addresses the employment and economic implications of decarbonization policies. Alongside this flagship effort, the Centre expanded its portfolio of ongoing initiatives. Among these are the pilot deployment of an AI-powered chatbot to provide real-time guidance on labour standards and legislation, the implementation of vocational training programmes in green technologies, and the establishment of a Working Group on the Future of Work and Skills, which will prepare policy guidance on digitalisation, automation, and emerging labour market challenges. Furthermore, to strengthen its inclusive approach, the Centre is creating the Council of Workers / Council of Employers designed to ensure inclusive policy formulation and deeper engagement of social partners in development of labour, employment and social protection strategies.

The OIC Labour Centre also expanded its thematic outreach by co-organising events with the most recent being the 2nd Labour Forum and conducting Train-the-Trainer programme on Effective OSH Leadership in Salalah, Oman. These initiatives not only built technical capacities but also facilitated the cascade of knowledge on safer workplaces across sectors. In addition, the Centre implemented a labour market survey across OIC Member States, producing critical new data on workforce needs, skills gaps, and labour mobility, and prepared a policy brief on labour mobility offering actionable recommendations for safe, legal, and efficient labour migration in the OIC region.

On the global stage, the Centre maintained a prominent presence and participation at COP29, served as Knowledge Partner for the Global Labour Market Conference in Riyadh, and partnered in the Global Initiative for Safety, Health & Well-being (GISHW), where the OIC Labour Centre's Director-General served as a member of the Executive Board. The Centre also made significant contributions to policy dialogues on resilience, just transitions, and human capital development.

Institutionally, the OIC Labour Centre recorded important progress in expanding its membership base. Recent ratifications were received from the State of Palestine, the Sultanate of Oman, the Federal Republic of Somalia, and the State of Libya, bringing the total number of ratifications to seven. In parallel, the Statute was recently signed by the Union of the Comoros and the Republic of Chad, increasing the number of signatories to 26 Member States. Negotiations with 31 additional countries remain ongoing, reflecting the Centre's steady growth and broadening engagement across the OIC community.

Taken together, these achievements illustrate this period has been transformative years for the OIC Labour Centre. Through strong governance, innovative projects, and global engagement, the Centre has reinforced its mission while building a solid foundation for sustained impact in the years ahead.

1. Strategic Partnerships

1.1. Memoranda of Understanding

In 2024–2025, the OIC Labour Centre formalized strategic partnerships by signing four Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with key regional and international institutions. These MoUs are designed to promote deeper collaboration, facilitate knowledge exchange, and support the joint implementation of programmes that address shared labour and development priorities across OIC Member States. Serving as a framework for long-term cooperation, the agreements lay the groundwork for coordinated efforts in areas such as capacity building, occupational safety and health (OSH), policy research, technical assistance, and best practice dissemination. By strengthening institutional synergies through these partnerships, the OIC Labour Centre continues to enhance its ability to drive impactful, inclusive, and sustainable development initiatives throughout the region

Signed MoUs:

- MoU between the OIC Labour Centre and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan on 22 July 2024;
- MoU between the OIC Labour Centre and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye on 9 July 2024;
- MoU between the OIC Labour Centre and the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO) in Turin, Italy on 17 October 2024;
- MoU between the OIC Labour Centre and the ADA University in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 12 February 2025.
- MoU between the OIC Labour Centre and the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), Osaka, Japan on 17 July 2025.

Cooperation Agreements

During the stated period, the OIC Labour Centre also entered into several Cooperation Agreements with international partners, significantly enhancing its capacity to implement strategic initiatives in line with its core objectives. These agreements aim to foster joint action in areas such as labour market development, capacity building, occupational safety and health (OSH), and social protection. By formalizing these partnerships, the Centre has expanded its operational reach, mobilized additional expertise and resources, and reinforced its role as a catalyst for sustainable development across OIC Member States.

Signed Agreements:

- Cooperation Agreement between the OIC Labour Centre and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland on 12 September 2024;
- Cooperation Agreement between the OIC Labour Centre and the Arab Labor Organization (ALO) in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt on 20 April 2025.
- Cooperation Agreement between the OIC Labour Centre and the International Network of Safety and Health Professional Organisations (INSHPO) in Osaka, Japan on 17 July 2025.

2. Projects

2.1. Flagship Project

Title: Jobs in a Changing Climate in Central Asia and Azerbaijan

Partners: ILO, IsDB, EBRD

This flagship initiative introduced the Central Asia and Azerbaijan Input-Output Tool, an economic modelling instrument that evaluates the employment and economic impacts of decarbonization policies and investments. It provides policymakers with insights into job creation, sectoral transitions, and skills requirements for a low-carbon economy.

2.2. Completed Initiatives

In addition to the flagship project, the OIC Labour Centre successfully completed several other important initiatives:

- 2nd OIC Labour Forum – convened ministers, employers, and workers to promote regional dialogue and exchange on pressing labour challenges across Member States.
- Train-the-Trainer Programme on Effective OSH Leadership in Salalah, Oman – strengthened leadership capacities for workplace safety and created a cascading effect of OSH knowledge across sectors.
- Labour Market Survey – conducted across OIC Member States, for needs assessment and gathering best practices.
- Policy Brief on Labour Mobility – developed actionable recommendations to facilitate safe, legal, and efficient labour mobility across OIC Member States

2.3. Ongoing Initiatives

Alongside these completed activities, the Centre has also launched a portfolio of forward-looking projects that remain underway:

- AI-Powered Chatbot – piloted to provide real-time guidance on labour standards and legislation for policymakers, employers, and workers.
- Green Technology Training Programmes – vocational training to build skills in emerging green industries and support climate adaptation strategies.
- Working Group on the Future of Work and Skills – established to prepare policy guidance on digitalisation, automation, and other emerging labour market challenges.
- Council of Workers / Council of Employers– under development to strengthen inclusive cooperation and ensure inclusive participation in regional policy formulation.

3. Strategic Events

3.1. Organised / Partnered Events

- COP29 Global Labour Resilience Index 2024 Presentation – 14 November 2024
- COP29 High-Level Roundtable on Green Jobs and Skills: *Nurturing talents for a climate resilient future* – 18 November 2024
- COP29 Policy Dialogue: “From Vision to Practice for a Just Transition for All” – 20 November 2024
- Global Labour Market Conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – 29–30 January 2025
- Global Initiative for Safety, Health & Well-being (GISHW) – Expo 2025, Japan (16–19 July 2025)
- 2nd Labour Forum, Salalah, Oman (13th August 2025)
- First Executive Board Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan – 23 September 2025
- High-Level Roundtable on “Innovative Labour and Employment Strategies in a Changing World of Work: Global Challenges – National Solutions” in Baku, Azerbaijan – 24 September 2025
- Senior Officials’ Preparatory Meeting for the OIC Labour Centre’s 2nd General Assembly in Baku, Azerbaijan in Baku, Azerbaijan - 24 September 2024

3.2. Participated Events

2024

- 7th Annual Conference of the Association of Chief Ministers of Labour (ACMOI) – Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (17–18 January 2024)

- 28th April World Day for Safety and Health at Work – Nakhichevan, Azerbaijan (27 April 2024)
- 112th International Labour Conference (ILC) – Geneva, Switzerland (3–14 June 2024)
- Gender-Responsive Just Transition Dialogue – Baku, Azerbaijan (24–25 July 2024)
- 16th UN-OIC Biennial Coordination Meeting – Astana, Kazakhstan (22–24 July 2024)
- 46th Islamic Conference of Employment and Social Ministers (ICECS) – Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (28–30 July 2024)
- AZHAB Conference – Baku, Azerbaijan (8–9 October 2024)
- Webinar on Empowering Resilience in Climate Action – online (11 October 2024)
- International Conference on Working Life and Social Protection – Ankara, Türkiye (31 October 2024)
- 40th COMCEC Ministerial Session – Istanbul, Türkiye (2–5 November 2024)
- COP29 (side engagements, presentations, and dialogues) – Baku, Azerbaijan (November 2024)
- Global Food Security Summit – Abu Dhabi, UAE (26–27 November 2024)
- 8th Annual Coordination Meeting of the OIC Institutions (ACMOI) – Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (4–5 December 2024)
- Webinar: Improving OSH in the Mining Sector – online (17 December 2024)

2025

- 51st Session of the Arab Labour Conference – Cairo, Egypt (19–26 April 2025)
- World Day for Safety and Health at Work – Baku, Azerbaijan (28 April 2025)
- 47th Islamic Conference of Employment and Social Ministers (ICECS) – Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (15–17 April 2025)
- Global OSH Conference (GOSH) – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (4–6 May 2025)
- 113th International Labour Conference (ILC) – Geneva, Switzerland (2–13 June 2025)
- The 51st Meeting of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, Türkiye (21–22 June 2025)
- 25th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group – Ankara, Türkiye (September 2025)
- Global Skills Forum – Malaysia (22–23 October 2025, planned participation)

4. Bilateral Meetings

4.1 Ministerial-level Meetings

The OIC Labour Centre hosted and participated in ministerial-level meetings to address global labour and development issues. During these high-level engagements, the needs and challenges of the respective countries were thoroughly identified and integrated into the Centre's strategic planning. During the stated period, the OIC Labour Centre met with ministers and vice-ministers from more than 30 Member States, reinforcing its commitment to inclusive and collaborative policy development.

4.2 Meetings with International Organisations

The OIC Labour Centre engaged in high-level meetings with Director-Generals and representatives from various international organisations, including the OIC, ILO, ITCILO, EBRD, IsDB, SESRIC, COMCEC, ALO, ICESCO, IOSH, INSHPO, and JICA. These meetings served as vital platforms for exploring opportunities for collaboration, aligning strategic objectives, and discussing both ongoing and prospective joint projects.

Conclusion

The OIC Labour Centre's achievements during the stated period reflect its unwavering commitment to fostering cooperation, driving innovation, and addressing the pressing socio-economic challenges faced by its Member States. Through the consolidation of partnerships, the implementation of impactful initiatives, and active engagement in global and regional dialogues, the Centre has strengthened its role as a driving force for labour and social development in the OIC region.

A defining milestone of this period was the convening of the first Executive Board Meeting, High-Level Roundtable on "Innovative Labour and Employment Strategies in a Changing World of Work: Global Challenges – National Solutions", a Senior Officials' Preparatory Meeting for the OIC Labour Centre's 2nd General Assembly, which established a solid governance framework and marked the Centre's evolution into a fully member-driven institution. This achievement underscores the Centre's ability to provide an inclusive platform where governments, employers, and workers collectively shape regional labour strategies.

Anchored in its inclusive approach, the Centre has continued to engage with social partners to ensure that policies and programmes are balanced and reflective of shared priorities. This model has been complemented by the Centre's consistent emphasis on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) as a core priority, recognising that safe and healthy workplaces are fundamental to sustainable growth and decent work.

Membership has also grown significantly, with 7 ratifications and 26 Member States now being signatories to the OIC Labour Centre Statute and many more in advanced stages of negotiation. This expansion highlights both the confidence placed in the Centre and its growing legitimacy as a unifying institution for labour cooperation in the OIC.

Looking ahead, the OIC Labour Centre will continue to expand its reach, deepen strategic cooperation, and advance forward-looking initiatives on the future of work, skills, labour mobility, and resilience. With a sustained focus on sustainability, inclusivity, and equity, the Centre is well-positioned to lead transformative efforts that contribute to a just, secure, and prosperous future for all OIC Member States.