

THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 25TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

The COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) successfully held its 25th Meeting with the theme “Enhancing and Sustaining Rural Accessibility in the OIC Member Countries”. In the Policy Debate Session titled as “Formulation of Policy Recommendations for the 41st COMCEC Ministerial Session on Enhancing and sustaining Rural Accessibility in the OIC Member Countries”, on 18 September 2025, TCWG made deliberations on the policy recommendations related to enhancing and sustaining rural accessibility. The policy recommendations were formulated by taking into consideration the policy guide with the same theme of the above-mentioned meeting. The policy recommendations are as followings:

Policy Recommendation I: Developing a long-term national strategy institutionalizing cross-sector coordination and multi-level governance for transport investments to increase rural accessibility with a view of socio-economic development.

Policy Recommendation II: Integrating rural connectivity targets (i.e all-weather road access, market access, public transport coverage) into national transport policies and sector plans by ensuring balanced infrastructure development, high-level commitment and fostering cross-sectoral support.

Policy Recommendation III: Utilizing data-driven mapping and decision-support tools to identify needs and gaps for evidence-based rural accessibility planning to prioritize investments based on socio-economic impact analysis.

Policy Recommendation IV: Introducing dedicated funding streams and cost-sharing models through leveraging alternative mechanisms such as public-private partnerships or community contributions to enhance rural accessibility.

Policy Recommendation V: Promoting sustainable operational monitoring and maintenance by introducing effective feedback channels based on social inclusion and service delivery metrics, alongside infrastructure monitoring to support continuous rural development.