



COMCEC ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2025

For further information, please contact:
COMCEC Coordination Office
Address: Necatibey Cad. No. 108, Ankara 06100, Türkiye
Tel: 90 312 294 57 10
Fax: 90 312 294 57 77
E-mail: comcec@comcec.org

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since its establishment in 1984, the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) has actively worked to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation among OIC Member States. The main objectives of the COMCEC are to address the economic challenges of the Islamic Ummah, to contribute to their development efforts and to enhance trade among the Member Countries. In this regard, COMCEC serves as an important cooperation platform for producing and disseminating knowledge, sharing experiences and best practices, developing a common understanding, approximating policies and implementing concrete projects among the Member Countries.

The Annual Progress Reports, submitted to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, provide a comprehensive review of the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. The COMCEC Annual Progress Report 2025 provides an overview of the major achievements in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, since the 40th Session of the COMCEC. Accordingly, for each cooperation area, the Report provides the outcomes of the important projects of COMCEC as well as recent meetings of the relevant COMCEC Working Groups. Moreover, it outlines the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations and underscores the activities of the OIC Institutions serving the objectives of the Strategy.

Since the 40th Session of the COMCEC, held on 2–5 November 2024, 12 Working Group (WG) meetings have been held successfully. For these meetings, 6 research reports/policy guides and 6 sectoral outlook documents have been produced by the COMCEC Coordination Office. All publications regarding the working group meetings are available on the COMCEC website: (<http://www.comcec.org>).

The Working Groups have continued to conduct policy debate sessions in their deliberations. The Member Country experts discuss policy recommendations on the theme of the meeting based on intensive research. These policy recommendations are then submitted to the Ministerial Session for consideration and adoption. Accordingly, the recommendations of this year's WG meetings will be submitted to the 41st Session of the COMCEC for consideration and necessary action.

The COMCEC Project Funding, another important implementation instrument of the COMCEC Strategy, enables Member Countries registered to the Working Groups as well as the relevant OIC Institutions, to develop and implement concrete cooperation projects. Moreover, the policy recommendations, which are formulated by the Working Groups and adopted by the Ministerial Sessions, are transformed into concrete projects through this mechanism. In this regard, 23 projects are being implemented by the OIC Member Countries and the relevant OIC Institutions and will be completed by the end of 2025.

Within the framework of COMCEC Al-Quds Programme, in 2020–2022 implementation period, 7 projects were implemented covering the areas of tourism promotion, cultural heritage, community resilience, online reservation and food tourism. The scope of the program has been enriched with the inclusion of new thematic areas namely, entrepreneurship, creating job opportunities and empowerment of youth, e-commerce and SME development. In this respect, 13 projects were implemented under the Al-Quds Program during 2023–2024 period. Moreover, 8 projects are being implemented in 2025.

The activities of the OIC institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy play a crucial role for the effective and successful implementation of the Strategy. This report also gives information regarding various activities held over the course of last year that are in line with the COMCEC Strategy and organized by the relevant OIC Institutions, namely, COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, IOFS, SMIIC, and ICCD.

CHAPTER I: COOPERATION AREAS

1. TRADE

1.1. Trade Working Group

The international trade landscape is evolving rapidly due to rising protectionist policies, intensifying trade tensions among major economies, and growing geopolitical uncertainties worldwide. In the face of these challenges, well-structured National Export Strategies (NES) provide countries with an important opportunity to respond effectively. NES function as comprehensive policy frameworks that identify priority sectors, determine target markets, establish institutional coordination mechanisms, and incorporate various capacity-building tools. These strategies support efforts to enhance export competitiveness, enter new markets, diversify trade portfolios, and integrate more deeply into global trade systems. Moreover, they help countries strengthen economic resilience against external shocks and unforeseen global disruptions.

For the OIC Member Countries, the development or improvement of national export strategies plays a vital role in fostering economic development and increasing international competitiveness. This process requires reinforcing legal frameworks, enhancing human and institutional capacities in export-oriented sectors, and ensuring the effective provision of export incentives. Additionally, establishing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms is essential for tracking performance and ensuring the long-term success of these strategies.

Recognizing the critical importance of enhancing export capabilities, the COMCEC Trade Working Group (TWG) dedicated its 24th and 25th sessions to the theme of “Developing and Improving Export Strategies in OIC Member Countries.” A policy guide has been prepared on same theme to assist OIC Member States in formulating effective export strategies by utilising relevant OIC institutions and international cooperation frameworks. It provides detailed, actionable recommendations intended to inform and guide policymakers in their efforts to strengthen export performance.

The 24th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was held on 21 April 2025 and preliminary findings of the policy guide were discussed. As a sequel of the 24th Meeting, the 25th Meeting of the COMCEC TWG was held on 22-23 September 2025 with the same theme. The final draft of the guide was discussed during the Meeting. Throughout both sessions, Member Countries and international organizations exchanged valuable experiences and perspectives concerning the development and enhancement of export strategies.

In light of the main findings of the Study and the deliberations during the meetings, the Working Group has come up with the following policy recommendations:

Policy Recommendations of the 25th Meeting of the Trade Working Group

- Encouraging to develop/implement a comprehensive trade facilitation framework within OIC Member Countries to streamline cross-border processes, reduce transaction costs, and enhance the efficiency of export and import operations.
- Organizing collaborative regional strategic planning activities in collaboration with specialists from OIC Member Countries, while encouraging the transfer of practical technical knowledge, through information sharing, trainings, workshops, personnel exchange programs, where applicable.
- Utilization of services provided by SMIIC to facilitate trade between OIC Member Countries
- Making use of IFHAB services for mutual recognition of halal certificates by exploring to develop and implement Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and Mutual Legal Agreements (MLAs) among the national halal accreditation bodies of the Member Countries to facilitate and remove technical barriers.
- Publishing and sharing policy briefs, newsletters, and guidance notes to OIC Member Countries' Ministries accreditation bodies and Halal Certification Authorities of Member Countries, for acceleration of the use of IFHAB services.
- Raising awareness and strengthening knowledge of exporters and marketing professionals about international market trends, compliance requirements, and risk management especially in less developed OIC Member Countries
- Promoting the use of digital marketing, e-commerce platforms, and successful international marketing practices to enhance the competitiveness of companies and strengthen the trade and marketing skills of their staff.
- Supporting public awareness campaigns to foster greater visibility of trade opportunities and success stories.
- Encouraging the development of targeted innovation policies, R&D incentive programs and establishment of technology transfer centers, science parks, incubators, and innovation hubs through public-private partnerships, to support innovative entrepreneurs, start-ups, SMEs and MSMEs.
- Developing/Improving dedicated supporting mechanisms for internationalization of SMEs and MSMEs and providing technical support to improve their credibility in overseas markets
- Promoting targeted programs to support firms, particularly in developing countries, in achieving compliance with sustainability related trade standards.
- Encouraging trade policies that foster a business-friendly environment by simplifying standards, alignment of environmental requirements across regions of OIC Member Countries, and reducing non-tariff barriers related to sustainability compliance.
- Promoting the adoption of National Single Window (NSW) system through encouraging adaptation of legislation and regulations that provide legal recognition of electronic documents, e-signatures, and digital certificates in trade related transactions.
- Developing/Improving robust data security, cybersecurity, and privacy laws related with the use of National Single Window (NSW) system, in accordance with national laws by outlining the roles and responsibilities of public administrations and private users
- Encouraging to provide a legal basis for regional interoperability which allows mutual recognition of electronic certificates of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) documents, and other trade-related licenses in cross border transactions.

All the documents, including the Policy Recommendations document, and presentations made during the 24th and 25th Meetings of the Trade Working Group are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org)

1.2. Intra-OIC Trade

TPS-OIC

The Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC) is one of the most important projects of the COMCEC for fostering intra-OIC trade. The System is based on three agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS), and the Rules of Origin. The legal basis of the TPS-OIC was completed in 2011. The System has become fully operational as of July 1st, 2022.

On the other hand, for the effective implementation of the System, the Member Countries are required to undertake some internal measures, such as; printing the TPS-OIC Certificate of Origin documents, conveying specimen impressions of stamps to the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Secretariat and completing the necessary internal legislative and administrative measures.

The legal basis of the TPS-OIC was completed in 2011 and the required number of the Member Countries for the operationalization of the System was reached by the end of 2014. These countries are Bangladesh, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Türkiye, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman.

Within this framework, welcoming the effectuation of the System, the 40th COMCEC Ministerial Session requested the Participating States, which have not done so yet, to complete their internal procedures and called upon the Member Countries, which have not yet signed or ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements to do so at their earliest convenience and complete other procedures for joining the System. The 40th Ministerial Session of COMCEC welcomed the convening of the Honorable Ministers and Vice-Ministers on 4 November 2024 on the margin of 40th Session of the COMCEC, where the Honorable Ministers and Vice Ministers deliberated on the issues regarding the OIC trade agenda, particularly TPS-OIC.

The Session also welcomed the decisions of the Third Ministerial Meeting of TPS-OIC TNC hosted by Republic of Türkiye on 10-11 June 2024, in İstanbul and requested the continuation of technical review in 2025 to elaborate on the potential expansion of TPS-OIC with increased product coverage and new disciplines with the participation of the OIC Member Countries, which have signed and ratified the TPS-OIC Framework Agreement and other interested Member Countries, which are not party to the Framework Agreement, as observers, for ensuring a wider membership composition.

Moreover, recalling the relevant resolutions of the 40th Session of the COMCEC the 41st Follow-up Committee Meeting of COMCEC welcomed the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host a TNC Meeting 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.

Finally, the Committee also welcomed the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host an additional TNC Meeting to be attended by the Member 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.

Both Meetings were successfully held in Ankara on 1-2 October 2025 to elaborate on the potential expansion of TPS-OIC with the participation of the OIC Member Countries.

The meeting decided to initiate preliminary discussions with a view to explore possibilities of the expansion of the TPS-OIC.

1.3. Enhancing the Role of the Private Sector

OIC Arbitration Centre

Arbitration centers serve as important mechanisms for resolving commercial and investment disputes. Their notable contribution to bolstering trade and investment has led to the establishment of various regional and international arbitration centers.

Within this framework, H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, the President of the Republic of Türkiye and the Chairman of the COMCEC proposed to setup an arbitration centre in İstanbul for the benefit of the OIC Member Countries in the 13th Islamic Summit held on 10-15 April 2016 in İstanbul, Türkiye.

OIC Arbitration Centre became operational and started the relevant activities in late 2022. Administrative staff of the Centre were appointed. Arbitration Rules of the Centre have been completed and approved by the Board of Directors. The Centre has engaged in promotional activities and signed Memoranda of Understanding with various stakeholders.

The 40th COMCEC Ministerial Session and the 41st COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meeting acknowledged the important role of the OIC Arbitration Centre, as an affiliated institution of ICCD for the settlement of disputes and called upon the Member Countries to encourage the active participation in the activities of the OIC Arbitration Centre with a view to making use of services provided by the Centre to those who seek it.

COMCEC SME Programme

Considering the vital role of SMEs for the OIC economies in terms of production, investment, employment and growth, COMCEC SME Program was launched during the 39th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC. Within the scope of the program, based on a comprehensive research with a detailed survey, the thematic areas were identified including SME internationalization, strengthening partnerships among public, private and civil society, utilizing funds for networking among SMEs, exchanging big data between public and private sector, enhancing human resource capacities of SMEs by vocational education and training.

Furthermore, in order to support the development of SMEs, thematic areas in the SME Program were added to the sectoral areas supported under the COMCEC Project Funding. In this context, the projects titled "Experience Sharing for Designing a Roadmap on Building an SME Network Platform" and "Business Development with Suriname and Guyana" were implemented in 2025 under the COMCEC Project Funding.

Moreover, 41st Follow-up Committee requested the active participation of interested Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions in the activities conducted under the Program.

The Developments in Halal Issues

The Halal sector holds significant potential for boosting trade among OIC Member States. In this regard, the issue of harmonization of halal standards among the OIC Member Countries has been on the agenda of COMCEC Ministerial Meetings since the first Meeting of the COMCEC in 1984. COMCEC Ministerial Meetings commended the efforts of SMIIC for conducting training programs on the OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards in order to facilitate the common use of standards within the OIC. Recently, significant progress has been realized as a result of the work carried out under the umbrella of SMIIC.

Since the 14th Islamic Summit Conference, a significant progress has been achieved as a result of the work conducted under the umbrella of the SMIIC. As the outcome of these efforts, the Islamic Forum for Halal Accreditation Bodies (IFHAB) was established and the Forum is expected to operate entirely in accordance with the SMIIC standards, with the objective of implementing a clear and transparent system for halal products and services in line with global practices.

The First General Assembly Meeting of IFHAB was held on 1 November 2023 in Makkah al-Mukarramah. The 1st Meeting of the Executive of IFHAB was held in Riyadh on 29 May 2024. At the aforementioned meeting, a Task Force Group was established to finalise the main documents of IFHAB. The documents are in the finalization stage, and the statute of IFHAB was approved in December 2024.

The 40th COMCEC Ministerial Session called upon IFHAB to develop and maintain Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) among the national halal accreditation bodies of the OIC Member Countries based on OIC/SMIIC standards as defined in OIC Global Halal Quality Infrastructure (OHAQ). Moreover, the 41st COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meeting requested an acceleration of the efforts towards this goal within the framework of Islamic Forum for Halal Accreditation Bodies (IFHAB).

In this regard, the finalization of the core documents of IFHAB by the end of 2025 and its operationalization in 2026 through peer review assessments of member institutions is planned.

Additionally, the SMIIC continued to conduct training programs on the OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards in order to promote the common use of SMIIC standards in the Member Countries. These trainings mainly focused on the understanding of the OIC/SMIIC standards and the requirements for their effective implementation.

On the other hand, within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding, the project titled “Developing Product Information and Determining Halal Critical Points” was implemented by Indonesia in partnership with SMIIC and four countries, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Türkiye, UAE. The Project aimed to share the best practices concerning the application of Halal principles in the food industry.

In addition, the project titled “Enhancing Slaughterhouse Standards for Halal and Food Safety Compliance” was implemented by Indonesia in partnership with Türkiye and SMIIC in 2025. The main purpose of this Project was to strengthen slaughterhouse operations by implementing Halal and food safety standards, ensuring compliance with international regulations (ISO, SMIIC), and enhancing the capacity of industry stakeholders.

Moreover, the SMIIC organized awareness-raising and promotion activities on halal issues. Within this framework, the SMIIC organizes the World Halal Summit annually, under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, as one of the most prestigious halal events in the world. This event gathers prominent speakers and important stakeholders of the halal industry. On the sidelines of the World Halal Summit, the OIC Halal Expo is organized by the ICDT in cooperation with the SMIIC. The 11th World Halal Summit and the OIC Halal Expo 2025 will be held on 26-29 November 2025 in Istanbul.

Islamic Trade Fairs:

Islamic trade fairs are organized every two years in one of the OIC Member Countries by ICDT in order to promote intra-OIC trade. In addition to the Islamic Trade Fairs, sector-specific exhibitions are also organized by the ICDT in the Member Countries. The 18th OIC Trade Fair of the OIC Member Countries will be organized in Lahore, Pakistan, in cooperation with ICDT.

The 40th Session of the COMCEC appreciated ICDT’s various activities conducted in 2024, and invited the Member Countries to actively participate in the fairs, exhibitions, workshops and forums to be organized by the ICDT. 41st Follow-up Committee Meeting of COMCEC 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.

2. FINANCIAL COOPERATION

2.1. Financial Cooperation Working Group

As a crucial component of economic development, financial services play a pivotal role in facilitating international trade, investment, and overall economic growth. In this respect, the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group (FCWG) has elaborated on the various aspects of the finance sector in previous years. In 2025, the Working Group is focusing on the role of Islamic finance in addressing the challenges arising from climate change and natural disasters.

Climate change and natural disasters are affecting the world with increasing frequency and intensity. The adverse effects of these challenges are not only environmental, but also social, economic, and humanitarian. Islamic financial instruments, which are based on the principles of risk-sharing, ethical investment, and social justice, provide a distinctive and effective framework for allocating resources in response to climate change and natural disasters. Islamic finance can serve as a strategic tool for advancing environmental sustainability, infrastructure, and resilience in the OIC Member Countries. Innovative Islamic finance instruments such as green sukuk, waqf-based financing, and takaful can be utilized to support projects and programs that aim to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and strengthen humanitarian action to aid recovery from natural disasters.

Within this framework, the FCWG devoted its meetings in 2025 to the theme of “Promoting Sustainable and Environmentally Friendly Islamic Financial Instruments to Combat the Adverse Effects of Climate Change and Natural Disasters in the OIC Member Countries.” A specific research report was prepared on this crucial topic. The preliminary findings of the report were presented at the 23rd Meeting of the Working Group, which was held virtually on 22 April 2025. The final version of the report was submitted to the 24th Meeting of the Working Group, held on 17-18 September 2025.

In light of the main findings of the research report and the intensive discussions held during its meetings, the Working Group has come up with the following policy recommendations:

Policy Recommendations of the 24 th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group	
• Strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks to enable the effective integration of green, climate-and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) - linked Islamic finance instruments into national financial systems • Promoting diversification and market development of Shari’ah-compliant green financial instruments by simplifying issuance processes, fostering innovation (e.g., resilience-linked sukuk, ESG-compliant contracts), and introducing regulatory incentives to attract investments • Developing/improving fiscal and macroprudential incentives, fostering public-private partnerships, and leveraging Islamic financial instruments to scale climate and DRR-aligned investments • Strengthening green Islamic finance by developing secondary sukuk markets, enhancing transparency, and leveraging fintech and blockchain to improve traceability and impact measurement • Ensuring adequate standardized data availability and developing frameworks to enable effective risk assessment, policy-making, and disaster risk reduction • Leveraging Islamic social finance, including waqf and zakat, and digital innovation to support climate action and disaster resilience	

All the documents and presentations made during the WG Meetings are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org).

2.2. Other Efforts under the COMCEC Financial Cooperation

OIC Exchanges Forum

The OIC Member States Stock Exchanges Forum, founded in 2005, seeks to enhance collaboration among the stock exchanges of OIC Member Countries and related institutions, with a focus on aligning the rules and regulations that govern market operations. Since its inception, the Forum has initiated significant projects, including the S&P OIC/COMCEC 50 Shariah Index and International Fund.

Additionally, the Forum has been working towards establishing a gold exchange for the OIC Member Countries, in accordance with the relevant COMCEC resolutions. The Forum held its 19th Meeting virtually on 23 September 2025. Details regarding the Forum activities are available on the Forum website (www.oicexchanges.org).

COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum

The COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum was established in 2011 in order to enhance cooperation among capital markets regulatory authorities of COMCEC Member States. The Forum undertakes its work under five Task Forces, namely, "Capacity Building Task Force", "Market Development Task Force", "Islamic Finance Task Force", "Financial Literacy Task Force", and the "Sustainability Task Force."

The Chairs of the Task Forces provide updates about their workstreams and agenda at the Annual COMCEC CMR Forum meetings. The Forum has convened thirteen times so far. The 14th COMCEC CMR Forum is scheduled to take place on 15 October 2025.

In addition to the existing efforts to boost cooperation among the capital markets regulatory bodies of the Member States, the Forum has launched the GEFAS Platform (Real Estate-based and Developing Financial Instruments Information System) in light of the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, and it has become operational on 16 September 2022.

Detailed information regarding the Forum's activities is available on the Forum website (www.comceccmr.org).

OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum

Following the resolution of the 24th Session of the COMCEC, the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Countries met on October 3, 2009, in Istanbul, Türkiye, and agreed to gather regularly to share experiences and enhance institutional and human capacity.

Since then, the Meetings of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries have become an important platform providing an interactive and open environment for discussing monetary, banking, and financial issues.

The 16th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries was held on 23-25 September 2018 and hosted by the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye (CBRT). In this meeting, it was decided that the structure of the "Meeting of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries" would be organized as the "OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum" and the secretariat of the Forum would be managed by the CBRT. These decisions have also been recorded in the Ministerial Declaration of the 34th COMCEC Meeting.

The last (7th) Meeting of the Forum was held on September 28th-29th, 2025, in İstanbul.

3. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

3.1. Transport and Communications Working Group

Transport and communications, as fundamental pillars of modern economies, are essential for national development. By connecting cities and people, facilitating the movement of goods and individuals, they ensure the smooth flow of transactions between markets and commodities. The transportation sector underpins the majority of economic and commercial activities through its infrastructure. Improved transport infrastructure lowers transaction costs, enhances market efficiency, and boosts productivity by expanding access to larger labor markets.

Consequently, the efficient operation of transport systems is crucial for economic growth. Every mode of transport that links different locations plays a central role in enabling the movement of goods and people. This connectivity is vital not only in urban centers but also in rural areas. For countries with economies heavily reliant on agriculture and small-scale enterprises, improved rural accessibility fosters better connectivity, stimulating investment and creating employment opportunities. Thus, effective rural transport planning is critical for achieving inclusive and sustainable growth.

Given its importance in enabling rural populations to access essential services and market opportunities, rural transport planning is a key element of rural accessibility and overall rural development. Enhancing and maintaining rural accessibility also supports the social and economic inclusion of rural communities and contributes to poverty reduction. Beyond economic benefits, improved rural access significantly impacts human development by facilitating access to education, healthcare, food security, and overall quality of life. Through well-designed and efficiently implemented rural transport planning, rural accessibility can drive more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.

Considering its importance, the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) devoted its two consecutive meetings in 2025 (24th and 25th) to the theme of “Enhancing and Sustaining Rural Accessibility in the OIC Member Countries”. During both meetings, the representatives of the Member Countries shared their experiences, achievements, and challenges regarding enhancing and sustaining rural accessibility and efficient rural transport planning in their respective countries. Furthermore, they deliberated on global practices for rural accessibility and key success factors and challenges faced in the OIC Member Countries.

The meeting has mainly considered the findings of the Policy Guide prepared on the theme of “Enhancing and Sustaining Rural Accessibility in the OIC Member Countries”. The said Policy Guide provides a conceptual framework for rural accessibility and rural transport planning, presents global trends and good practices, identifies the key success factors and challenges faced by the OIC Member Countries. The Policy Guide also presents a special part with respect to how to enhance and sustain rural accessibility and comes up with concrete policy recommendations in this regard. In addition to the desk-based case studies concerning Türkiye, Canada and Australia, the Guide also includes a detailed analysis based on in-depth research in the selected Member Countries namely; Indonesia and Morocco.

In light of the main findings of the report and the deliberations during the meetings, the Working Group has come up with the following policy recommendations:

Policy Recommendations of the 25th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group	
• 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. • 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. • 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. • Introducing dedicated funding streams and cost-sharing models through leveraging alternative mechanisms such as public-private partnerships or community contributions to enhance rural accessibility. • 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.	

All the documents and presentations made during the WG Meetings are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org)

4. TOURISM

4.1 Tourism Working Group

Tourism delivers substantial economic, social, and environmental benefits, contributing to employment generation, income growth, improved balance of payments, and increased foreign exchange earnings. Within this sector, heritage tourism plays a pivotal role in influencing travel decisions by offering immersive experiences rooted in the historical, cultural, natural, and spiritual heritage of destinations. Particularly for developing and least developed countries, heritage tourism has emerged as a strategic avenue for boosting income, employment, and local development. In response, many countries have begun positioning themselves as distinctive heritage tourism destinations by offering unique, culturally rich experiences.

Globally, heritage tourism constitutes a vital component of the tourism industry, drawing millions of visitors annually. Beyond its economic impact, heritage plays a fundamental role in shaping community identity and fostering local pride. Heritage tourists are primarily motivated by the desire to explore and experience cultural heritage assets at their destinations. This form of tourism not only promotes the preservation of culture and environment, but also encourages sustainable livelihoods, supports local economies, and strengthens community engagement with their historical and natural legacy.

Recognizing its growing importance, the COMCEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) focused its discussions this year on enhancing the quality and sustainability of heritage tourism. 24th Meeting of the TWG was held on April 21st, 2025, in a virtual-only format and the 25th Meeting was held on 15-16 September 2025 in Ankara with the theme of "Improving the Quality and Sustainability of Heritage Tourism in OIC Countries.". During the meetings, TWG examined global and OIC-wide trends, identified key challenges, shared experiences and best practices, and formulated policy recommendations to support Member Countries in advancing their heritage tourism sectors. As part of a research study prepared for the WG meetings, case studies from Türkiye, Senegal, Indonesia, and Egypt were analyzed to draw lessons and insights for more effective policy implementation.

After intense deliberations, the Working Group has come up with the following policy recommendations:

After intense deliberations, the Working Group has come up with the following policy recommendations:

Policy Recommendations of the 25 th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group	
	• Strengthening legal protection, governance, and risk preparedness by establishing and updating tangible/intangible heritage inventories, legislation, monitoring systems, and risk and crisis management protocols. • Securing sustainable funding for conservation, and safeguarding through funds, tax allocations, partnerships, and transparent mechanisms. • Diversifying heritage tourism products including new heritage elements in emerging destinations, and managing visitor demand aligned with carrying capacities of the respective tourism destination. • Promoting, branding, and improving visitor experience through marketing communications, storytelling, infrastructure improvements, and smart technologies. • Empowering communities through awareness, involvement, providing incentives for local employment, and developing benefit-sharing mechanisms.

All the documents and presentations made during the Tourism WG Meetings are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org)

4.2 OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum

OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum provides a regular communication channel for the private sector representatives of the Member Countries. In this regard, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye, which serves as the Secretariat of the Forum, organized the 13th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum in virtual-only format on 8 October 2025, with the theme of “Tourism and Rural Development in OIC Countries.”

5. AGRICULTURE

5.1. Agriculture Working Group

Agriculture remains a strategic priority for the OIC, owing to its wide-ranging agro-ecological diversity, which provides favorable conditions for both crop and livestock diversification. In many OIC Member States, the sector plays a vital role in income generation, employment, and trade.

In 2023, agricultural GDP across OIC countries reached USD 823 billion, representing 19% of global agricultural output. In 2022, the sector employed 212 million people, accounting for 29% of the world's agricultural workforce.

Globally, over 500 million family farms are responsible for producing nearly 80% of the world's food, directly supporting the livelihoods of approximately 2.5 billion people. These farms are fundamental to sustainable agricultural practices, often employing integrated systems that include local crop cultivation, animal husbandry, forestry, and fisheries.

Despite their vital role, family farmers continue to face significant challenges due to chronic underinvestment, leaving them vulnerable and posing risks to global food security. A pressing concern affecting the agricultural sector, particularly in rural areas, is the phenomenon of an ageing farming population. This demographic shift is exacerbated by limited access to productive resources, inadequate rural infrastructure, restricted participation in policy-making processes, and increasing environmental and climate-related stresses.

Family farmers and small-scale producers form the backbone of agricultural systems in OIC Member States. They make substantial contributions to national food security, rural employment, and economic development. Their role is also essential in poverty alleviation and in enhancing the resilience of rural communities. Addressing the constraints they face is imperative for ensuring sustainable agricultural growth and long-term food security across the OIC region.

Given the importance of the issue, the Agriculture Working Group devoted its 24th and 25th Meetings to the theme of "Strengthening the Resilience of Family Farmers and Small-Scale Producers in the Agriculture and Food Sector in OIC Member Countries." A research report on the said theme was prepared and elaborated by the Working Group. The 24th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on April 22nd, 2025, in a virtual-only format and the 25th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on 22nd -23rd September 2025, in Ankara, Türkiye.

In line with the main findings of the aforementioned report and the discussions during the Meeting, the Agriculture Working Group put forward the following policy recommendations:

Policy Recommendations of the 25 th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group	
• Developing sound financial support programs for family farmers and small-scale producers in co-operation with local cooperatives and microfinance institutions towards promoting ownership of productive assets such as modern equipment, machineries, storage facilities and also access to inputs. • Increasing family farmers' and small-scale producers' access to arable land and agricultural machinery through government-backed long-term leasing and rent cost-sharing tools. • Developing climate-resilient, alternative and innovative production systems that reduce reliance on imported inputs through effective financial incentives, extension services, and research-extension partnerships. • Strengthening farmers' resilience by promoting off-farm income opportunities for family farmers and small-scale producers. • Developing effective extension systems by institutionalizing direct linkages between universities, government institutions, private entities and farmers. • Enhancing social capital among farmers by supporting cooperatives and producer associations, integrating community-based risk-sharing mechanisms, and providing financial and educational incentives to promote collaboration and mutual support. • Promoting contract farming to enhance small-scale farmers' productivity and market access through the improvement of agricultural supply chain.	

All the documents and presentations made during the WG Meetings are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org)

6. POVERTY ALLEVIATION

6.1. Poverty Alleviation Working Group

Poverty alleviation remains a permanent agenda item within the COMCEC framework and is identified as a key cooperation area under the COMCEC Strategy. The Poverty Alleviation Working Group (PAWG) convenes regularly to address specific themes aligned with the objectives of the Strategy's goals, global development priorities, and priorities of the Working Group members.

In line with this approach, the 2025 meeting of the PAWG focused on the theme: "Decent Housing for the Poor in OIC Member Countries." This topic reflects the growing recognition of adequate housing as a critical component of poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Housing is recognized as a fundamental human right and a core element of human dignity, safety, and well-being. It serves not only as shelter but also as a cornerstone for health, economic opportunity, and social inclusion. Despite progress in global development, approximately 2.8 billion people worldwide still live in inadequate, unsafe, or unaffordable housing conditions.

OIC Member Countries, like many other regions, continue to face serious housing challenges. These include shortages of adequate housing, affordability issues, and poor living conditions. These challenges are exacerbated by rapid urbanization, population growth, limited access to housing finance, and underdeveloped housing markets.

Addressing these issues is both a humanitarian obligation and a strategic opportunity to improve human development outcomes, support economic stability, and foster inclusive growth in the OIC region.

Ensuring access to decent housing in Member Countries requires a comprehensive and integrated policy approach, aligned with national development strategies and inclusive urban planning frameworks. Effective housing policies must be informed by reliable data and take into account local demographic trends, migration dynamics, and poverty levels. Expanding access to affordable housing finance is crucial—particularly through Islamic finance instruments, microfinance mechanisms, and public-private partnerships. In addition, transparent land management, equitable allocation of public lands, and the regularization of informal settlements are essential for building sustainable housing systems. Further, promoting disaster-resilient, low-cost construction using local materials, while encouraging community participation and inclusive governance, will enhance the accountability, relevance, and long-term sustainability of housing initiatives.

Given the importance of the issue, the 24th and 25th Meetings of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group (PAWG) were devoted to decent housing. While the 24th Meeting was held virtually on April 24th, 2025, the 25th Meeting was held on 15-16 September 2025 in Ankara with the same theme "Decent Housing for the Poor in the OIC Member Countries".

The guide on the subject considered during the above-mentioned meetings reviews the global and the OIC trends by focusing on Morocco, Egypt, Malaysia, Türkiye and Singapore as the case countries.

In light of the main findings of the guide and the deliberations during the meetings, the Working Group has come up with the following policy recommendations to be submitted to the 41st COMCEC Ministerial Session:

Policy Recommendations of the 25th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group

- Adopting Future-Proof and Integrated Housing Strategies, including Social Housing, through addressing urbanization challenges, demographic shifts, climate risks, and housing price fluctuations
- Strengthening Housing Resilience through rehabilitation of existing stock and advancing Innovative Construction technologies, including modular, prefabricated, and climate-adapted construction methods, and increasing R&D programs on social housing
- Adopting Flexible and Data-Driven pro-poor Housing Regulations, including rent control, land use zoning, and loan-to-value ratios, to improve credibility, fairness, and efficiency in housing systems
- Embedding Social Dimensions and Inclusive Governance to reflect cultural traditions, family structures, and community networks in Housing Programs
- Expanding Affordable Rental Options and Mobilizing Vacant Housing, including tax relief, rental guarantees, or targeted penalties for long-term vacancy
- Improving Housing Access for the Poorest through Targeted State-Led Programs, which are also supported by the private sector and NGOs, that combine tailored subsidies, cross-subsidized developments, or outright public provision
- Diversifying Housing Finance through Islamic Financing Instruments, including Murabaha, Ijarah, Sukuk, and Collective Models
- Building Stable and Inclusive Housing Investment Ecosystems through instruments such as Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs), Real Estate Investment Fund (REIFs), and sukuk-backed housing bonds, linked to pension and savings funds

All the documents and presentations made during the WG Meetings are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org)

6.2. Other Efforts under the COMCEC by the OIC Institutions

Several key initiatives under COMCEC continue to support poverty alleviation efforts within OIC Member Countries. These include the Special Program for the Development of Africa (SPDA) and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD)—both managed by the Islamic Development Bank—as well as the OIC Vocational Education and Training Program (OIC-VET), implemented by SESRIC.

The **Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD)** is a dedicated financial mechanism established to combat poverty through investments in human development, agriculture, rural advancement, and essential infrastructure. It offers concessional financing for programs and projects in Member Countries, particularly the least developed. The Fund aims to reach a budget of US\$10 billion.

The **Special Program for the Development of Africa (SPDA)** aims to reduce poverty in African OIC Member States by fostering economic growth, improving agricultural productivity, and creating employment opportunities. The program seeks to mobilize **USD 12 billion** in capital.

The **OIC Vocational Education and Training Program (OIC-VET)**, managed by SESRIC, focuses on strengthening the capacity of Member Countries in technical and vocational education and training. As part of this effort, SESRIC prepared a progress report on the implementation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025. Commending the efforts of SESRIC, the 40th Session of the COMCEC requested SESRIC to continue providing regular progress updates to both COMCEC Sessions and Follow-up Committee Meetings and to identify potential challenges and propose strategic responses to ensure the continued successful implementation of the OIC-VET Programme. In addition, the Session encouraged SESRIC to take necessary steps to prepare the TVET Strategic Road Map 2026-2030.

Implementation of the SDGs

Recognizing its critical role in the global development agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integral elements of the COMCEC agenda.

In this regard, the COMCEC follows-up the programs, projects and other activities of the relevant OIC Institutions contributing to the implementation of the SDGs in the OIC Member Countries. In this framework, SESRIC conducted a tendency survey on the priorities of the member countries regarding the SDGs and reported the results to the 34th COMCEC Session.

Therefore, since 2018, SESRIC has submitted annual reports to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, detailing progress at the OIC level towards achieving these prioritized SDGs. Unlike previous years SESRIC's recent annual progress reports cover all the SDGs. Additionally, in line with the decisions made during the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, the COMCEC Coordination Office compiles and reports on the activities of relevant OIC institutions related to implementing the SDGs at each COMCEC Session.

7. PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION

The private sector plays a vital role in driving economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction. While some OIC Member Countries benefit from a strong and dynamic private sector, others face challenges in fully leveraging its potential.

To support inclusive development, there is a pressing need to strengthen private sector capacity across the Member Countries. In this regard, key events, fairs, and exhibitions are organized by the ICDT and ICCD to enhance private sector cooperation within the OIC framework. These initiatives are regularly reviewed during the COMCEC Annual Meetings.

Private Sector Meetings

Active participation of the private sector in COMCEC and other relevant OIC platforms is essential for advancing intra-OIC trade and investment. In this context, **Private Sector Meetings**, organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD), provide a valuable platform for private sector actors from the 57 OIC Member Countries to network, explore market opportunities, and share best practices.

In addition to these meetings, ICCD convenes sector-specific forums in key areas such as Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Tourism, Islamic Economy, Investment, Digital Economy, and Entrepreneurship, contributing to the sustainable development and resilience of the OIC private sector.

The 40th COMCEC Ministerial Session recognized the initiatives undertaken by ICCD for capacity building of the private sector through the Chambers Accreditation Program and trainings in the areas of Agri Business management and the digital transformation of Chambers of Commerce and SMEs, encourages Member Countries, relevant organizations, and stakeholders to actively collaborate to enhance the private sectors digital capabilities, foster innovation, and promote sustainable economic development.

Moreover, the Session invited the Member Countries and relevant private sector entities to actively participate in the following sector specific forums organized by ICCD in the areas of Digital Economy, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Tourism, Islamic economy, Investment, and Entrepreneurship development to support the sustainable development of the OIC Private Sector and economic growth of the Member States.

The 41st Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up 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.

Moreover, 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.

8. HIGH LEVEL INITIATIVE PROGRAMME ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Recognizing the growing significance of digital technologies in public service delivery—especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic—the 37th Session of the COMCEC decided the inclusion of digital transformation as an additional area of cooperation. Subsequently, on the sidelines of the 38th Ministerial Session, **the High-Level Digital Transformation Forum** was launched to promote technical cooperation and knowledge-sharing among the relevant national authorities. The Forum also aims to support the development of joint programs and projects within this thematic area.

Furthermore, Digital transformation was incorporated into the sectoral areas eligible for support under the COMCEC Project Funding (CPF)—a grant mechanism aimed at enhancing the human and institutional capacities of Member Countries. In this framework, two projects in 2024 and two additional projects in 2025 were implemented successfully.

The first project titled “Enhancing e-Government Capacity for Effective Public Service Delivery”, jointly implemented by Tajikistan and Türkiye, aimed to strengthen Tajikistan’s digital governance by improving service delivery, enhancing administrative efficiency, and promoting citizen-centered innovation.

The second project, “Capacity Building Programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Public Sector Employees”, was led by Türkiye with the participation of five beneficiary countries. A total of 22 public officials participated in the training program, which focused on providing practical knowledge of AI applications and encouraging the responsible use of these technologies in public administration.

CHAPTER II: COMCEC POLICY FOLLOW-UP SYSTEM AND MEMBER COUNTRIES' EFFORTS FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure effective monitoring of the implementation of COMCEC Policy Recommendations (PRs) and to track progress at the national level, the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) launched the **COMCEC Policy Follow-up System (PFS)** in July 2019, during the 7th Annual Coordination Meeting of the COMCEC Focal Points.

The 35th Session of COMCEC welcomed the launch of the PFS, recognizing it as a user-friendly tool to promote policy alignment among Member Countries. The Session urged Member Countries to actively use the PFS for effective implementation and reporting of the PRs. Subsequent COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and Follow-up Committee Meetings have reiterated this call.

As an electronic platform, the COMCEC PFS is based on a results-based monitoring and evaluation approach, prioritizing outcomes and impacts over processes. It enables the CCO to collect, manage, analyze, and report data on the implementation of PRs across cooperation areas. The system enhances transparency and allows for synchronized and evidence-based reporting, facilitating better planning, performance assessment, and policy development.



Feedback provided by Member Countries through data entry into the COMCEC Policy Follow-up System (PFS) plays a vital role in informing the work of the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO). This input not only offers valuable insights into the implementation status of the Ministerial Policy Recommendations at the national level but also assists the CCO in identifying priority areas for COMCEC Support Programs and in designing new initiatives aligned with the needs and interests of the Member Countries.

COMCEC Focal Points play a pivotal role in collecting and submitting information on the implementation of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations over the past three years in their respective countries. To ensure timely reporting, the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) requests data entry through the Policy Follow-up System (PFS) during two submission periods each year. These entries are to be completed two months prior to the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings and Ministerial Sessions. Following data submission by the Member Countries, the CCO undertakes a comprehensive reporting process using the information entered into the PFS. The outcomes are then presented at the COMCEC Ministerial Session.

While reaffirming the critical role of COMCEC Focal Points in monitoring the implementation of Policy Recommendations (PRs) through the Policy Follow-up System (PFS), it is important to note that data entry levels still require improvement to reach the desired standard. To ensure effective follow-up and full utilization of the PFS, strong national coordination is essential. In this context, it is crucial that COMCEC Focal Points take the necessary steps to inform and engage the relevant national institutions and departments regarding the adopted policy recommendations. This will support both the implementation process and the timely submission of accurate data into the system.

An analysis of the activities reported by Member Countries through the Policy Follow-up System (PFS) reveals that the areas of Trade, Poverty Alleviation, and Transport and Communications have recorded relatively higher levels of implementation. Notably, the Trade cooperation area has the highest number of reported activities, totaling 18. In contrast, the Tourism sector shows a low implementation rate, with only one reported activity. Similarly, the areas of Agriculture and Finance have recorded comparatively low figures, with 5 and 4 activities, respectively.

These figures suggest a need for enhanced efforts at the national level to implement the Policy Recommendations across all cooperation areas. Furthermore, regular and complete data entry into the PFS is essential for accurate monitoring and evaluation of progress.

The Policy Follow-up System (PFS) is accessible via pfs.comcec.org using the usernames and passwords provided for the COMCEC Project Funding mechanism. As of August 2024, COMCEC National Focal Points have also been granted access to the system with credentials issued by the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO). An updated version of the PFS User Guideline is available on the platform to facilitate effective utilization.

COMCEC Focal Points play a central role in coordinating the data entry process and ensuring the active use of the PFS for monitoring the implementation of Policy Recommendations (PRs) across sectoral cooperation areas. In addition to the role of the Focal Points, strong national coordination among relevant ministries and institutions is essential for the effective follow-up and reporting of implementation efforts. Recognizing this need, several Member Countries—The Gambia, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Türkiye—have already established high-level national coordination committees to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and streamline the monitoring process at the national level.

CHAPTER III: KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION EFFORTS: COMCEC PUBLICATIONS

COMCEC aims to generate and disseminate knowledge, share experiences and best practices, foster common understanding, and harmonize policies within its cooperation areas to address challenges faced by Member Countries. The **COMCEC Working Group (WG)** serves as a key instrument to achieve this mission.

For each WG meeting, **research reports** are prepared to provide a foundation for informed discussions. These reports are developed by the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) in close collaboration with expert consultants to ensure high-quality research. Each study begins with a conceptual framework and a global and regional overview of the theme, followed by an in-depth analysis of selected Member Countries based on field visits, surveys, and interviews. At the end of each research report, a set of policy recommendations is provided for Member Countries, alongside suggestions for international cooperation within the COMCEC framework.

The active participation of Member States is essential throughout the preparation process. In this regard, research topics are identified in consultation with the COMCEC Focal Points, who contribute to determining the themes for the Working Group and corresponding research reports for a three-year period. Moreover, during the preparation of the research reports, surveys are conveyed to the focal points for enriching the empirical data presented in the reports and ensuring their analytical soundness. Member Countries also provide valuable input by reviewing and commenting on draft case studies and reports prior to finalization. Feedback gathered during the Working Group Meetings, where the research reports are presented, further supports the refinement of these studies.

The finalized research reports are made publicly accessible via the **COMCEC e-book platform** at ebook.comcec.org.

In addition, the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) prepares annual sectoral outlook reports for each cooperation area. These documents analyze global trends and the current situation in OIC Member Countries, providing updated data to support discussions during the Working Group Meetings. Besides, Proceedings documents are compiled after each Working Group Meeting, summarizing presentations and capturing key discussions.

All publications are publicly accessible in e-book format on the COMCEC E-Book Website at <http://ebook.comcec.org>.

CHAPTER IV: COMCEC PROJECT SUPPORT INSTRUMENTS

9. COMCEC PROJECT FUNDING

The COMCEC Project Funding is one of the implementation instruments of the COMCEC Strategy, which aims at providing funding member countries' projects in the form of grants. The Strategy introduces a well-defined project cycle management with a clearly identified financial mechanism. The projects implemented by the Member States and relevant OIC institutions under the COMCEC Project Funding serve to the realization of the objectives of the Strategy and of the policy recommendations adopted by COMCEC Sessions as well as to enhance human and institutional capacities of the Member States.

This instrument enables the Member Countries and OIC Institutions to get involved in cooperation efforts to overcome the common challenges of the Member States in cooperation areas. It provides an opportunity to the Member Countries to propose projects in priority areas identified by the COMCEC Strategy, the working groups and the policy recommendations.

COMCEC Project Funding is a valuable tool to assist member countries in their policy-making endeavours. It serves to the realization of COMCEC policy recommendations into practice while improving the institutional and human capacity of the Member Countries. It not only enables sharing knowledge and experience in a specific theme, but also improves the ability of the Member Countries to work together in addressing the common problems through the implementation of capacity-building projects.

Under the 12th Call for Project Proposals made in October 2024, 23 projects were selected to be financed by the CCO in 2025 as demonstrated in Table 1.

Table 1: Projects being implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2025

No	Beneficiary Countries	Cooperation Area	Project Title
1	Azerbaijan, Türkiye	Agriculture	Boosting Competitiveness of Azerbaijani Small Family Farms and SMEs by Adopting Climate-Resilient Agricultural Practices
2	Benin, Morocco	Agriculture	Capacity Building in Efficient Water Management and Agricultural Practices Resilient to The Effects of Climate Change for Market Gardening
3	Egypt, Sudan, Benin	Agriculture	Enhancing the Capabilities of Farmers in Some OIC Countries by Expanding and Sustainability Using Organic and Organo-Mineral Fertilizers
4	Niger, Türkiye	Agriculture	Development of Dairy Production to Ensure Sustainable Food and Nutritional Security in Niger
5	Gambia, Niger	Agriculture	Building Capacities of Livestock Technicians and Smallholder Livestock Farmers on Sustainable Climate Resilient and Innovative Techniques
6	Chad, Niger, Senegal, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Türkiye	Agriculture	Promoting Unconventional Water Resources to Enhance Agriculture Productivity in Water-Scarce OIC Member Countries
7	Tajikistan, Türkiye	Digital Transformation	Enhancing e-Government Capacity for Effective Public Service Delivery
8	Azerbaijan, Palestine, Sierre Leone, Sudan, Tajikistan	Digital Transformation	Capacity Building Programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Public Sector Employees

9	Benin, Malaysia	Financial Cooperation	Experience Sharing in Designing a Legal Framework for Building an Islamic Finance Lead Unit
10	Sierra Leone, Gambia, Nigeria	Financial Cooperation	Capacity Building for Strengthening Digital Payment Systems in the Financial Sector
11	Malaysia, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Jordan, Tunisia, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Chad, Qatar, Gambia	Poverty Alleviation	Developing an Effective Roadmap for Facilitating Digital Transition in National VET Systems in OIC Member Countries
12	Bangladesh, Türkiye	Tourism	Strategic Planning and Marketing Strategies for the Promotion of Gastronomy Tourism
13	Burkina Faso, Morocco	Tourism	Capacity Building of Stakeholders through Experience Sharing in Agrotourism Practices
14	Indonesia, Türkiye, Malaysia	Tourism	Empowering Sustainable Tourism: Integrating Blue, Green, Circular Economy into Tourism Operations
15	Maldives	Tourism	Enhancing Maldivian Gastronomy Tourism by Increasing the Recognition of Traditional Cuisine
16	Malaysia, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Jordan, Mali	Tourism	Reimagining Islamic Heritage Tourism: Best Practices and Critical Success Factors
17	Uganda, Gambia	Tourism	Effective Management of Tourism Heritage Sites for Enhancing the Quality and Sustainability in Tourism
18	Uzbekistan, Malaysia, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Türkiye	Tourism	Promoting Gastronomy Tourism for the Destination Senegal
19	Indonesia, Türkiye	Trade	Enhancing Slaughterhouse Standards for Halal and Food Safety Compliance
20	Sudan, Uganda, Türkiye	Trade	Enhancing the Capacity of Metrology Laboratories for Improved Quality Infrastructure
21	Gambia, Senegal, Türkiye, Sierra Leone, Nigeria	Transport and Communication	Strengthening Human and Institutional Capacity for Data Identification, Analysis, and Monitoring to Track Transport Sector Emissions in The Gambia and OIC Countries
22	Suriname, Türkiye	Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)	Experience Sharing in Digitalization and Sustainable Business Development with Suriname and Guyana
23	Malaysia, Egypt, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Türkiye	Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)	Experience Sharing for Designing a Roadmap on Building an SME Network Platform

Moreover, an online training program on the implementation process of the projects under the COMCEC Project Funding was held on April 8th, 2025. Within the scope of the program, project staff were informed about the actors and their responsibilities in the implementation period, monitoring and reporting processes, and critical issues in the implementation period as well as basic working principles of the project management information system. During the annual focal points meeting held on June 26th, 2025, within the framework of a hands-on training, focal points were briefed about the objectives and main characteristics of the COMCEC Project Funding (CPF) as well as the key issues in designing project proposals, and the timeline of call for project proposals. Furthermore, the CCO made the 13th Call for Project Proposals of the COMCEC Project Funding on October 1st, 2025.

10. COMCEC AL-QUDS PROGRAM

COMCEC Coordination Office initiated the COMCEC Al-Quds Program in 2019 as a sign of solidarity with Palestine considering the current situation and special conditions there, especially in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and the resolutions of the recent Extraordinary Islamic Summits on Al-Quds.

Within this framework a total of 20 projects were implemented under the program between 2020 and 2024.

In the first two pilot projects, completed in 2020, analysis of the tourism infrastructure of Al-Quds was made and institutional capacity of Al-Quds Tourism and Heritage Council was developed. Moreover, during 2021-2022 implementation period, five projects were implemented covering the areas of trainings, capacity building, procurement of machinery/equipment/service, online platform development, renovations, research, audio-visual material production etc.

The scope of the program was extended in 2022 and thematic priority areas including entrepreneurship, creating job opportunities and empowerment of youth, e-commerce and SME development were added to the themes to be supported under the COMCEC Al-Quds Program. In this regard, 13 projects were implemented under the Al-Quds Program in 2023-2024.

Moreover, 8 projects are being implemented under the Al-Quds Program in 2025. The list of projects to be implemented in 2025 period are demonstrated in the Table 2 below:

Table 2: Al-Quds Program: Projects being implemented in 2025

Project Title
1. Bridge to Opportunities: Enhancing the Employability of Al-Quds Youth
2. Empowering Al-Quds Graduates: Freelancing for Sustainable Livelihoods and Income Opportunities
3. Capacity Enhancement in Mother-of-Pearl Manufacturing
4. Empowering Al-Quds Youth for Preserving Cultural Heritage
5. Empowering Youth and Women in Al-Quds: Building Skills and Strengthening Social Inclusion through Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training
6. Mastering the Coding Interviews for New Graduates
7. Empowering Al-Quds: Preserving Cultural Heritage and Fostering Economic Growth
8. Sustaining Economic Empowerment and Cultural Preservation through Ceramic Arts and Digital Innovation

CHAPTER V: THE 41ST MEETING OF THE COMCEC FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE

The Follow-up Committee is one of the organs of the COMCEC to review the progress in the implementation of the programmes and projects approved by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. The Committee also prepares the draft agenda of the COMCEC Sessions. The Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC convenes annually in the Republic of Türkiye.

The 41st Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee was held on 13-14 May 2025 in Ankara with the participation of current Members of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee under the chairmanship of the Deputy President of Strategy and Budget of the Presidency of Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Abdullah Rıdvan Ağaoğlu.

The Committee reviewed the progress implementation in the COMCEC Strategy and its mechanisms, namely the Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding. Moreover, the Committee elaborated on the programs, projects and activities in the COMCEC agenda. The Committee has prepared a set of recommendations to be submitted to the 41st COMCEC Session. Accordingly, the Committee welcomed, among others, the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office particularly highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy, and commended the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. The Committee also requested the Member States and OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

All reports and documents submitted to the 41st Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee are available at the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org).

CHAPTER VI: COMCEC SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

The Sessional Committee, which consists of the OIC Institutions working in the economic domain, meets on the sidelines of each COMCEC Ministerial Session and Follow-up Committee meeting to review and coordinate the activities and programs of the relevant OIC institutions. Along with the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office, the Sessional Committee Meetings are attended by the relevant OIC Institutions, namely SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICIEC, ITFC, ICD, IOFS, SMIIC, and ICCD. In this regard, the 46th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on May 6th, 2025, in a virtual only-format, on the sidelines of the 41st Follow-up Meeting of the COMCEC.

During the Meeting, the Committee was briefed by the CCO in terms of the activities of OIC Institutions related to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations and the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy and also was informed about the projects implemented under the COMCEC Project Support Programs.

Moreover, the OIC Institutions discussed their planned activities aligned with the COMCEC Strategy and the COMCEC policy recommendations. Moreover, the contributions of the OIC institutions to the implementation of the COMCEC ministerial policy recommendations were also discussed during the 46th Sessional Committee Meeting.

The Committee was informed by the OIC Institutions about their activities aligned with the COMCEC Strategy and the COMCEC Ministerial Recommendations. The Committee was informed by SESRIC about the preparations being conducted by SESRIC for the seventh report titled "Towards the Achievement of Prioritized Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries" to be submitted to the 41st Ministerial Session.

The Committee was informed by the ICIEC (IsDB Group) on the work being undertaken towards launching the OIC Business Intelligence Programme. Within this framework, 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.

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, and Observer Countries. Commending the efforts of the OIC institutions, the Committee requested them to continue their efforts through among others conducting joint activities, projects, and programs for the benefit of Palestinian People in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

The 47th Sessional Committee Meeting will be held on October 21st, 2025.

CHAPTER VII: 12TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMCEC FOCAL POINTS

Since the launch of the COMCEC Strategy in 2013, the CCO has been organizing annual focal points meetings with a view to providing a regular platform for interaction and consultation between the COMCEC Secretariat and the Member Countries with the aim of improving the overall work of the COMCEC, as well as the implementation of both instruments of the COMCEC Strategy: Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism. These meetings provide an opportunity for the member countries to share their feedbacks and observations on the implementation of these instruments. Through these interactive gatherings, communication and collaboration is improved between the CCO and the Member States, resulting in better realization of the goals and objectives of the Strategy. Therefore, these meetings have proven themselves as important gatherings, demonstrating the member-driven character of the COMCEC.

In this respect, the 12th Annual Focal Points Meeting of the COMCEC Working Groups was held virtually on 25-26 June 2025. The Meeting was attended by COMCEC Working Group Focal Points and COMCEC National Focal Points from 32 Member States which have notified their focal points for the COMCEC Working Groups.

During the meeting, the participants were informed about the recent developments and progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and the implementation of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

Regarding the COMCEC Project Funding, an online exercise was demonstrated with the aim of enhancing the capacities of the focal points in terms of project proposal submission. Moreover, the project owners from Uganda and The Gambia made presentations to share their experiences about the implemented projects.

In addition, the participants divided into six groups for each cooperation area and discussed and exchanged their views on the themes of the WGs for 2026-2028 for each cooperation area. In each sectoral group, the Focal Points exchanged their views on the themes of the relevant Working Groups for the period 2026-2028. Accordingly, the list of the topics of the Working Group Meetings for the next three years was updated in line with the observations and comments of the Focal Points.

In the second day of the meeting, Within the framework of the exercise previously given, the submitted project applications were evaluated in terms of basic rules to be followed, critical issues, and project logic. The participants had the opportunity to have insights about the successful project proposals.

CHAPTER VIII: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SESSION

Exchange of views sessions are held regularly at the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. The Ministers of the OIC Member Countries discuss their country experiences as well as the ways and means for enhancing cooperation among the Member Countries on a specific theme, which was determined by the previous COMCEC Ministerial Session.

In this regard, the 40th Session of the COMCEC determined the theme “Developing/Improving Export Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” as the theme of the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 41st COMCEC Session. The 40th Session also requested the COMCEC Trade Working Group (TWG), in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 41st COMCEC Session. In this regard, the 25th Meeting of the COMCEC TWG held on September 22-23, 2025 in Ankara, served as a preparatory meeting towards the said session.

Accordingly, the TWG in its 25th Meeting deliberated on the preparations regarding the Exchange of Views Session and came up with a set of policy recommendations, which will be submitted to the 41st COMCEC Session. The details of the policy recommendations to be submitted to 41st COMCEC Session will be available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org).

CHAPTER IX: SPECIAL SIDE EVENTS OF THE 41ST COMCEC SESSION

On the sidelines of the 41st Session of COMCEC, a series of high-level panels will be organized to address various aspects of the reconstruction of the Syrian Arab Republic. These sessions will be held on 2–4 November 2025 and will focus on the following themes:

- Panel on “The Role of Institutional and Human Capacity in Rebuilding Process: The Case of Syrian Arab Republic”– November 2nd, 2025
- Panel on “Revitalization of Economic Activities in Rural Areas of Syrian Arab Republic”– November 2nd, 2025
- Panel on “Mobilizing Economic and Social Development Dynamics: The Case of Syrian Arab Republic”– November 4th, 2025

Panelists will include high-level representatives from OIC Member States, as well as participants from international and OIC institutions, civil society, the private sector, think tanks, and academia. All delegations attending the 41st COMCEC Ministerial Session, along with stakeholders from civil society, media, academia, and the private sector, are expected to participate.

Further details are available on the COMCEC website: <http://www.comcec.org>

