



## 42<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC

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

During the reporting period, the OIC Labour Centre continued to advance its mandate by strengthening labour market capacities and promoting inclusive, resilient, and productive employment across OIC Member States. Through targeted initiatives and strategic engagements, the Centre further contributed to skills development, the advancement of occupational safety and health (OSH), the improvement of working conditions, and the promotion of sustainable labour practices.

One of the significant events was the organisation of the First Executive Board Meeting of the OIC Labour Centre, held in Baku on 23 September 2025. This milestone event was complemented by a High-Level Roundtable on “Innovative Labour and Employment Strategies in a Changing World of Work: Global Challenges – National Solutions,” organised in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and a Senior Officials’ Preparatory Meeting for the Second Session of the General Assembly, both held in Baku on 24 September 2025. These high-level gatherings brought together ministers, deputy ministers, and senior officials from across OIC Member States and international organisations, enabling substantive exchanges on regional labour challenges, future priorities, and the strategic direction of the Centre.

The Centre also reinforced its international partnerships through the conclusion of six strategic agreements (Memoranda of Understanding and Cooperation Agreements) with key partners, including INSHPO, IOSH, ICESCO, UNA-OIC, TİKA, and Baku State University. These agreements established a solid foundation for joint activities spanning statistical capacity-building, social protection, training, occupational safety and health, and broader socio-economic development.

On the global stage, the Centre maintained a strong presence through its participation in major international platforms. On 22–23 October 2025, the Centre participated at the Global Skills Forum (GSF) 2025, which took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, and international organisations to advance global efforts in transforming skills development. The event focused on redefining the role of the private sector, fostering public-private partnerships, and promoting innovation and digitalisation in the field of skills building and employment. Moreover, the OIC Labour Centre, participated as a Knowledge Partner in the 3rd Edition of the Global Labour Market Conference (GLMC), held in Riyadh on 26–27 January and organised by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Centre contributed to high-level discussions on labour market trends and the future of work.

In addition, the OIC Labour Centre participated in the 8th Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) Ministerial Consultation, held from 31 January to 1 February 2026 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This

marked the Centre's first participation as an observer member, joining the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which had previously served as the Dialogue's observer members. This new status reflects the Centre's strengthened engagement with the Abu Dhabi Dialogue framework and its expanding role in regional labour mobility cooperation. The Abu Dhabi Dialogue supports policy dialogue on labour mobility and workforce priorities across the Asia–GCC corridor, with participation from countries and international organisations.

One of the main focus areas of the OIC Labour Centre remained occupational safety and health (OSH) during the reporting period. The Centre organised the “Train-the-Trainer Programme on Effective OSH Leadership” in Salalah, Oman, on the margins of the 2nd Labour Forum, which aimed at strengthening leadership capacities and promoting the dissemination of OSH knowledge. Moreover, the Centre organised a two-day capacity-building training on “Strengthening OSH Capacities in SMEs,” held on 27–28 November 2025 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, aimed at enhancing OSH practices and strengthening institutional capacities within small and medium-sized enterprises.

On 8 December 2025, the Centre convened a panel discussion, “From Passion to Profession: Jobs in the Creative and Cultural Industries,” held within the framework of the OIC Cultural Festival: Baku Creative Week 2025, which highlighted pathways to sustainable careers in the creative and cultural industries.

Furthermore, as part of the 3rd Edition of the Global Labour Market Conference, the OIC Labour Centre organised the panel session “Gig Work Reality Check: The Good, the Bad, and the Scalable,” held on 26 January 2026 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which explored challenges and opportunities in the gig economy and discussed policy and platform-level solutions to enhance job quality and scalability.

On 25 April 2026, the OIC Labour Centre co-organised the 5th Annual HSE Conference in Baku to mark the World Day for Safety and Health at Work. The conference provided a valuable platform for dialogue on current occupational safety and health priorities, with a strong focus on workplace safety, preventive measures, and practical approaches to enhancing standards across the sector. The event addressed these priorities through discussions on risk management, quality standards, preventive strategies, and practical measures to strengthen workplace safety. Panel speakers included high-level representatives from the International Labour Organization, the National Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the State Labour Inspection Service, and the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health.

### **Accession to the Statute of OIC Labour Centre**

During the reporting period, the Statute of the OIC Labour Centre entered into force on 17 January 2026, upon reaching the required threshold of ten ratifications. The latest Member States to ratify the Statute are the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and

the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Thus, the number of OIC Member States which have so far ratified the Statute, reached eleven (11).

Since the 41st Session of the COMCEC, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Republic of Sierra Leone, Republic of Yemen, Republic of Lebanon, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Republic of Indonesia and Republic of Cote d'Ivoire have signed the Statute of the OIC Labour Centre, bringing the total number of OIC Member States which have signed the Statute to thirty-three (33).

The OIC Labour Centre's achievements during the reporting period underscore its strong commitment to fostering cooperation, driving innovation, and addressing the pressing socio-economic challenges faced by its Member States.