



OIC Labour Centre Activity Report

Towards the Implementation of COMCEC Strategy
and Ministerial Policy Recommendations

THE 42nd SESSION OF THE COMCEC
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List of Abbreviations

Acronym	Full Form
ACMOI	Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions
ADD	Abu Dhabi Dialogue
ATUC	Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation
COMCEC	Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of OIC
ETF	European Training Foundation
GLMC	Global Labour Market Conference
ICESCO	Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ICYF	Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IOFS	Islamic Organization for Food Security
KOBIA	Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
SESRIC	Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries
TİKA	Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency
UN	United Nations
UNA	Union of OIC News Agencies
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WDO	Women Development Organization
WEC	World Employment Confederation
WUF13	Thirteenth Session of the World Urban Forum

Introduction

This report presents an overview of the technical activities, programmes, projects and institutional engagements carried out by the Labour Centre of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC Labour Centre) and is prepared for submission to the 42nd Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), scheduled to take place on 31 October–3 November 2026 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye.

Following the 41st Session of the COMCEC, convened in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 1–4 November 2025, the OIC Labour Centre continued to implement activities within its mandate across employment, skills development, occupational safety and health, social protection, labour mobility and labour market resilience. The reporting period covered in this document extends from November 2025 through 30 September 2026.

Executive Summary

During the reporting period, the OIC Labour Centre advanced a number of technical projects, capacity-building programmes and structured initiatives addressing priority labour market challenges across OIC Member States.

The Centre formalised six Memoranda of Understanding with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA), the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), Baku State University, the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) and the Ministry of Civil Service, Labour and Public Service Reform of the Republic of Senegal. It also signed a Cooperation Agreement with the International Organization for Migration on labour mobility and migration governance. These instruments established frameworks for cooperation in skills development, employment, research, youth empowerment, communication, labour migration and occupational safety and health.

Projects covered occupational safety and health, women empowerment in the workplace, labour market assessment, skills foresight, green skills and the future of work in cultural and creative industries. Through research, capacity-building programmes and thematic workshops, these activities supported the identification of labour market needs, strengthened institutional and workforce capacities, and addressed emerging priorities affecting employment and skills development across Member States.

The Centre organised and co-organised substantive sessions and capacity-building activities, including engagements addressing creative industries, gig work and occupational safety and health. It also participated in major international and OIC forums, including sessions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Governing Body, the Global Labor Market Conference (GLMC), the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) Ministerial Consultation, meetings of the COMCEC, the International Labour Conference (ILC), the UN–OIC General Meeting on Cooperation and the WorldSkills Conference 2026. Several activities were conducted online or virtually and are identified accordingly in this report.

High-level bilateral engagement was a significant component of the reporting period. The OIC Labour Centre held meetings with ministers and senior government representatives from OIC Member States and partner countries, as well as senior representatives of the ILO, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the OIC Permanent Observer Mission in Geneva and other institutions. These exchanges focused on practical cooperation in employment, labour mobility, skills development, social protection, occupational safety and health and institutional capacity development.

During the reporting period, two OIC Member States signed the Statute of the OIC Labour Centre. The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire signed the Statute of the OIC Labour Centre on the sidelines of the 9th Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) on 11 December 2025, in Jeddah. The Republic of Maldives signed the Statute on 8th March 2026.

Strategic Partnerships

1.1. Memoranda of Understanding

During the reporting period, the OIC Labour Centre formalised six Memoranda of Understanding with institutional partners. The agreements established frameworks for cooperation in labour and employment, skills development, research, communication, youth empowerment, occupational safety and health and related areas of mutual interest.

- **MoU between the OIC Labour Centre and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)**, signed in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 8 December, 2025.
- **MoU between the OIC Labour Centre and the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA)**, signed in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 11 December 2025.
- **MoU between the OIC Labour Centre and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA)**, signed in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye, on 27 February 2026.
- **MoU between the OIC Labour Centre and Baku State University**, signed in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 23 April 2026.
- **MoU between the OIC Labour Centre and the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF)**, signed in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22 July 2026.
- **MoU between the OIC Labour Centre and the Ministry of Civil Service, Labour and Public Service Reform of the Republic of Senegal**, signed in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 4 September 2026.

1.2. Cooperation Agreements

The OIC Labour Centre also concluded a Cooperation Agreement with the International Organization for Migration, strengthening the institutional basis for joint work on labour mobility and migration governance.

- **Cooperation Agreement between the OIC Labour Centre and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, signed in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22 July 2026.

Projects

The OIC Labour Centre advanced several substantive technical initiatives during the reporting period. For reporting purposes, this section includes only activities supported by the source material as continuing projects, programmes or structured technical workstreams rather than one-off meetings or events.

- **“Strengthening Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Capacities in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)” Capacity-building Training**

Partners: Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation (ATUC) and the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (KOBIA)

Implementation activity and date: A two-day capacity-building training was held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 27–28 November 2025

Brief summary: The project strengthened occupational safety and health capacity in small and medium-sized enterprises through practical training on core OSH principles, management systems, legal and regulatory requirements, incident management and reporting, organisational safety performance and behaviour-based safety practices. A later bilateral meeting with KOBIA explicitly identified this initiative as the OIC Labour Centre’s first joint project successfully implemented in 2025.

- **“Labour Market Needs and Capacity Assessment” Survey**

Brief summary: The assessment served as an evidence base for identifying labour market gaps, skills needs, working conditions, occupational safety and health priorities and capacity requirements across Member States. Its findings informed discussions on skills mismatch, youth employment, workforce competencies, digital and green skills, and demand-driven programme development.

- **“Managing Gender Equality in the Workplace” Training Programme**

Partners: ATUC and the Republican Union of the Service and Industry Workers Trade Unions

Date and location: 15 May 2026, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

Summary: The OIC Labour Centre organised the training programme “Managing Gender Equality in the Workplace” in collaboration with national trade union partners. The programme focused on strengthening understanding of gender equality in the workplace and supporting more inclusive approaches to employment and labour relations.

- **“Green Technology in Urban Development: Accelerating the Transition to Sustainable and Resilient Cities” Workshop**

Partners: United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and SESRIC

Date and location: 22 May 2026, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

Framework: Thirteenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13)

Summary: The OIC Labour Centre organised the workshop to examine the labour market dimensions of the green transition in urban development. Discussions focused on skills formation, institutional readiness, workforce planning and the development of green skills required to support a just transition towards sustainable and resilient cities.

- **“The Future of Work in Cultural and Creative Industries” Workshop**

Partner: Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD)

Date and location: 24 September 2026, Karachi, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Framework: Best of Entrepreneurship Asia 2026

Summary: The OIC Labour Centre organised the workshop to examine employment and labour market developments within cultural and creative industries. The programme addressed decent work, employability, skills development, entrepreneurship and self-employment, freelancing and digital platforms, pathways to formal market participation, inclusive job creation and workforce preparedness. The workshop also incorporated interactive activities to support practical engagement with these themes.

Strategic Events

3.1. Organised Events

The OIC Labour Centre organised and co-organised targeted events and sessions addressing employment, occupational safety and health, women empowerment, emerging forms of work, green transition and the cultural and creative industries.

- **Panel discussion “From Passion to Profession: Jobs in the Creative and Cultural Industries”**, convened by the OIC Labour Centre within the OIC Cultural Festival: Baku Creative Week 2025, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan — 8 December 2025.
- **Session “Gig Work Reality Check: The Good, the Bad, and the Scalable”**, organised and moderated by the OIC Labour Centre within the 3rd Global Labour Market Conference, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — 26 January 2026.
- **5th Annual Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Conference**, co-organised by the OIC Labour Centre and the Risk Management Professionals Society, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan — 25 April 2026.

3.2. Participated Events

The Centre participated in the following international, OIC and partner forums during the reporting period. Online and virtual activities are identified explicitly:

- **355th Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO)** — Geneva, Switzerland — 17–27 November 2025.
- **9th Session of the Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI)** — Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — 10–11 December 2025.
- **3rd Edition of the Global Labor Market Conference (GLMC)**, where the OIC Labour Centre participated as Knowledge Partner — Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — 26–27 January 2026.
- **8th Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) Ministerial Consultation**, marking the Centre’s first participation as an observer member — Dubai, United Arab Emirates — 31 January–1 February 2026.
- **European Employment & Social Rights Forum 2026** — Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium — 3–4 March 2026.

- **356th Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization** — Geneva, Switzerland — 23 March–2 April 2026.
- **26th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group** — Online — 21 April 2026.
- **International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) side event “Designing the Next Generation of Health Workforce Partnerships: Building Effective Bilateral Frameworks”** — Online — 30 April 2026.
- **48th Sessional Committee Meeting of the COMCEC** — Virtual — 5 May 2026.
- **GovTech 4 Impact – The Global Congress on Digital Transformation of Governments** — Madrid, Spain — 5–7 May 2026.
- **42nd Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the COMCEC** — Ankara, Republic of Türkiye — 12–13 May 2026.
- **7th General Assembly of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)** — Online, convened from Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan — 14 May 2026.
- **Virtual High-Level Meeting on Social Innovation: “A Transformational Key in Times of Global Crisis”** — Virtual — 19 May 2026.
- **114th Session of the International Labour Conference** — Geneva, Switzerland — 1–12 June 2026.
- **“Making Labour Mobility Work: Delivering Talent Pathways in Practice with Employers and Private Employment Services”**, jointly organised by the IOM and the World Employment Confederation (WEC) — Geneva, Switzerland — 10 June 2026.
- **Webinar “Labour Migration Systems: Strategies for Public and Private Sectors”**, organised by the SESRIC — Online — 9 July 2026.
- **Ninth Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women** — Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan — 12–13 July 2026.
- **17th UN–OIC General Meeting on Cooperation** — Geneva, Switzerland — 22–24 July 2026.
- **High-Level Roundtable on Women’s Economic Empowerment within the UN–OIC Framework**, organised by the Women Development Organization (WDO) and moderated by the OIC Labour Centre — Geneva, Switzerland — 23 July 2026.
- **27th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group** — Ankara, Republic of Türkiye — 16–17 September 2026.

- **Ministerial Meeting of the WorldSkills Conference 2026** — Shanghai, People’s Republic of China — 23 September 2026.

Bilateral Meetings

4.1 Ministerial-level Meetings

The OIC Labour Centre held ministerial-level and other senior governmental engagements throughout the reporting period.

- **H.E. Mr Riadh Chaoued, Minister of Employment and Vocational Training of the Republic of Tunisia** — Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — 27 January 2026.
- **H.E. Mr Mod K. Ceesay, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment of the Republic of the Gambia** — Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — 27 January 2026.
- **H.E. Dr Enas Al-Attari Dahdah, Minister of Labour of the State of Palestine** — Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — 27 January 2026.
- **H.E. Mr Olivier Boucal, Minister of Civil Service, Labour and Public Service Reform of the Republic of Senegal** — Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — 27 January 2026.
- **H.E. Mr Mohamed Rahman Swaray, Minister of Employment, Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Sierra Leone** — Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — 27 January 2026.
- **H.E. Mr Muhammad Maigari Dingyadi, Minister of Labour and Employment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria** — Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — 27 January 2026.
- **H.E. Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, Minister of Legal Affairs and Minister of Labour of the Kingdom of Bahrain** — Dubai, United Arab Emirates — 31 January
- **H.E. Dr Abdulrahman Abdulmannan Al Awar, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation and Acting Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the United Arab Emirates** — Dubai, United Arab Emirates — 1 February 2026.
- **H.E. Hon. Dr Anil Jayantha Fernando, Minister of Labour of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka** — Dubai, United Arab Emirates — 1 February 2026.
- **H.E. Mr Botir Zakhidov, Minister of Employment and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan** — Geneva, Switzerland — 8 June 2026.

- **H.E. Ms Ivete Ângela dos Anjos Ferrão Alane, Minister of Labour, Gender and Social Action of the Republic of Mozambique** — Geneva, Switzerland — 8 June 2026.
- **H.E. Mr Mathias Traoré, Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Protection of Burkina Faso** — Geneva, Switzerland — 9 June 2026.
- **H.E. Maître Adama Kamara, Minister of Employment, Social Protection and Vocational Training of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire** — Geneva, Switzerland — 9 June 2026.
- **H.E. Mr Ariful Haque Choudhury, Minister of Labour and Employment and Minister of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment of the People's Republic of Bangladesh** — Geneva, Switzerland — 9 June 2026.
- **H.E. Mr Keoma D. Griffith, Minister of Labour and Manpower Planning of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana** — Geneva, Switzerland — 9 June 2026.
- **H.E. Ms Jacqueline Ilogué Bignoumba, Minister of Labour, Full Employment, Social Dialogue and Vocational Training of the Gabonese Republic** — Geneva, Switzerland — 10 June 2026.
- **H.E. Dr André Th Misiekaba, Minister of Health, Welfare and Labour of the Republic of Suriname** — Geneva, Switzerland — 10 June 2026.
- **H.E. Mr Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan** — Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan — 12 July 2026.
- **H.E. Mr Mamadou Lamine Dianté, Minister of Civil Service, Labour and Public Service Reform of the Republic of Senegal** — Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan — 4 September 2026.
- **H.E. Mr Julapun Amornvivat, Minister of Labour of the Kingdom of Thailand** — Shanghai, People's Republic of China — 23 September 2026.
- **H.E. Mr YU Jiadong, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China** — Shanghai, People's Republic of China — 25 September 2026.

4.2 Meetings with International Organisations

The OIC Labour Centre also maintained high-level dialogue with international and OIC institutions. These meetings focused on joint projects, labour mobility, skills, employment, occupational safety and health, social protection and institutional coordination.

- **H.E. Mr Gilbert Hounbo, Director-General of the ILO** — Geneva, Switzerland — 24 November 2025.
- **Ms Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, Director General of SESRIC** — Ankara, Republic of Türkiye — 27 February 2026.
- **Ms SungAh Lee, Deputy Director General for Management and Reform of the IOM** — Geneva, Switzerland — 24 March 2026.
- **European Training Foundation (ETF), Online institutional meeting;** — Online — 12 May 2026.
- **Mr Peter van Rooij, Regional Director of the ILO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia** — Geneva, Switzerland — 8 June 2026.
- **Mr Raouf Mazou, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations of UNHCR** — Geneva, Switzerland — 9 June 2026.
- **H.E. Mr Muhammad Saeed Sarwar, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the OIC to the UN Office in Geneva** — Geneva, Switzerland — 23 July 2026.

In addition, during the 8th Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) Ministerial Consultation in Dubai on 31 January–1 February 2026, the OIC Labour Centre held bilateral engagements with representatives of the **ILO, IOM, International Organisation of Employers (IOE)** and the **World Bank**.

Conclusion

The OIC Labour Centre's activities from November 2025 through September 2026 reflected a continued expansion of practical cooperation across its core mandate. Strategic agreements strengthened the institutional basis for work on employment, skills, labour mobility, youth empowerment, communication and occupational safety and health, while technical projects and programmes supported more evidence-based responses to labour market needs across OIC Member States.

The reporting period also demonstrated the Centre's growing role in convening and contributing to policy dialogue. Through organised sessions and training programmes, participation in major international and OIC forums, and a substantial programme of bilateral engagement, the Centre connected Member State priorities with discussions on emerging forms of work, skills mismatch, migration governance, social protection, women's economic participation, technological transformation and the green transition.

Occupational safety and health remained a cross-cutting priority, reflected in project implementation, capacity-building activities, ministerial discussions and the strategic partnership established for the 24th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work. Skills development and labour market responsiveness remained important areas of focus across COMCEC discussions, labour mobility initiatives and bilateral engagements, with the Labour Market Needs and Capacity Assessment and the Foresight Skills Programme providing a broader evidence base for the Centre's work in these areas.

Looking ahead, the OIC Labour Centre will continue to strengthen cooperation with Member States, OIC institutions and international partners while advancing practical, demand-driven initiatives that support decent work, productive employment, resilient labour markets and stronger labour institutions across OIC Member States.