COMCEC

COMCEC ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE
SEPTEMBER 2026

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1

CHAPTER I: COOPERATION AREAS 2

1. TRADE 2

1.1. Trade Working Group 2

1.2. Intra-OIC Trade 4

1.3. Enhancing the Role of the Private Sector 5

2. FINANCIAL COOPERATION 7

2.1. Financial Cooperation Working Group 7

2.2. Other Efforts under the COMCEC Financial Cooperation 8

3. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS 9

3.1. Transport and Communications Working Group 9

4. TOURISM 10

4.1 Tourism Working Group 10

4.2 OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum 10

5. AGRICULTURE 11

5.1. Agriculture Working Group 11

6. POVERTY ALLEVIATION 13

6.1. Poverty Alleviation Working Group 13

6.2. Other Efforts under the COMCEC by the OIC Institutions 14

7. PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION 16

8. HIGH LEVEL INITIATIVE PROGRAMME ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION 17

CHAPTER II: COMCEC POLICY FOLLOW-UP SYSTEM AND MEMBER COUNTRIES' EFFORTS FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS 18

CHAPTER III: KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION EFFORTS: COMCEC PUBLICATIONS 20

CHAPTER IV: COMCEC PROJECT SUPPORT INSTRUMENTS 21

1. COMCEC PROJECT FUNDING 21

2. COMCEC AL-QUDS PROGRAM 23

3. COMCEC SYRIA PROGRAM 23

CHAPTER V: THE 42ND MEETING OF THE COMCEC FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE 25

CHAPTER VI: COMCEC SESSIONAL COMMITTEE 26

CHAPTER VII: 13TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMCEC FOCAL POINTS 27

CHAPTER VIII: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SESSION 28

CHAPTER IX: SPECIAL SIDE EVENTS OF THE 42ND COMCEC SESSION 29

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 2026 provides an overview of the major achievements in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy, since the 41st 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 41st Session of the COMCEC, held on 1-4 November 2025, 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 42nd 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, 31 projects are being implemented by the OIC Member Countries and the relevant OIC Institutions and will be completed by the end of 2026.

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, 21 projects were implemented under the Al-Quds Program during 2023-2025 period. In addition, 10 projects are being implemented in 2026.

Moreover, the COMCEC Syria Program has been initiated with the aim of contributing to strengthening the institutional and human capacity in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2026, in line with the relevant resolutions of 41st COMCEC Session. In this regard, 5 tailored capacity-building projects will be implemented this year under the Program.

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

Developing effective and accessible trade financing tools is important for facilitating international trade and enhancing export performance. Appropriate trade financing tools can help firms meet their financing needs, manage risks related to international transactions and access international markets. However, many developing economies continue to face a significant trade finance gap. SMEs are particularly affected by high financing costs, limited collateral and limited access to appropriate financial instruments.

The development and diversification of trade financing tools can help address these challenges and support export growth in the OIC Member Countries. Traditional bank-based financing remains an important source of trade finance. At the same time, digital trade finance solutions, supply chain finance and Islamic trade finance instruments can offer additional financing opportunities for firms. Developing effective trade financing tools can facilitate greater participation in international trade, contribute to export diversification and support the integration of the OIC Member Countries into global value chains.

Recognizing the critical importance of developing effective trade financing tools, the COMCEC Trade Working Group (TWG) dedicated its 26th and 27th sessions to the theme of "Developing Effective Trade Financing Tools for Increasing Export in the OIC Member Countries." A research report has been prepared on same theme to assist OIC Member States in developing effective trade financing tools by utilising relevant OIC institutions and international cooperation frameworks. It provides detailed, actionable recommendations on strengthening trade finance in OIC Member Countries.

The 26th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was held on 20 April 2026 and preliminary findings of the research report were discussed. As a sequel of the 26th Meeting, the 27th Meeting of the COMCEC TWG was held on 14-15 September 2026 with the same theme. The final draft of the report was discussed during the Meeting. Throughout both sessions, Member Countries and international organizations exchanged valuable experiences and perspectives concerning the development and enhancement of trade financing tools.

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 27th Meeting of the Trade Working Group

1.Enabling Legal and Regulatory Framework

- Developing/harmonizing national legal, regulatory and supervisory frameworks to facilitate the effective use and wider adoption of trade finance instruments and services.
- Promoting integration of customs verification and banking processes through digital platforms to streamline customs clearance, reduce administrative delays, and improve the efficiency of cross-border trade transactions in accordance with institutional readiness as well as domestic laws and regulations.
- Facilitating the implementation of single-window trade platforms to connect domestic exporters with international buyers while integrating trade information, financing, and application processes including AI tools while respecting domestic laws and regulations.
- Aligning national legal frameworks with international standards and practices on electronic trade documentation, including by granting electronic trade documents legal equivalence to paper-based documents and establishing clear rules on their control, transfer, and use.

2. Effective Use of Financial Instruments

- Developing/improving sound mechanisms to facilitate the effective and diversified use of trade finance instruments and expand access to appropriate financing solutions for traders and exporters.
- Developing appropriate institutional mechanisms, including national coordination arrangements, for the effective management of sovereign export credit guarantees.
- Encouraging the diversified types of collaterals and transition of collateral-based lending towards cash-flow-based credit assessment and the appropriate use of alternative financing instruments, including venture debt taking into account national financial systems and regulatory frameworks, to better support high-growth, asset-light, and technology-driven exporters.
- Promoting long-term refinancing frameworks, through among others, the use of internationally recognized reference interest rates where appropriate, with risk-sharing arrangements to facilitate fixed-rate buyer credit for capital goods exports.
- Developing/improving national monitoring and evaluation frameworks to regularly assess the performance and impact of trade finance programmes and instruments through relevant key performance indicators, including export growth, MSME market entry, and private capital mobilization.
- Encouraging firm-level tracking and impact assessment mechanisms to measure the additional financing provided through trade finance programmes and their effects on traders' export performance.

3. Utilization of Islamic Trade Finance

- Developing and improving national legal and regulatory frameworks to facilitate the provision and wider use of Islamic trade finance instruments and services.
- Raising awareness among financial institutions and businesses of Islamic trade finance instruments and their potential applications for trade and export activities, while strengthening institutional capacity to provide such solutions.
- Encouraging the strengthening and expansion of specialized Islamic financial institutions and Islamic finance operations, with dedicated Shariah-compliant risk assessment and financing approaches tailored to the needs of MSMEs.
- Promoting risk-sharing and credit enhancement mechanisms to expand access to Shariah-compliant trade finance, inter alia, Islamic export credit insurance and retakaful guarantee schemes, Sukuk-related guarantees, and other financing arrangements involving multilateral Islamic financial institutions.
- Exploring mechanisms to promote greater consistency and mutual recognition of Shariah compliance standards across jurisdictions, including through appropriate multilateral coordination and clearing arrangements, to facilitate cross-border Islamic trade finance and to increase intra-OIC trade within the framework of its own national legislation.

4. Developing Sound Incentive Mechanisms

- Developing/improving state-backed credit guarantee mechanisms to facilitate access to trade finance, in particular for MSMEs, including, among others, portfolio-based guarantee schemes and appropriate mechanisms for the management and recovery of non-performing trade finance loans.
- Encouraging incentives including export development grants and dedicated inclusive trade finance funds to lower upfront promotional, listing, certification, freight and logistics costs for MSMEs and women- and youth-led enterprises.

5. Enhancing MSME Access to Trade Finance

- Developing MSME trade promotion frameworks combining tailored liquidity facilities, pre-export financing, and risk-mitigation guarantees to improve MSMEs' access to trade finance and facilitate their integration into national and global supply chains.
- Strengthening awareness, financial literacy and trade finance capacity of MSME's through targeted training, advisory services, and practical guidance on financing instruments, export incentives, and digital trade opportunities.
- Supporting development of specialized MSME trade finance training and certification programmes for commercial bank credit and risk officers including on cash flows and transaction based assessment approaches for the better assessment of MSME financing needs and risk profiles of export-oriented MSMEs.
- Encouraging MSMEs to strengthen cooperation and collective action through business associations, exporter networks, cooperatives, and other relevant platforms to improve their bargaining power, share market and financial information, facilitate access to trade finance, and pursue joint export and market development opportunities.

All the documents, including the Policy Recommendations document, and presentations made during the 26th and 27h 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 41st 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 Session welcomed the decisions of the TNC meeting on 1-2 October 2025 at the chief negotiator level, in particular its decision, with a view to exploring the possibilities of the expansion of the TPS-OIC, to initiate preliminary discussions on challenges in implementation of PRETAS, possible expansion areas and objectives, legal considerations and institutional matters.

The Session expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Türkiye for volunteering to host the next TNC meeting on 3-4 February 2026, and called upon the OIC Member Countries, which have signed and ratified the TPS-OIC Framework Agreement, to attend this important meeting, and invited other interested Member Countries that are not parties to the Framework Agreement to participate as observers.

In this regard, the TPS-OIC TNC Meeting was held virtually on 3-4 February 2026 hosted by the Republic of Türkiye and agreed to structure its future meetings in a thematic manner focusing sequentially on challenges in the implementation of PRETAS and the current TPS-OIC framework, possible expansion areas and objectives, and legal considerations and institutional matters. In the Meeting, the Committee requested the TNC Secretariat, in collaboration with the Republic of Türkiye and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as other interested Member Countries, to prepare and circulate two sets of questionnaires by mid-March, 2026 with a view to collecting a broad range of views on the main pillars, scope and modalities of a possible expansion of the TPS-OIC and on implementation issues, and report thereon to the next TNC Meeting. Within this framework, the questionnaires were prepared and circulated to the OIC Member Countries. Moreover, the 42nd COMCEC Follow-up Committee welcomed the relevant resolutions of the aforementioned TNC Meeting.

Another TNC Meeting was held virtually on 1 July 2026 in which the participants discussed challenges in the implementation of PRETAS and the current TPS-OIC framework. In the Meeting CCO, as the co-secretariat of the TNC, presented the findings of the said questionnaires, and the Committee welcomed the presentations made by the TNC Secretariat and took note of the preliminary findings of the questionnaires. The Meeting also requested the Member Countries that have not yet submitted their responses to the TNC Secretariat to do so by 31 August, 2026, and requested TNC Secretariat to report the findings of the questionnaires to the next TNC Meeting. Another TNC Meeting was be hosted by Republic of Türkiye virtually on 14 October 2026 in which possible expansion areas and objectives was discussed. Updated results of the questionnaires on the expansion and implementation of the System was also presented by the TNC Secretariat. Next TNC Meeting will also be hosted by Republic of Türkiye on February 2027.

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 41st COMCEC Ministerial Session and the 42nd 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, three projects were implemented in 2026 under COMCEC Project Funding, namely, "Strengthening Institutional Capacity for BSO to Design Digital SME Support Programs in Tourism and Hospitality," implemented by Jordan; "Identifying and Designing the Organizational Structure and Financing Model for a Multilateral and Sustainable OIC SME Networking Platform," implemented by Pakistan; and "Empowering SME Development Agencies with Innovative Financing Solutions under the OIC-SMENET Framework," implemented by SESRIC.

Moreover, 42nd 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 finalize the main documents of IFHAB. The Statute of IFHAB was approved in December 2024, and the documents related to its operational and recognition processes are currently being finalized.

The 41st Session of the COMCEC and the 42nd Follow-up Committee Meeting of COMCEC requested the acceleration of efforts towards establishing a well-functioning Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) among national halal accreditation bodies of the OIC Member Countries by the IFHAB, in alignment with OIC/SMIIC standards as outlined in the OIC Global Halal Quality Infrastructure (OHAQ), by underlining its importance.

In this regard, the operationalization of IFHAB in 2027 through peer review assessments of member institutions is expected.

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 "Strengthening and Branding Tourism Destinations in Indonesia with OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards" is being implemented by Indonesia in partnership with SMIIC and three countries, in 2026. The project aims at empowering conformity assessment systems and quality infrastructure to align Indonesia's tourism ecosystem with OIC/SMIIC standards.

In addition, the project titled "Capacity Building of Tourism Stakeholders with OIC/SMIIC Halal Restaurant and Tourism Services Standards" is being implemented by SMIIC in partnership with seven-member countries in 2026. The main purpose of this project is to enhance the compliance of accommodation establishments, including restaurants and hotels, with OIC/SMIIC 6 (Halal Restaurants) and OIC/SMIIC 9 (Halal Tourism Services) standards in their service delivery.

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 12th World Halal Summit and the OIC Halal Expo 2026 will be held on 25-28 November 2026 in Istanbul.

Islamic Trade Fairs:

Islamic trade fairs shall be 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 41st Session of the COMCEC and the 42nd Follow-up Committee Meeting of COMCEC appreciated the organization of workshops, webinars, trainings, fairs, exhibitions, and forums organized by the ICDT and partner countries' institutions in the 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 2026, the Working Group focused on the potential of crowdfunding as an innovative financing mechanism for supporting economic development in the OIC Member Countries.

Crowdfunding enables entrepreneurs, SMEs, start-ups, and other project owners to raise funds from a large number of individuals and investors through digital platforms. By complementing traditional financing channels, it can help address financing gaps, facilitate access to capital, promote entrepreneurship and innovation, and contribute to financial inclusion. Its potential is particularly relevant for OIC Member Countries, where limited access to finance remains a constraint on private sector development and inclusive growth. The development of Shariah-compliant crowdfunding also offers opportunities to align digital finance with Islamic financial principles, including risk-sharing, ethical investment, and social responsibility. Such models can broaden the range of financing options available to businesses and projects while encouraging wider participation in investment and economic activity. Against this background, the FCWG devoted its 2026 meetings to the theme of "Potential of Crowdfunding for Economic Development in the OIC Member Countries." A dedicated research report was prepared to assess the opportunities and challenges associated with crowdfunding, with particular attention to its contribution to access to finance, entrepreneurship, innovation, and financial inclusion, as well as the regulatory and institutional conditions required for its development.

The preliminary findings of the report were presented at the 25th Meeting of the Working Group, held virtually on 22 April 2026. Following the discussions and feedback received, the final version of the report was submitted to the 26th Meeting of the Working Group, held on 21–22 September 2026. 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 26th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group

- Adopting sector-specific national strategies and a risk-based proportional regulatory framework to promote the development of the crowdfunding sector by enabling innovation while protecting investor
- Developing a supportive ecosystem for an effective crowdfunding sector by strengthening national innovation systems and investing in digital and technological infrastructure
- Strengthening operational architecture and standards of the industry through instituting better crowdfunding platform governance, establishing supportive structures such as innovative credit scoring of fund-seekers and establishing secondary marketplaces within platforms that can enhance liquidity and facilitate the development of the crowdfunding sector
- Raising awareness and increasing capabilities of human capital across the crowdfunding sector, by enhancing literacy among the public, investors, fund-seeking SMEs and startups through national and international programmes, and by developing the technological and entrepreneurial skills needed to build and operate crowdfunding platforms as well as the wider fintech ecosystem
- Providing financial services for crowdfunding startups, through partnerships with banks, financial institutions, private investment funds and where appropriate government-backed entrepreneurial finance funds
- Promoting Islamic crowdfunding through dedicated national regulations, Shariah governance regimes, more Islamic crowdfunding platforms and Islamic entrepreneurial finance institutions
- Developing standards and instruments for Islamic crowdfunding, covering international regulatory guidelines and Shariah standards, while promoting the mechanisms for intra-OIC investments and donations through crowdfunding
- Strengthening supervision and oversight of crowdfunding platforms to ensure compliance, transparency and investor protection through risk-based and proportionate supervisory frameworks, supported by well-defined licensing, reporting and monitoring requirements

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

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 20th Meeting virtually on 7-8 October.

2026. 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 15th COMCEC CMR Forum took place on 6 October 2026.

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 8th Meeting of the Forum was held on 13-14 September, 2026, in İstanbul.

3. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

3.1. Transport and Communications Working Group

Transport and communications, as fundamental pillars of modern economies, occupies a critical position in the economic and social development by serving as the backbone of trade, investment and regional integration for the countries. Efficiency and well-planned transport and communications networks pave the way for reduction in the cost of movement of goods, services and information. Thereby, it led to enhanced competitiveness in natonal economies and facilitated integration of these into global value chains. Improved transport infrastructure developments also sustain a proper atmosphere for lowering transaction costs, shortened delivery times and increased predictability of transport networks.

Building on this, the designing integrated multimodal transport systems has emerged as a priority area in the sector to enhance efficiency of the transport networks among the countries. Multimodal transport, combining two or more modes of transport within a single, seamless transport network, contribute the reducing transshipment delays and transportation cost as well as minimizing the risk of multimodal networks mainly due to fragmentation in transport systems. In the context of OIC Member Countries, development of integrated multimodal transport systems represents a critical point for fostering regional economic integration, enhancing trade efficiency, and bridging vast geographical divides across the OIC region as well. Considering its importance, the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) devoted its two consecutive meetings in 2026 (26th and 27th) to the theme of "Designing Integrated Multimodal Transport Systems in OIC Member Countries". During both meetings, the representatives of the Member Countries shared their experiences, achievements, and challenges regarding designing integrated multimodal transport systems in their respective countries. Furthermore, they deliberated on global practices for integrated multimodal transport systems, key success factors and challenges faced in the OIC Member Countries. The meeting has considered the findings of the Research Report prepared on the theme of "Designing Integrated Multimodal Transport Systems in OIC Member Countries". The said Research Report provides a conceptual framework for integrated multimodal transport systems, presents global trends and good practices, identifies the key success factors and challenges faced by the OIC Member Countries. The Research Report also presents a special part with respect to how to design and develop integrated multimodal transport systems and comes up with concrete policy recommendations in this regard. In addition to the desk-based case studies concerning Türkiye, Vietnam and the Netherland, the Report also includes a detailed analysis based on in-depth research in the selected Member Countries namely; Azerbaijan and Egypt.

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 27th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group
• Developing integrated multimodal transport networks for improving connectivity among gateways, corridors, inland nodes and freight-generating areas through coordinated infrastructure, hinterland and intermodal-node planning. • Strengthening operational integration across transport modes for improving reliability and reducing delays at multimodal interfaces through coordinated scheduling, modal-transfer management and performance monitoring. • Advancing digital transformation and data interoperability for improving the efficiency, transparency and continuity of multimodal freight movements through integrated digital platforms, electronic procedures and secure data and information exchange. • Strengthening institutional and regulatory coordination for facilitating integrated multimodal and cross-border freight transport through clear and transparent responsibilities, inter-agency cooperation, regulatory harmonization and corridor-level governance. • Enhancing the resilience and competitiveness of multimodal corridors for maintaining reliable freight flows during major disruptions through contingency planning and coordinated corridor management. • Developing financially sustainable multimodal transport investments for improving project bankability and long-term service delivery through sound project preparation, appropriate public-private arrangements and diversified financing sources. • Enhancing institutional and human capacity for effective implementation of integrated multimodal transport policies through continuous training, knowledge exchange between countries and institutional capacity building.

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 is an important contributor to economic and social development, creating employment opportunities, supporting income growth, improving the balance of payments, and increasing foreign exchange earnings. Nevertheless, the sustainability of these benefits is increasingly challenged by climate change. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, extreme weather events, and other climate-related impacts can adversely affect tourism destinations, natural resources, infrastructure, and visitor demand. Consequently, understanding the relationship between tourism and climate change has become essential for ensuring the long-term resilience and sustainability of the tourism sector.

The impacts of climate change are particularly prominent in environmentally sensitive tourism destinations, including coastal, tropical, and desert regions. While coastal areas can be affected by sea-level rise and flooding; arid and desert destinations are experiencing greater heat stress and increasing water scarcity, which can limit the feasibility of outdoor tourism activities in related areas.

Recognizing its growing importance, the COMCEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) focused its discussions this year on impacts of climate change and mitigation strategies in tourism. 26th Meeting of the TWG was held on April 21st, 2026, in a virtual-only format and the 27th Meeting was held on 16-17 September 2026 in Ankara with the theme of "Impacts of Climate Change and Mitigation Strategies for Sustainable OIC Tourism." The Meetings examined global and OIC-wide trends, identified key challenges, shared experiences and best practices, and formulated policy recommendations to support Member Countries in advancing the impacts of climate change in tourism sector. As part of a research study prepared for the WG meetings, case studies from Türkiye, Indonesia, the Maldives 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:

Policy Recommendations of the 27th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group
• Integrating climate risk assessment, mitigation, adaptation, emergency preparedness and resource efficiency into tourism strategies, destination plans, standards and investment decisions in accordance with national adaptation measures. • Developing tourism-climate coordination mechanisms through effective public-sector coordination. • Adopting ecosystem-based and resilient destination management to protect climate-sensitive natural and cultural tourism assets. • Developing tourism-specific climate-finance and incentive mechanisms, with particular support for tourism MSMEs and local communities. • Developing tourism-climate data collection, monitoring and capacity-building systems, supported by tourism climate resilience scorecards to strengthen and support evidence-based implementation and risk management.

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 14th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum on October 14, 2026, with the theme of "Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence in Tourism".

5. AGRICULTURE

5.1. Agriculture Working Group

Agriculture is one of the leading sectors in most OIC member countries, providing our people with food, income, and employment. Recently, OIC countries have improved their agricultural production performance compared to other regions.

The agricultural sector is inextricably linked to natural systems, including crop production, livestock husbandry, water resources and soil quality. As a consequence, even marginal shifts in climatic conditions may give rise to substantial impacts on agricultural production systems. Research conducted at the global level consistently demonstrates that rising temperatures and increasingly erratic precipitation regimes are likely to result in yield losses, particularly in the production of major cereal crops

The effects of climate change on the agricultural sector extend beyond crop production. The livestock sector is equally susceptible to climate-related stresses. Increasing temperatures can induce heat stress in animals, contributing to losses in milk and meat production. Furthermore, climate change may impair the productivity of pastures, reduce the availability of water resources, and alter the spread of animal diseases.

Climate change may also affect the proliferation of agricultural pests and diseases. Rising temperatures and shifting climatic conditions may facilitate the geographic expansion of certain pest species into new territories, resulting in considerable crop losses, particularly in the domain of plant production.

The vulnerability of the agricultural sector to climate change is determined not only by natural factors but also by economic and institutional dimensions. The technological capacity of agricultural production systems, the adequacy of infrastructure, and the level of access to finance are all key determinants of adaptive capacity vis-à-vis climate change. Although OIC member countries contribute significantly to global agricultural production, many of them are characterized by climate-sensitive production structures and limited adaptive capacity. Prevailing agricultural planning frameworks in many OIC Member Countries remain largely based on historical climate patterns and short-term productivity objectives, limiting their effectiveness under increasing climate uncertainty.

About 200 million of the world's food insecure people (about 25 % of undernourished people) live in OIC member countries, so it is imperative to achieve food security by transforming agricultural systems through promoting a resilient agriculture sector against climate change.

Given the importance of the issue, the Agriculture Working Group devoted its 26th and 27th Meetings to the theme of "Promoting a Resilient Agriculture Sector against Climate Change in OIC Member." A research report on the said theme was prepared and elaborated by the Working Group. The 26th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on April 22nd, 2026, in a virtual-only format and the 27th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on 21st - 22nd September 2026, 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 27th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group
• Strengthening Early Warning and Climate Induced Hazards and Disaster Risk Management by utilizing low-cost and accesible digital instruments and empowered local networks to deliver timely and actionable climate advisories to farmers • Integrating climate-responsive agricultural development planning by leveraging dynamic risk modeling to guide investments and supporting field-level implementation tailored to local context • Developing climate-conscious investment frameworks by integrating climate risk analysis into project appraisals • Promoting interconnection of land, water, energy and food systems to eliminate policy fragmentation, protect groundwater resources, and strengthen rural livelihood resilience • Developing/Improving agricultural risk protection mechanisms by expanding satellite-supported insurance frameworks and utilizing targeted public premium subsidies to safeguard smallholder livelihoods • Promoting climate resilient agricultural incentive mechanisms by repurposing unsustainable subsidies toward performance-based financial support and verified climate-smart practices.

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 constitutes one of the key cooperation areas under the COMCEC Strategy. The Poverty Alleviation Working Group (PAWG) convenes regularly to address specific themes in line with the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy, global development priorities, and the needs and priorities of the Working Group members.

In line with this approach, the 2026 meetings of the PAWG focus on the theme "Preventing the Skill Mismatch in the Labor Markets of the OIC Member Countries." The theme reflects the growing importance of ensuring a better alignment between the skills possessed by the workforce and those demanded by rapidly changing labor markets.

Skill mismatch has become an increasingly important labor market challenge in the context of technological transformation, digitalization, demographic changes, and evolving production structures. The changing nature of jobs and occupations is continuously reshaping the demand for skills, while education and training systems face growing pressure to respond effectively to these developments. When the skills supplied by workers do not adequately correspond to those required by employers, the resulting mismatch may contribute to unemployment and underemployment, constrain productivity, and make the transition from education to employment more difficult.

The issue is particularly relevant for OIC Member Countries given their diverse demographic structures, levels of economic development, labor market conditions, and education and training systems. While the nature and extent of skill mismatch differ across countries, strengthening the link between education and training systems and labor market needs remains an important policy consideration. In this regard, improving technical and vocational education and training (TVET), strengthening cooperation between educational institutions and the private sector, developing effective skills anticipation mechanisms, and ensuring that curricula respond to evolving labor market needs are among the key areas requiring attention.

Addressing skill mismatch requires a comprehensive and coordinated policy approach that considers the specific circumstances and priorities of individual Member Countries. Effective mechanisms for identifying current and future skill needs, reliable labor market information systems, stronger school-to-work transition mechanisms, and closer cooperation among public institutions, education and training providers, employers, and industry representatives can contribute to a more responsive skills development system. Moreover, lifelong learning, reskilling and upskilling opportunities have become increasingly important in enabling workers to adapt to technological and structural changes in labor markets.

Given the importance of the issue, the 26th and 27th Meetings of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group (PAWG) are devoted to the theme of preventing skill mismatch in the labor markets of the OIC Member Countries. While the 26th Meeting was held virtually on 21 April 2026, the 27th Meeting was held on 16-17 September 2026 in Ankara under the same theme, "Preventing the Skill Mismatch in the Labor Markets of the OIC Member Countries."

The research report on the subject considered during the above-mentioned meetings reviews the global and OIC trends by focusing on Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Malaysia, and Germany as the case countries.

In light of the main findings of the research report and the deliberations during the meetings, the Working Group has come up with following set of policy recommendations to be submitted to the 42nd COMCEC Ministerial Session:

Policy Recommendations of the 27th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group

- Developing labor market information and skills anticipation mechanisms by making better use of available data to identify and respond to skill mismatches.
- Strengthening foundational and future-oriented skills by integrating relevant competencies into education and training and promoting equitable access to skills development opportunities.
- Enhancing the attractiveness of TVET while aligning TVET, higher education, and training with evolving labor market needs through regularly updated curricula, work-based learning, and flexible learning pathways.
- Improving school-to-work transitions by enhancing employment services, practical work experience, and employer engagement, with particular attention to young people facing barriers to employment.
- Strengthening institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement by promoting cooperation and social dialogue among relevant institutions, employers, workers, and other stakeholders in skills development.
- Developing/strengthening sustainable and inclusive financing for skills development through appropriate financing mechanisms and greater stakeholder participation, with particular attention to SMEs, women, youth and persons with disabilities.
- Improving results-oriented monitoring and evaluation by using labor market outcomes and other relevant evidence to inform the review and improvement of skills policies and programs.

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) serves as a dedicated financing mechanism aimed at supporting poverty alleviation efforts through investments in key areas such as human development, agriculture, rural development, and essential infrastructure. It provides concessional financing for programmes and projects in OIC Member Countries, with particular attention to the least developed countries, and has an envisaged target capital of US$10 billion.

At the 42nd Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC, the Representative of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) provided information on recent developments concerning the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), including the ongoing transition of the ISFD and the operationalization of the Islamic Concessional Fund within the framework of institutional developments at the IsDB. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, the Committee requested the IsDB Group to submit a report on the implementation of the ISFD, as well as an assessment report on the Special Program for the Development of Africa (SPDA), to the 42nd COMCEC Ministerial Session.

The Special Programme for the Development of Africa (SPDA) is designed to contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable economic development in African OIC Member Countries by supporting economic growth, enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting employment opportunities, and financing development interventions. The Programme envisages the mobilization of US$12 billion in resources to support its development objectives. According to the latest information provided by the IsDB, SPDA is expected to reach its conclusion before the end of 2026.

The OIC Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET), implemented by SESRIC, aims to strengthen the capacities of OIC Member Countries in the field of technical and vocational education and training. As part of this effort, SESRIC completed the implementation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025 and has been undertaking preparations for the new OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2035. Expressing their appreciation for SESRIC's efforts, the 41st COMCEC Ministerial Session and the 42nd Follow-up Committee invited the Member Countries to actively support the design and implementation of the new Road Map and requested SESRIC to continue its efforts in preparing the new Road Map and to provide regular progress updates to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and Follow-up Committee Meetings to ensure the continued successful implementation of the OIC-VET Programme.

Implementation of the SDGs

Given its significant place in the global development agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) constitute important components of the COMCEC agenda.

In this context, the COMCEC monitors the programmes, projects and other activities undertaken by the relevant OIC Institutions that contribute to the implementation of the SDGs in the OIC Member Countries. Within this framework, SESRIC carried out a tendency survey to identify the priorities of the Member Countries concerning the SDGs and presented its findings to the 34th COMCEC Session.

Accordingly, since 2018, SESRIC has regularly submitted annual reports to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions outlining the progress achieved at the OIC level towards the prioritized SDGs. In contrast to earlier years, SESRIC's recent annual progress reports encompass all SDGs. Furthermore, in accordance with the decisions of the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions, the COMCEC Coordination Office compiles and reports at each COMCEC Session on the activities carried out by the relevant OIC Institutions in relation to the implementation of the SDGs.

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 41st COMCEC Ministerial Session and the 42nd Follow-up Committee Meeting of COMCEC encouraged the Member Countries to make use of the ICCD's facilities with a view to knowledge exchange, share best practices, to strengthen networks that enhance private sector capacity and advance intra-OIC trade.

The 42nd Follow-up Committee Meeting of COMCEC took note of the ICCD's efforts with a view to enhancing sector specific capacity and advancing the growth of the private sector in the OIC Member Countries.

Furthermore, the 42nd Follow-up Committee Meeting of COMCEC called upon the Member States to actively participate in B57+ Business Leaders' Summit, to be held on 1 November 2026 in İstanbul on the margins of the 42nd Session of the COMCEC with a view to further advancing intra-OIC private sector cooperation.

8. High Level Initiative Programme on Digital Transformation

Underlining the emerging trends with respect to digital technologies in all government services, digital transformation was included as an additional cooperation area in the COMCEC Agenda. Furthermore, **COMCEC High Level Digital Transformation Forum** was established with the aim of enhancing technical cooperation and collaboration among the relevant authorities responsible for digital transformation in the Member Countries as well as exchange of experiences, design of joint programs and projects.

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 context, three projects were implemented in 2026 under COMCEC Project Funding, namely, "Capacity Building in Digital Skills for IT Specialists," implemented by Tajikistan in partnership with Türkiye.

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 19. In contrast, the Tourism sector shows a low implementation rate, with four reported activity. Similarly, the areas of Agriculture and Finance have recorded comparatively low figures, with 6 and 5 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

1. 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.

In 2025, 21 projects were implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding. Moreover, 31 projects are being supported by the CCO in 2026 as demonstrated in Table 1.

Table 1: Projects being implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2026

No	Beneficiary Countries	Cooperation Area	Project Title
1	Benin, Pakistan, Türkiye	Agriculture	Capacity Building for the Establishment of a Community-Based Revolving Fund to Facilitate Farmers' Access to Agricultural Inputs
2	Morocco, Türkiye	Agriculture	Support and Incentive Mechanisms for Promoting Women and Youth Entrepreneurship in Agriculture
3	Gambia, Nigeria	Agriculture	Capacity Building on "Efficient Water Management in Rice Production"
4	Malaysia, Egypt	Agriculture	Capacity Building on Adopting Water-Smart Agricultural Techniques for Paddy Production in Malaysia
5	Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Agriculture	Enhancing Genome Editing and Crop Biotechnology Capacity for Climate-Resilient Agriculture in OIC Member Countries
6	Uganda, Türkiye	Agriculture	Building Capacity in the Use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for Agricultural Data and Early Warning to Enhance the Resilience of Smallholder Farmers
7	Niger, Türkiye, Uganda	Agriculture	Enhance Livestock Productivity in Niger through Artificial Insemination
8	Uganda, Egypt	Tourism	Strengthening Uganda's Culinary Tourism through Skills Development
9	Bangladesh, Turkiye, Uzbekistan, Mali, Jordan, Saudi Arabia	Tourism	Enhancing Cultural Heritage Site Preservation by Strengthening Governance and Monitoring Systems
10	Indonesia, Malaysia, UAE, Türkiye	Tourism	Strengthening and Branding Tourism Destinations in Indonesia with OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards
11	Uzbekistan, Türkiye, Indonesia	Tourism	Sustainable Tourism Villages Initiative: Empowering Communities and Enhancing Rural Visitor Experiences
12	Gambia, Türkiye	Tourism	Strengthening Culinary Tourism of the Gambia through Enhancing the Capacity of Chefs/Cooks in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector

13	Syria, Cameroon, Oman, Morocco, Egypt, Uzbekistan, Senegal,	Tourism	Capacity Building of Tourism Stakeholders with OIC/SMIIC Halal Restaurant and Tourism Services Standards
14	Egypt, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Malaysia, Senegal	Tourism	Strengthening Egypt`s Cultural Tourism Destination Brand through Sharing Experiences
15	Maldives	Tourism	Enhancing Maldivian Gastronomy Tourism by Increasing the Recognition of Traditional Cuisine
16	Uganda, Egypt	Financial Cooperation	Enhancing Professionals Cybersecurity Capabilities in Digital Payment Systems in Uganda
17	Gambia, Malaysia	Financial Cooperation	Capacity Building in Green Sukuk and Islamic Microfinance in The Gambia
18	Malaysia, Türkiye Indonesia, UAE, Saudi Arabia	Financial Cooperation	Utilizing Islamic Social Finance Instruments as a Powerful Alternatives for Climate Resilience
19	Pakistan, Malaysia	Poverty Alleviation	Foresight Skills Lab (FSL): Bridging Today's Skills with Tomorrow's Jobs
20	Nigeria, Türkiye, Malaysia	Poverty Alleviation	Mobilizing Capital for Affordable Housing: A Masterclass on REITs, REIFs and Housing Sukuk
21	Bangladesh, Egypt, Malaysia	Poverty Alleviation	Experience Sharing on Islamic Financial Instruments for the Provision of Social Housing
22	Malaysia, Iraq, Jordan, Gambia, Nigeria, Pakistan	Poverty Alleviation	Closing the Gap: Strengthen Industry Driven TVET through Strategic Partnership to Boost Employment in OIC Countries
23	Maldives, Türkiye	Trade	Strengthening Maldivian MSMEs through Regional Cooperation and Exchange
24	Suriname, Guyana, Türkiye	Trade	Enhancing the Capacity of the Metrology Department in Suriname
25	Palestine, Jordan	Trade	Digital and Institutional Capacity Enhancement of the Palestinian Garment and Textile Industries
26	Bangladesh, Türkiye	Trade	Strengthening Digital Market Surveillance and Commodity Distribution in Bangladesh
27	Jordan, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia	Transport and Communication	Fostering a Common Regulatory Framework for ITS-Based Ride-Hailing Services in OIC Member States: Building Capacity and Data Integration through a Jordanian Pilot
28	Jordan, Oman	Small and Medium Enterprises	Strengthening Institutional Capacity for BSO to Design Digital SME Support Programs in Tourism and Hospitality
29	Pakistan, Türkiye, Senegal, Egypt	Small and Medium Enterprises	Identifying and Designing the Organizational Structure and Financing Model for a Multilateral and Sustainable OIC SME Networking Platform
30	Azerbaijan, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal, Türkiye	Small and Medium Enterprises	Empowering SME Development Agencies with Innovative Financing Solutions under the OIC-SMENET Framework
31	Tajikistan, Türkiye	Digital Transformation	Capacity Building in Digital Skills for IT Specialists

Moreover, an online training program on the implementation process of the projects under the COMCEC Project Funding was held on April 8th, 2026. 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 10th, 2026, within the framework of a hands-on traning, 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 14th Call for Project Proposals of the COMCEC Project Funding on October 1st, 2026.

2. 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 28 projects were implemented under the program between 2020 and 2025.

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 2023-2025.

Moreover, 10 projects are being implemented under the Al-Quds Program in 2026. The list of projects to be implemented in 2026 period are demonstrated in the Table 2 below:

Table 2: Al-Quds Program: Projects being implemented in 2026

Project Title
1. **Advancing Employability, Digital ADR, and Innovation Pathways for Al-Quds Youth**
2. **Youth-led Digital Transformation of Al Quds's Old City SMEs**
3. **Reviving the Traditional Khayzaran Craft to Strenghten Livelihoods in Al-Quds**
4. **Empowering Youth and Women through Vocational Training and Community Engagment**
5. **AI Agentic Engineering Professional Training Program**
6. **Empowering Al-Quds: Preserving Cultural Heritage and Fostering Economic Growth**
7. **Empowering Youth through Ceramic Arts and Digital Innovation in Al-Quds**
8. **Empowering Youth in Al-Quds as Cultural Heritage Storytellers and Archivists**
9. **The Palestinian Heritage Museum: A Living Center for Culture, Creativity, and Economic Empowerment**
10. **Enhancing Healthcare and Emergency Services in Al-Quds**

3. COMCEC Syria Program

The COMCEC Syria Program has been initiated in 2026 with the aim of contributing to strengthening the institutional and human capacity in the Syrian Arab Republic, in line with the relevant resolutions of the 51st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the 41st COMCEC Ministerial Session.

In this context, 5 tailored capacity-building projects focusing on halal and international standards, trade, vocational education, and planning, program and strategy management will be implemented this year under this Program. The list of projects to be implemented in 2026 period are demonstrated in the Table 3 below:

Table 3: Syria Program: Projects being implemented in 2026

Project Title
1. **Capacity Building Project for Statistics, Planning, and International Cooperation Teams**
2. **Strengthening Institutional Governance and Management Capacity**
3. **Qualifying the Syrian Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology (SASMO) to Grant Halal Marks and Certificates according to SMIIC Standards**
4. **Strengthening Analytical Capacity for Evidence-Based Planning for Planning Directorate.**
5. **Harmonization of Syrian National Standards with International Requirements to Enhance Export Competitiveness**

CHAPTER V: THE 42ND 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 42nd Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee was held on 12-13 May 2026 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 42nd 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 42nd 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 49th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on October 22nd, 2026, in a virtual only-format, on the sidelines of the 42nd COMCEC Ministerial Session.

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. 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 2026 edition of the report titled "Towards the Achievement of Prioritized Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries" to be submitted to the 42nd Ministerial Session.

The Committee was informed by the ICIEC (IsDB Group) on the assessment&evaluation report on OIC Business Intelligence Programme, in line with the relevant Recommendations of the 42nd Follow-up Committee Meeting. Within this framework, the Committee requested the ICIEC to get the views and contributions of the OIC Member Countries and the relevant stakeholders for the steps that will be taken for the advancement of the implementation of the Programme.

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.

CHAPTER VII: 13TH 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 13th Annual Focal Points Meeting of the COMCEC Working Groups was held virtually on 9-10 June 2026. 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 The Gambia and Suriname made presentations to share their experiences about the implemented projects.

In addition, the participants were divided into six sectoral groups, corresponding to the six cooperation areas, where the Focal Points exchanged views on the themes of the relevant Working Groups for the period 2027–2029. Accordingly, the list of topics for the Working Group Meetings for the next three years was updated in line with the observations and comments received from 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 41st Session of the COMCEC determined the theme "Developing Effective Trade Financing Tools for Increasing Export in the OIC Member Countries" as the theme of the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 42nd COMCEC Session. The 41st 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 42nd COMCEC Session. In this regard, the 27th Meeting of the COMCEC TWG held on September 14-15, 2026 in Ankara, served as a preparatory meeting towards the said session.

Accordingly, the TWG in its 27th 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 42nd COMCEC Session. The details of the policy recommendations to be submitted to 42nd COMCEC Session will be available on the COMCEC website (www.comcec.org).

CHAPTER IX: SPECIAL SIDE EVENTS OF THE 42ND COMCEC SESSION

A series of high-level panels and exhibitions will be held on the sidelines of the 42nd Session of COMCEC on 31 October-3 November 2026, focusing on a range of topics of relevance to OIC Member Countries. The events will cover the following themes:

- High Level Panel on "Reinforcing Family Institution through Value-Based Policies in Digital Era" on November 3rd, 2026.
- Panel on COMCEC Syria Program on November 1st, 2026
- Exhibition on COMCEC Project Support Programs: Member Country Implementation Experiences between 31 October-3 November 2026
- B57+ Business Leaders' Summit on November 1st, 2026

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 42nd 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

42nd
COMCEC
Cooperation for Development
MINISTERIAL SESSION
31 OCTOBER - 3 NOVEMBER 2026 İSTANBUL/TÜRKİYE