



**COMCEC**

# **REPORT THIRTY SIX SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

**November 2020**



**COMCEC Coordination Office  
Ankara, November 2020**

**COMCEC**  
**Standing Committee for Economic and**  
**Commercial Cooperation of the Organization**  
**of the Islamic Cooperation**

**REPORT**  
**THIRTY SIX SESSION**  
**OF THE COMCEC**

**(18-19 November 2020, Senior Officials Meeting)**

**(25-26 November 2020, Ministerial Session)**

**(Virtual Meeting)**

**COMCEC Coordination Office**  
**November 2020**

**OIC/COMCEC/36-20/REP**

**Address:**

**COMCEC Coordination Office**

**Necatibey Cad. 110/A**

**Ankara-TURKEY**

**Phone : 90-312-294 57 10**

**Fax : 90-312-294 57 77-57 79**

**Website: <http://www.comcec.org>**

**e-mail : [comcec@comcec.org](mailto:comcec@comcec.org)**

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**OIC/COMCEC/36-20/REP**

**PART ONE**

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE OIC FORMING  
THE BASIS AND GUIDING THE ACTIVITIES  
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC  
AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC**

**I**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE THIRD ISLAMIC SUMMIT  
CONFERENCE ESTABLISHING THE STANDING COMMITTEES  
OF THE OIC CHAIRED BY HEADS OF STATE**

**Resolution No. 13/3-P (IS)**

The Third Islamic Summit Conference (Palestine and Al-Quds Session), meeting in Mecca Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 19th to 22nd Rabi-Al-Awal, 1401 H. (25-28 January, 1981);

**Having** listened to the proposals by His Majesty King HASSAN II, Chairman of Al-Quds Committee, that three committees will be established and chaired by the Kings and Presidents of the Islamic States,

**Proceeding** from a firm belief that joint Islamic action needs to be consolidated in the scientific and technological field, and in the economic and trade sphere,

**Prompted by the desire** to give information and culture a fresh impetus to help world public opinion understand the basic issues of the Islamic nations, particularly those of Al-Quds and Palestine, and to confront the tendentious campaign launched against Islam and Muslims,

**DECIDES:**

1. To establish three Standing Committees, the first for scientific and technological cooperation, the second for economic and trade cooperation, and the third for information and cultural affairs;
2. These Committees shall undertake to follow up implementation of the resolutions passed, or about to be passed, by the Islamic Conference in those fields; to study all possible means of strengthening cooperation among Muslim States in those fields, and to draw up programmes and submit proposals designed to increase the Islamic States' capacity in those fields;
3. Each Committee shall consist of the representatives of ten Islamic States, at ministerial level, and shall be chaired by the Head of State of an Islamic State;
4. Members of these Committees shall be elected by the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference for a renewable term of three years;
5. A Committee shall hold a meeting, if invited to do so by its Chairman or by a majority of its members; its meeting shall be valid if attended by a majority.



**II**

**FINAL COMMUNIQUE  
OF THE FOURTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE  
ENTRUSTING THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION TO  
H.E. KENAN EVREN, PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

**Final Communique No. IS/4-84/E/DEC**

".... The Conference decided to entrust H.E. Mr. Kenan EVREN, President of the Republic of Turkey, with the Chairmanship of the Permanent Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation..." (Page 18, para 40).

**III**

**FINAL COMMUNIQUE  
OF THE THIRTEENTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE  
“UNITY AND SOLIDARITY FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE”  
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, ÎSTANBUL  
(14-15 April 2016)**

**OIC/13TH SUMMIT 2016/FC/FINAL**

129. The Conférence attached great importance to multi-modal connectivity to further advance economic coopération among OIC Member States. In this regard, it noted the recent developments on execution of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project and encouraged OIC project owners and stakeholders to continue their efforts towards mobilizing technical and funding support for the successful implementation of this integrative project.

130. The Conférence commended the rôle of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Coopération (COMCEC) under the chairmanship of the Président of the Republic of Turkey in contributing to the realization of OIC objectives in the economic domain.

131. The Conférence expressed its profound appréciation for the successful implementation of the COMCEC revised statute and strategy adopted at the 4th Extraordinary Summit. It called on Member States to enhance the implementation of the revised COMCEC statute and strategy, in close coordination and coopération with the General Secrétariat and in accordance with the OIC Charter, and requested Member States to continue to actively participate in the work of the COMCEC under the chairmanship of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Président of the Republic of Turkey.

**OIC/COMCEC/36-20/REP**

**P A R T   T W O**

**OIC/COMCEC/36-20/REP**

**AGENDA, RESOLUTION AND REPORT  
OF THE THIRTY SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE COMCEC**

**AGENDA**  
**OF THE 36<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMCEC**  
**(18-19; 25-26 November 2020, Virtual Meeting)**



**AGENDA  
OF THE 36<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMCEC  
(18-19; 25-26 November 2020, Virtual Meeting)**

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation
3. The Implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action
4. World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the OIC Member States
5. Intra-OIC Trade
6. Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation
7. Improving Transport and Communications
8. Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector
9. Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security
10. Alleviating Poverty
11. Deepening Financial Cooperation
12. Exchange of Views on “Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness”
13. Date of the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC
14. Any Other Business
15. Adoption of the Resolutions

**II**

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE THIRTY SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE COMCEC  
(Virtual-Only Meeting, 25-26 November 2020)**

Original: English

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE THIRTY SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE COMCEC**

**(Virtual-Only Meeting, 25-26 November 2020)**

The Thirty-sixth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 25-26 November 2020, in a virtual only format;

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019, which commended the role of the COMCEC under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey, in contributing to the realization of OIC objectives in the economic domain and highly commended the successful implementation of the COMCEC revised Statute and the Strategy adopted at the Fourth Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC;

Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the OIC-2025: Programme of Action adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 April 2016 in İstanbul, Turkey and to the COMCEC Strategy adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 August 2012 in Makkah Al-Mukarramah;

Recalling the objectives and mandate of the COMCEC in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Islamic Summit and the COMCEC Statute including to serve as the central forum for the Member States to discuss international economic and commercial issues.

Taking note of the submission of the progress reports, working papers and studies on the different agenda items submitted by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic



Countries (SMIIC);

Expressing its appreciation to the Member Countries for hosting Ministerial Conferences, Meetings, workshops, fairs and other activities in the cooperation areas;

Commending the efforts made by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office and the OIC institutions working in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, namely SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICD, ITFC, ICIEC, ICCIA, OISA, SMIIC, and IOFS.

### **Report on the COMCEC Strategy and Its Implementation (Agenda Item: 2)**

1- **Welcomes** the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy; **commends** the Member Countries and the OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to its implementation and **requests** the Member States and the OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

2- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to regularly report the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Sessions, the Follow-up Committee Meetings and other relevant OIC fora.

3- **Welcomes** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and **also welcomes** the research studies and sectoral outlooks conducted and prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for enriching the discussions in each COMCEC Working Group Meeting.

4- **Commends** the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their fields of competence and **welcomes** the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in July-September 2020 period.

5- **Calls upon** the relevant Member States to utilize COMCEC Policy Follow-up System, which has been established by the COMCEC Coordination Office for the effective follow-up of the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

6- **Commending** the efforts of the Member States and the OIC Institutions for the realization of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, **invites** all the Member States to exert every effort, to the extent possible, to implement the Policy Recommendations and **requests** the OIC Institutions to support the Member States to this end through capacity development and training programmes for implementation of policy recommendations.

7- **Also commends** the OIC Institutions' efforts in helping the member countries in their efforts towards mitigating the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, among

others, “the COMCEC COVID-19 Response Program” launched by the CCO; publication titled “Socio-Economic Impacts of Covid-19 Pandemic in OIC Member Countries,” and various training and capacity building programs conducted by SESRIC; “Strategic Preparedness and Response Program for the COVID-19 Pandemic” initiated by the IsDB Group; the webinars on the impact of Covid-19 on intra-OIC trade and investment flows organized by the ICDT in collaboration with OIC and International Institutions; various trade finance and trade activities (financing support for the purchase of medical supplies, food staples and SMEs, webinars, support for equipment and capacity development, harmonization of standards, etc.) undertaken by ITFC to assist Member Countries’ fight against COVID-19 pandemic and information sharing activities of the ICCIA to counter the COVID-19 crisis at both the Governmental as well as the Private Sector levels.

8- **Expresses its appreciation** to the SESRIC for the activities, particularly capacity building and training programmes, contributing to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations in the six cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy.

9- **Taking note** of the valuable outcomes of projects previously financed by COMCEC since 2014, **invites** Member Countries to intensify their efforts to harness the benefits of COMCEC Project Funding particularly with a view to materialize the Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

10- **Welcomes** the finalization of twenty-two projects funded under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2019 and twenty two projects to be implemented under the seventh project call and **also welcomes** the eighth project call made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in September 2020.

11- **Calls on** the COMCEC National and Working Group Focal points to work more closely with the COMCEC Coordination Office for effective coordination and communication.

12- **Invites** the Member States to ensure the participation of the COMCEC National Focal Points and COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, to the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings and the COMCEC Sessions.

13- **Encourages** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Working Groups to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the relevant Working Groups.

14- **Noting with appreciation** that the number of Member States having registered to at least one COMCEC Working Group has reached 50, **requests** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Working Groups and actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the Working Groups.

15- **Takes note with appreciation** that the member countries namely Indonesia, the

Gambia, Nigeria and Turkey have already set up national coordination mechanisms for facilitating the coordination of COMCEC related work particularly the implementation of the COMCEC Resolutions and Ministerial Policy Recommendations at the national level and **encourages** the other Member States to set up similar coordination mechanisms for these purposes.

16- **Calls upon** the working group focal points to be actively involved in the knowledge production efforts of the COMCEC through, among others, assisting in collection and verification of country specific data and providing feedbacks to research studies.

17- **Expresses** its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICD, ICIEC, ICCIA, and SMIIC for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

18- **Reiterates** the relevant resolutions of the 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session, **which emphasize** the role of COMCEC in ensuring the overall coordination of the activities of the OIC relating to economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States, in accordance with its mandate and **also emphasizes** the role of COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) in undertaking activities with the Member States, the OIC Institutions and other international organizations in order to realize the objectives of the COMCEC as outlined in its Statute.

19- **Also reiterates** its request to the OIC Institutions working in the economic and commercial fields to continue coordination with the COMCEC Coordination Office, including through the Sessional Committee, in order to ensure progress and complementarity in the implementation both of the COMCEC Strategy and the OIC 2025: Program of Action, especially in the areas of trade and investment.

20- **Adopts** the recommendations of the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC held in virtual-only format on 20-21 October 2020.

21- **Requests** the concerned Member States to actively participate in the activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in the cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy and **calls upon** these institutions to send invitations to the Member States sufficiently in advance of the meetings so as to ensure their participation.

**i) Implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action (Agenda Item: 3)**

22- **Takes note of** the report presented by the OIC General Secretariat on the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action.

23- **Underlining** the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and

commercial section of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action by the COMCEC, **requests** the OIC General Secretariat to regularly submit comprehensive progress reports on the implementation of the Programme to the COMCEC Sessions and the Follow-up Meetings.

24- **Commends** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat for organizing the Fifth Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) in Jeddah, OIC Headquarters on 4-5 December 2019.

25- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, **requests** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to sign and ratify the agreements in the economic domain for furthering economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.

#### **World Economic Developments with Special Reference to the OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 4)**

26- **Takes note of** the findings highlighted in the SESRIC's report titled "OIC Economic Outlook 2020: Trade and Integration Challenges amid Rising Uncertainties", and **acknowledges** the valuable contribution of its special section in identifying policies pertinent to economic integration challenges under current global economic settings. Considering the rising economic uncertainties as a result of the combination of trade-policy shocks and the COVID-19 pandemic, the following recommendations are made for OIC countries to promote regional economic integration:

- **Invites** the Member States to focus on creating intra-regional value chains and establishing regional clusters to gain competitive advantage at global markets and spur regional economic development.
- **Encourages** the Member States to increase regional economic partnership to reduce dependency on a single foreign supplier in strategic commodities and achieve self-reliance in the production of such commodities.
- **Calls upon** the Member States to minimize economic policy uncertainty, reduce trade costs, improve technological capacities and increase their preparedness to meet supply chain risks in order to tap on the potential opportunities in the wake of the potential transformation of international production.
- **Entrusts** the SESRIC to continue monitoring world economic developments and their implications on the Member States and also entrusts SESRIC to continue to report thereon to the annual sessions of the COMCEC.

#### **ii) Intra-OIC Trade (Agenda Item: 5)**

27- **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on 22 September, 2020 in a virtual-only format with

the theme of “Guidelines for Effective National Trade Facilitation Committees in Islamic Countries.”, welcomes the guiding principles and recommended practices identified in the “COMCEC Handbook for High Performing Trade Facilitation Bodies”

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

28- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be held in 2021 with the theme of “Counter-measures to Sustain Trade Facilitation During and After Covid-19 Pandemic in the OIC Member Countries” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Trade Working Group.

29- **Commends** the efforts of Maldives, Sudan, ICCIA, and SMIIC for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 under the seventh project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project titled “Digital Transformation for Enhancing Trade Facilitation” will be implemented by ICCIA in partnership with 25 member countries.
- The project titled “Improve Food Import-Export Control System” will be implemented by Maldives in partnership with Turkey and Malaysia.
- The project titled “Efficient Border Management through One Stop Border Post (OSBP)” will be implemented by Sudan in partnership with Chad, Egypt and Tunisia.
- The project titled “OIC/SMIIC Halal Foundation Training for Africa Region” will be implemented by SMIIC in partnership with 14 Member Countries.

30- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 14<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, **calls on** Member States to take the necessary measures that would exempt Palestinian goods and commodities from customs duties, duties and taxes of similar effect, without quantitative or qualitative restrictions, which would have a positive effect on strengthening the steadfastness of the Palestinian people on their own territory and supporting the efforts of the State of Palestine to put an end to the Israeli occupation.

31- **Expresses its appreciation** to ICDT for organizing the following webinars in trade domain:

- The webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on trade promotion strategies in facilitating intra-OIC, on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in collaboration with Senegal Export, Tunisia Export, the Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE),
- The webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on Trade Financing and the Development of Strategies for Strengthening intra-OIC Trade and Investment on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, in collaboration with ITFC, the Arab Bank for Economic

Development in Africa (BADEA), the African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIMBANK) and the West African Development Bank (BOAD),

- The webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on the Standardization and Certification of Medical, Protective and Food Products in the OIC Member States on July 2nd, 2020 jointly organized with SMIIC in collaboration with the Department of Standards Malaysia (Standards Malaysia), the Tunisian National Institute of Normalization and Industrial Property (INNORPI), the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE), Dinar Standard (United Arab Emirates) and the Moroccan Institute of Standardization (IMANOR)

- The webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on the repercussions of the digitization of trade procedures in the facilitation of Intra-OIC trade with a view to mitigating the post COVID-19 effects, on July 6th, 2020 in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO), PortNet Morocco, Gainde2000 Senegal, the Mozambique Trade Net and the Oman Customs;

- The webinar the impact of COVID-19 on the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit to Strengthen Intra-OIC Trade and Investment and with the rest of the world on July 13th, 2020, jointly organized with ICIEC in collaboration with the United Insurance Company (Sudan) Ltd., the Export Credit Bank of Turkey (TÜRK EXIMBANK) and the Export Credit Guarantee Agency of Oman (Credit Oman),

- The webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on Regional Integration of Intra-OIC Trade and Investment on July 23rd, 2020, in collaboration with the IsDB, ECOWAS, the League of Arab States and UNESCWA.

32- **Takes note of** proposal of Tunisia and ICDT for launching a 3 years programme including Regional Training Workshops to be organized in the field of Competition Law and Policy for the benefit of OIC Arab and the African Member States at the Tunisian Training and Certification Centre in collaboration with ICDT and UNCTAD.

33- **Welcomes** that the Republic of Tunisia will host the following events:

- A Buyers-Sellers Meeting in the field of Food Labelling and Packaging in the Republic of Tunisia; in 2021,
- A Regional Online Marketing Workshop for Women-Entrepreneurs in the Republic of Tunisia in 2021 in cooperation with ICDT;

34- **Expresses its appreciation** to ITFC for organizing the following activities in trade domain:

- Capacity Development Programs, with Arab Tourism Organization, to support the recovery of Tourism sector in Arab countries Post- COVID-19,

- E-Learning and Knowledge Sharing Platform and webinars on "Preparing for and Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic in African IsDB Member Countries",
- Support with equipment and Capacity Development on preparing and responding to COVID 19 Pandemic for the Laboratories network in the 10 Sub-Saharan countries (ongoing) with in the IsDB reverse linkage,
- Harmonization of Standards for Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices in African Countries: (ongoing), - Support the setting up the Tunisia National Center for Education Technologies "CNTE" Information and Communication Technology "ICT" Academy.

*i) TPS-OIC*

35- **Calls upon** the Member States which have not yet signed or ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, PRETAS and Rules of Origin, to do so at their earliest convenience.

36- **Welcomes** the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco and **takes note** with appreciation the information provided by the Saudi Arabia that the Gulf Cooperation Council will communicate its most updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat at the earliest convenience, on behalf of its six member countries namely; Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman.

37- **Mandates** the TNC to clarify the context and provide interpretation of point number 6 of TPS-OIC Framework Agreement especially the phrase "unless otherwise decided by the COMCEC" before the operationalization of TPS-OIC.

38- **Requests** the concerned Member States to expedite their efforts for the submission of the concession lists to the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Secretariat in the standard format circulated by the TNC Secretariat for the operationalization of the TPS-OIC at the earliest.

39- **Also requests** the participating Member States, who have not done so yet, to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience.

40- **Expresses its appreciation** to the Republic of Turkey for hosting and COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT for organizing a Virtual Consultative Meeting for discussing the issues regarding the Implementation of the TPS-OIC on 27 October 2020, with the attendance of the Participating States, which have ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements and submitted their concession lists.

41- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey, as the chair of the 1st and 2nd round of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC), to convene a TNC Meeting in 2021 as soon as possible for discussing the issues pertaining the implementation of the System and setting a date for its effectuation and **calls upon** the concerned Participating

States of the TPSOIC to actively attend this meeting.

42- **Requests** the ICDT, COMCEC Coordination Office, IDB and other relevant OIC Institutions to continue organizing awareness-raising and capacity-building activities with regards to the TPS-OIC.

*ii) Islamic Trade Fairs*

43- **Expresses** its appreciation to the following Member States for hosting Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT:

- The Republic of Turkey for hosting the “7<sup>th</sup> OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 28 November-1st December 2019;
- The State of Kuwait for hosting an Exceptional Edition of the Tourism, Handicrafts and Interior Decoration Exhibition of the OIC Member States in Kuwait-City on 18-23 December 2019.

44- **Takes note** that World Expo “EXPO 2020 Dubai” will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates, in Dubai, from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 and invites the OIC Institutions to actively participate in the event.

45- **Welcomes** that the following Member States will host Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT in 2020-2021 and **requests** all Member States to encourage active participation of their private sector and relevant institutions in these events:

- The Republic of Turkey to host the “8<sup>th</sup> OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul in 2021 in collaboration with ICDT and SMIIC;
- The Republic of Tunisia to host the “9<sup>th</sup> OIC Halal Expo” in collaboration with ICDT and SMIIC;
- The Republic of Senegal to host the 5<sup>th</sup> OIC Health Expo and the 17<sup>th</sup> OIC Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in Dakar in 2021; The Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 18<sup>th</sup> OIC Trade Fair in cooperation with ICDT in 2022.

46- **Requests** ICDT to continue holding sector specific fairs in cooperation with the Member States and submit regular progress reports on the fairs to the COMCEC Sessions.

47- **Reiterates** its request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

48- **Requests** ICDT to submit on regular basis, progress reports on the Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries and the other specialized fairs as well as exhibitions to the COMCEC Sessions.

*iii) WTO Related Technical Assistance*



49- **Expresses** its thanks and appreciation to the IDB Group and ICDT for organizing WTO- related training courses and seminars for the benefit of the Member States and underlines the need for more effectively disseminating information on training courses among all Member States.

50- **Calls on** IDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and to enhance their efforts in sensitizing the Member States to the impact of WTO trade negotiations on their economies and **requests** IDB and ICDT to continue to synergize and coordinate their efforts to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on an equitable and fair basis.

51- **Calls upon** the WTO members of the OIC to assist non-WTO Members of the OIC in their accession process to WTO.

52- **Also calls upon** the Member Countries and the relevant OIC institutions to extend support to the Member Countries who need technical assistance on trade facilitation practices towards the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

53- **Further calls upon** IDB Group and ICDT to monitor matters relating to WTO activities and report them to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other concerned fora.

54- **Expresses its appreciation** to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and ICDT and the IsDB Country Strategy and Cooperation Department and ICDT for organizing a training workshop on trade in services negotiations techniques in the OIC Countries on 12-13 February 2020, in Casablanca.

55- **Commends** ICDT for organizing the webinar on the impact of COVID19 on Regional Integration of Intra-OIC Trade and Investment on 23rd July 2020 in collaboration with the Country-Strategy and Cooperation Department of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA).

56- **Expresses** its appreciation to ICDT and IsDB for organizing virtual training workshop on WTO agricultural negotiation and their impact on trade in agricultural products among OIC Member States on October 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

#### *iv) Trade Financing Activities*

57- **Appreciates** the trade finance, promotion and development activities of ITFC and the mobilization of funds from the international market and development partners for funding the trade operations in the Member States, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 25 percent.

58- **Takes note with appreciation** that ITFC's cumulative approvals and disbursement in trade finance reached, since its inception until now, USD 53 billion and

USD 43 billion respectively, and its total approvals and disbursement as of end June 2020 reached USD 2.40 billion and USD 2.494 billion respectively.

59- **Commends** the efforts of ITFC in financing SMEs and the Least Developed Member Countries and intra-OIC trade and **takes note** of its efforts to diversify its portfolio and extend more financing for agriculture sector that has direct and prominent impact on improving productivity, job creation, increasing export revenues and alleviating poverty.

60- **Welcomes** the efforts of ITFC for conducting special programs to mitigate the adverse implications of COVID-19 pandemic in the OIC Member Countries on trade and business development where ITFC allocated USD 605 million in favor of OIC Member Countries for the purchase of medical supplies, food staples and SMEs / private sector support. Also, **welcomes** ITFC efforts in establishing a USD 1.5 billion facility in partnership with AfreximBank and BADEA to provide financial assistance to Africa countries to cushion the economic impact of COVID-19, from which OIC Member Countries in Africa are among the beneficiaries.

61- **Calls upon** the concerned Member States to complete their membership requirements for the institutions of the IDB Group (ITFC and ICIEC) so that the IDB Group implements its mandate successfully.

62- **Takes note of** the trade promotion and capacity development initiatives being implemented by ITFC under its various flagship programs including Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS), Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program (AATB), Trade Development Fund and West Africa SMEs Program.

63- **Takes note with appreciation** of the efforts of the ITFC in implementing Integrated Trade Solution Programmes, including Indonesia Coffee Development Programme, Guinea Reverse Linkage Programme, the Cotton Bridge Programme, Program for the Development of Dates Sector in Medina Region, Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment of Iraq, the Gambia Aflatoxin Mitigation Programme, and various programmes for Tunisia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, CIS Countries, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Comoros, and Djibouti.

64- **Also takes note with appreciation** of ITFC's efforts for the diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments, supporting training programs on Islamic finance and promoting Islamic Finance solutions at international fora.

65- **Welcomes** of the ITFC's high level Capacity Building Program provided to CIS countries and Afghanistan on Islamic Finance, as part of its trade-related Technical Assistance Programs provided to Member Countries and **calls upon** the relevant OIC Institutions to join and support these efforts.

66- **Takes note** of the efforts of the ICIEC as the only multilateral export credit and investment insurance Corporation in the world that provides Shariah-Compliant insurance and reinsurance solutions.

67- **Takes note with appreciation** the ICIEC's role in supporting USD 5.4 billion of Intra-OIC business insured involving 36 countries with a cumulative insurance approval since inception which has reached USD 41.5 billion to end-2019 with business insured exceeding USD 64 billion.

68- **Takes note** of the launching of new edition of the Annual Development Effectiveness Report (ADER) which encompass the ICIEC performance throughout the last 26 years and congratulates ICIEC in achieving six SDGs; namely SDG 2, SDG3, SDG7, SDG 8, SDG9, SDG 17.

69- **Takes note** of the Report prepared by ICIEC on OIC Business Intelligence Programme and **requests** the ICIEC and SESRIC to complete the technical preparations for launching the Programme at the earliest.

70- **Also requests** ICIEC in cooperation with SESRIC to finalize the survey for assessing the commercial data and credit information sharing systems of the Member Countries in order to ensure the operationalization of the Programme in line with the priorities and regulations of the Member Countries, and submit the outcomes to the 37th meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee and 37th COMCEC Ministerial Session.

*v) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC*

71- **Welcomes** the activities of Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in the area of standardization, metrology and accreditation and their impact on trade facilitation and capacity building.

72- **Welcomes** People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Chad, the Republic of Indonesia, State of Kuwait, and Republic of Yemen as the new members as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and Russian Federation as the new observer member to SMIIC, which has increased the number of SMIIC Member States to 42 along with 3 Observers and **invites** the concerned Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Councils.

73- **Expresses its appreciation** to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence and **invites** Member States to support to further increase its visibility in international fora, particularly through its accession as an observer to the WTO-Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

74- **Invites** the Member States to adopt and use the OIC/SMIIC Standards as their national standards with a view to contributing to the harmonization of standards and alleviating technical barriers to trade among the Member States and calls upon the relevant Member States, which use OIC/SMIIC Standards, to officially adopt the standards according to SMIIC adoption guidelines.

75- **Takes note with appreciation** the development of the SMIIC 2021-2030 Strategy Plan and the OIC Global Halal Quality Infrastructure.

76- **Commends** the efforts of SMIIC for conducting 6 training programs on the OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards in order to facilitate the common use of standards within the OIC.

**iii) Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation  
(Agenda Item: 6)**

77- **Takes note of** the efforts of the ICCIA in organizing Forums, Training Programs, B2B Meetings, Seminars and Workshops in order to galvanize the role of the Private Sector to expand their network and increase their trading and investment opportunities.

78- **Encourages** the Chambers of Commerce of the Member States to be actively involved in the ICCIA's activities.

79- **Expresses** its appreciation to the ICCIA for organizing the Workshop on "Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities" in Karachi, Pakistan on December 2-4, 2019.

80- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC and Council of Foreign Ministers and the relevant decision of the 35th Meeting of General Assembly of the ICCIA **welcomes and applauds** the establishment of the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul with the Signing of the Host Country Agreement of the Center between the Republic of Turkey and ICCIA during the 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Meeting held on 25-28 November, 2019.

81- **Also welcomes** the efforts towards operationalization of the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul and requests the ICCIA and TOBB to expedite the steps to be taken for rendering the Center operational.

82- **Takes not with appreciation that** the "OIC High-Level Public and Private Investment Conference" was held jointly by the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Investment Office, the General Secretariat of the OIC, and Islamic Development Bank Group on 8-9 December 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey, with the theme "Unleashing Intra-OIC Investment Opportunities: Investment for Solidarity and Development".

***Financing Private Sector Development***

83- **Takes note with appreciation of** the efforts of the ICD, which efficiently works towards financing private sector projects in the Member Countries.

84- **Requests** the ICD to regularly submit comprehensive reports regarding its efforts on financing private sector to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings.

**iv) Improving Transport and Communications (Agenda Item: 7)**

85- **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the

Transport and Communications Working Group held virtually on July 7th, 2020 with the theme of “Pricing of Transport Infrastructure in OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations::

- Developing contemporary transport infrastructure pricing policies and making use of implementation instruments such as PPPs, where possible, and public transport operations for a well-functioning transport system.
- Assigning an autonomous operator (entity/institution/body) for the effective collection of charges and allocation of funds arising from transport infrastructure pricing services.
- Utilizing transport infrastructure pricing tools (i.e. tolls, levies, vehicle tax, fuel tax, mileage tax, etc.) to effectively manage transport demand as well as to raise funds for transport infrastructure development.
- Utilizing contemporary collection (i.e. automated electronic tolls, on-board-units, and Global Navigation Satellite System) and enforcement systems for ensuring an effective transport infrastructure pricing.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

86- **Calls upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group, to actively participate in the 16th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to be held with the theme of “Mitigation Strategies for Transport Service Providers after COVID-19”, in 2021 and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group.

87- **Commends** the efforts of the Gambia, Iran and Jordan for the following projects successfully implemented in 2019 under the sixth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Improving Human and Institutional Capacity for Integrated Database Management System in the OIC Countries” implemented by the Gambia in partnership with Senegal, Nigeria and Turkey.
- The Project titled “Increasing Seaborne Transport and Trade within the Framework of the TPS-OIC” implemented by Iran in partnership with Oman, Qatar, Pakistan and Turkey.
- The Project titled “Reconstructing the Old Ottoman Hejaz Railway Line – Phase 2” implemented by Jordan in partnership with Egypt and Turkey.

88- **Also commends** the efforts of Cameroon, Nigeria and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 under the seventh project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project titled “Monitoring Lagos-Abidjan Transport Corridor” will be implemented by Nigeria in partnership with Benin, Togo and the Gambia.

- The project titled “Establishing Maritime Transport Archives” will be implemented by Cameroon in partnership with Cote d’Ivoire and Chad in 2021.
- The Project titled “Implementation of International Maritime Conventions” will be implemented by Turkey in partnership with Algeria and Tunisia in 2021.

89- **Welcomes** the offer of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) to share its experience in the implementation of the TIR System with the interested Member States.

90- **Taking note of** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat and the IDB Group to operationalize the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor, **requests** the General Secretariat and IDB Group to regularly inform the concerned Member States about the progress in the realization of the Project in the relevant OIC fora.

#### **Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector (Agenda Item: 8)**

91- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on 24-25 September, 2020 in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Medical Tourism in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Encouraging marketing and branding activities in order to boost the image of the destination country with a view to attract international patients.
- Using online platforms for customized marketing strategies towards target groups.
- Promoting development/implementation of exchange programs among the OIC Member Countries for medical personnel in order to boost knowledge and experience sharing.
- Encouraging bilateral or regional/multilateral arrangements (such as patient exchange programs, pre-diagnosis services, alliances between healthcare providers and streamlining health insurance schemes etc.) between public/private stakeholders including insurances and hospitals in order to sustain the exchange of patients.
- Establishing a database on health tourism for the use of OIC member countries for further cooperation in terms of patient-treatment exchange and capacity building in healthcare provision

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

92- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tourism Working Group to be held with theme of “Mitigation Strategies for Tourism after COVID-19”, in 2021 and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

93- **Acknowledges** the need to assess loss and damage in the tourism sector after the post-COVID pandemic and make a recovery plan according to the nature of COVID impact.

94- **Takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group COVID-19 Consultative Meeting on July 9th, 2020, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “The Impacts of COVID-19 on Tourism in the OIC Member Countries and The Way Forward”.

95- **Expresses its appreciation** to Turkey for hosting the 8th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held virtually on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with the theme of "Al Quds as a Special Destination ".

96- **Commends** the efforts of Cameroon, Uganda, and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 under the seventh project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Capacity Building of Destination Management Organizations (DMO) Stakeholders” to be implemented by Cameroon in partnership with Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Senegal,
- The Project titled “Community-Based Tourism through the Promotion of Heritage Sites” to be implemented by Uganda in partnership with Gambia, Malaysia, Mozambique, and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Revitalizing Mevlana's Travel Route” to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with Afghanistan and Iran.

97- **Invites** the Member Countries to encourage their relevant institutions, tourism companies and tour operators etc. to further their efforts through, among others, organizing promotion campaigns and additional tours to Quds al-Sharif for supporting Palestinian residents of Al-Quds and to demonstrate solidarity with them.

98- **Welcomes** the new Al-Quds Program initiated by the CCO in 2020 in order to improve the tourism infrastructure with the ultimate aim of improving the image of Al-Quds as a competitive and attractive tourism destination and preserving Palestinian-Arab identity in the city and **takes note of** the two projects to be finalized by the end of 2020 under the Al Quds Program;

- The Project titled “Analyzing the Tourism Infrastructure and Developing a Tourism Destination Road Map for Al-Quds” implemented by CCO in collaboration with the Ministry of National Economy of Palestine,
- The Project titled “Supporting the Institutional Capacity of Al-Quds Tourism and Heritage Council” implemented by CCO in collaboration with the Ministry of National Economy of Palestine.

99- **Takes note with appreciation** of the efforts of the SESRIC for organizing training courses and seminars in tourism sector, particularly on halal tourism and tourism statistics within the framework of SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes.

**v) Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security (Agenda Item: 9)**

100- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Member Countries. The Committee welcomed its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a comprehensive national food security and nutrition strategy and/or strengthening the existing food security policies and strategies to extend their reach and inclusiveness so that everyone can reap the benefits, including the poorest and the most vulnerable to achieve food security and nutrition for all.
- Establishing a high level national coordination mechanism or committee (i.e. an inter-ministerial, presidential council or committee) for ensuring a healthy and sustainable multi-stakeholder dialogue for the effective coordination of all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the processes of policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring; and endowing it with significant execution power and sufficient human and financial resources.
- Improving the coordination and coherence of policy actions on food security and nutrition in turbulent times (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic) at all levels ranging from subnational to national; sub-regional to regional, and bilateral, OIC-level to finally global level.
- Designing a detailed and transparent implementation plan for the national and subnational tasks and equipping the fieldwork personnel with relevant know-how and allocating sufficient financial resources to each and every step of the implementation process.
- Establishing an online platform/food information systems (e.g. vulnerability atlas, food security fora) that ideally transmits real-time information on monitoring food security and nutrition governance with a view to generating credible data and statistics and formulating evidence-based policies
- Promoting capacity building and knowledge/experience sharing among the OIC Member Countries in the four levels of good governance of food security and nutrition (i.e. (i) Policy and Legal Framework (ii) Coordination and Coherence (iii) Implementation, and (iv) Information-Monitoring-Evaluation.)

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

101- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to be held with the theme of “How to Ensure the Sustainability of Food Supply Chains in Turbulent Times: The Case of COVID-19”, in 2021.

102- **Takes note with appreciation of** the convening of The COMCEC Agriculture



Working Group COVID-19 Consultative Meeting on June 30th, 2020, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “The Impacts of COVID-19 on Food Security and Agriculture in the OIC Member Countries.”

103- **Commends** the efforts of Benin, Niger, Suriname, COMSTECH and SESRIC for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 under the seventh project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Enhancing Capacity for Warehousing and Storage of Cereals and Cowpeas” to be implemented by Benin in partnership with Niger, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire,
- The Project titled “Capacity Building on Cereals and Cowpeas Storage” to be implemented by Niger in partnership with Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Capacity Building on Irrigation Systems in Vegetable Crops” to be implemented by Suriname in partnership with Indonesia and Turkey,
- The Project titled “New Breeding Technologies for Food and Nutritional Security” to be implemented by COMSTECH in partnership with seven other Member States,
- The Project titled “Enhancing Food Security through National Food Balance Sheets” to be implemented by SESRIC in partnership with other twelve Member States.

104- **Takes note of** the SESRIC’s activities including the virtually held training courses on Enhancement of Cotton Productivity, Food Safety Analysis and Water Saving and Management in Agriculture Sector.

105- **Also takes note of** the efforts of the IDB Group in agriculture sector including the launch of the Regional Rice Value Chain Development Program for the benefit of 10 OIC countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote D’Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Sudan) in Sub-Saharan Africa and the support for the Regional Soil Fertility Mapping Project of West Africa involving six OIC counties (Cote D’Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone) in West Africa with the aim of improving crop production and productivity in the targeted areas.

106- **Welcomes** the renewed offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in 2021 and **calls upon** the Member States and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions including the COMCEC Secretariat to actively participate in this important event.

107- **Also welcomes** that the 3rd General Assembly of the Organization for Food Security (IOFS) to be hosted by the Republic of Turkey, in a virtual only format, on 2-3 December 2020, and calls upon the Member States and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions to actively participate in this important event.

## **Alleviating Poverty (Agenda Item: 10)**

108- **Taking note with appreciation** the convening of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group held virtually on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with the theme of “Urban Poverty in the OIC Member Countries in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Developing comprehensive and effective urban planning strategies that particularly focus on better management of slums to prevent uncontrolled growth of existing slums and formation of new ones, and improving the access of slum dwellers to basic services such as education and health services through strategic investments.
- Designing effective local labor market policies that would help tackling the informality problem and create more and better jobs.
- Activating the Islamic Social Finance Tools and systematically integrating them into the general urban poverty policy toolbox.
- Improving urban governance capacity and strengthening resilience to shocks (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic).
- Conceptualizing urban poverty and developing/improving data collection and measurement practices to achieve evidence-based policymaking.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

109- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to actively participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group to be held with the theme of “COVID-19 and Its Adverse Effects on Socio-Economic Inequalities in the OIC Member Countries”, in 2021 and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

110- **Commends** the efforts of the Benin, The Gambia, and Turkey for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 under the seventh project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “TVET Piloting in the Selected OIC Countries ” to be implemented by Benin in partnership with The Gambia, Niger, and Turkey,
- The Project titled “Infusing Entrepreneurship Education in School Curricula” to be implemented by The Gambia in partnership with Sierra Leone and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Strengthening Health Human Capacity and Creating Intervention Task Force” to be implemented by Turkey in partnership with Sudan, Somalia, and Niger.

*i) Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for the Development of Africa (SPDA)*

111- **Reiterates its request** to the Member Countries which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and requests the IDB Group to report back to the 37<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session about the shortfalls in reaching the target capital of the ISFD.

112- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the recent COMCEC Sessions on the observations of the Member Countries for improving the performance of the ISFD in serving the purpose of poverty alleviation through, among others, augmenting the project base and outreach of the Fund by focusing on greater number of projects, especially grant based small/medium sized projects, **requests** the ISFD to take these observations into consideration during planning its future programmes and activities.

113- **Taking note of** the reports of the IDB on ISFD and SPDA, **acknowledges** the progress achieved in SPDA and **requests** the IDB to prepare evaluation reports on SPDA, upon completion of its projects, providing details about the targets, partners, beneficiaries, outcomes, lessons learned, etc. and submit them to the relevant OIC fora including forthcoming meetings of the COMCEC.

114- **Requests** the ISFD to increase its efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including governmental, non-governmental resources and the private sector in the Member States.

115- **Welcomes** the efforts of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for mobilization of resources from different financing institutions for more effective implementation of the SPDA.

*ii) OIC-VET Program*

116- **Taking note with appreciation the progress report of SESRIC** on the implementation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025, requests SESRIC to submit progress reports on the implementation status of the Road Map to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings.

117- **Appreciates** the continuous efforts of SESRIC with a view to enhancing the capacities and quality of human resources in the member countries and calls upon SESRIC to mobilize more financial resources towards the programme.

118- **Calls upon** the Member States to participate in and support the various capacity building programmes of SESRIC under the OIC-VET Programme.

119- **Requests** the SESRIC to conduct more training programmes focusing on entrepreneurship including women entrepreneurship within the framework of the OIC-VET.

*iii) Implementation of the SDGs*

120- **Takes note with appreciation** of the report presented by SESRIC titled “Towards the Achievement of Prioritized Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries”, **requests** SESRIC to prepare annual reports on the progress towards achievement of the prioritized SDGs in the OIC Member Countries and submit to the COMCEC Ministerial

Sessions and **also requests** SESRIC to continue to carry out statistical training activities with a focus on prioritized SDGs for the benefit of National Statistical Offices of the Member States within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.”

121- **Takes note of** the list of SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC Institutions compiled by the COMCEC Coordination Office towards the implementation of the SDGs in the Member Countries and **calls upon** the Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions to actively participate in these activities.

122- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to compile the relevant OIC Institutions’ activities aligned with the prioritized SDG areas and submit the list to the 37th Session of the COMCEC.

### **Deepening Financial Cooperation (Agenda Item: 11)**

123- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group virtually on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with the theme of “Improving Shariah Governance Framework in Islamic Finance”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for the Shariah Governance processes and arrangements to ensure that all the operations and business activities in Islamic Finance are in accordance with Shariah.
- Encouraging the establishment of national Shariah Supervisory Boards (SSBs) supervising the institutional SSBs.
- Developing guidelines for ensuring/facilitating the active involvement of Investment Account Holders (IAHs) in IFIs’ management in accordance with their contribution to the investment pool.
- Encouraging talent development through training and professional certification programs and increasing the awareness of stakeholders about Shariah Governance.
- Promoting the integration of Islamic Finance sector into whole economy with a view to making monetary policy more inclusive.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

124- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively participate in its 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be held with the theme of “The Role of Islamic Finance in Supporting Microenterprises and SMEs against COVID-19”, in 2021 and also **calls upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.

125- **Commends** the efforts of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone for the following projects to be implemented in 2021 under the seventh project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Capacity Building Program on Sukuk, ESG Sukuk and Islamic Fintech” to be implemented by Brunei Darussalam in partnership with Indonesia and Malaysia,
- The Project titled “Advancing Islamic Capital Market through Financial Technology” to be implemented by Malaysia in partnership with Turkey and Brunei Darussalam,
- The Project titled “Improving Takaful in the OIC Member States ” to be implemented by Nigeria in partnership with Sudan and Mozambique,
- The Project titled “Facilitating Women Entrepreneurs' Access to Islamic Finance” to be implemented by Sierra Leone in partnership with Malaysia and Nigeria.

*vi) OIC Exchanges Forum*

126- **Welcomes** the report of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC Exchanges Forum held virtually on October 8th, 2020.

127- **Commends** the efforts of the OIC Exchanges Forum and its Task Forces and **invites** the Member States to actively participate in the activities organized under this Forum.

128- **Welcomes** the offer of the Borsa Istanbul, as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, to host the 15th Meeting of the Forum in 2021 and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in these important events.

129- **Requests** the Member States to actively support the Forum’s Task Force on Indices towards active promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah 50 Index and the Fund to the investors and the finance community in their respective countries by informing them directly or through public events and press releases as well as publishing the Index on the official websites of their Exchanges and also **invites** the Member States to support the Forum’s Task Force in finding investors for the Fund and increasing the Fund’s assets under management in cooperation with IDB.

130- **Takes note** of the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts towards establishing OIC Gold Exchange among the volunteering Member States and **requests** the Forum’s Secretariat to advance the technical preparations for the establishment of the OIC Gold Exchange and report to the 37<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session and Follow-up Committee Meeting.

131- **Invites** the interested member states to actively support Forum’s Task Force on Precious Metals through, among others, by finding counterparts and designating focal points in their respective countries to lead the OIC Gold Exchange Project.

132- **Also invites** all Exchanges Central Banks, OIC Central Banks Forum, and other relevant parties of interested Member States to contribute to the formulation of the

business model for a well-functioning OIC Gold Market.

133- **Taking note of** the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts towards advancing the sustainability agenda in the exchanges of the Member States, the Committee, **requests** the Forum's Secretariat to work on technical preparations for the projects that may help support OIC Exchanges to take further action in sustainability, including working with S&P on assessing the feasibility of a sustainability index for the OIC Exchanges Forum.

*vii) Cooperation among Capital Markets' Regulatory Bodies*

134- **Welcomes** the report of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum held virtually on 13-14 October 2020.

135- **Welcoming** the offer of the Capital Markets Board (CMB) of the Republic of Turkey, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum, in 2021, **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in this important event.

136- **Welcomes** the efforts carried out by the Task Forces of COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum namely Capacity Building, Market Development, Islamic Finance and Financial Literacy and **calls upon** the Member States to support the efforts of the Forum through participating in its meetings and contributing to the accomplishment of the mandates of the Task Forces.

137- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 36<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session, **calls upon** the interested Member States to actively participate in the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange and **invites** them to identify their authorized bodies as well as notify them to the Forum's Secretariat for enhancing coordination.

*viii) OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum*

138- **Welcomes** the Communiqué of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum held virtually on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

139- **Also welcomes** the offer of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey as the Secretariat of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum, to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Forum in 2021, and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

140- **Commends** the training and capacity building programs organized by the SESRIC towards the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States and **requests** the SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the relevant institutions of the Member States.

**Exchange of Views on “Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness” (Agenda Item: 12)**

141- **Welcomes** the policy recommendations of the 15th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on “Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness” held virtually on September 25th, 2020.

(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

### **Theme of the next Exchange of Views Session**

142- **Decides** on “**The Role of Islamic Finance in Supporting Microenterprises and SMEs against COVID- 19**” as the theme for the Exchange of Views Session at the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and **requests** the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group in its 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 37<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session.

### **Date of the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC (Agenda Item: 13)**

143- **Decides** that the 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 8-9 June 2021 and the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC will be held on 22-25 November 2021, in Turkey.

### **Any Other Business**

144- **Recalling** the mandates given by the resolutions of the previous COMCEC Ministerial Sessions to the relevant OIC Institutions **requests** some IDB Group Institutions to be present during the discussions under the relevant agenda items of the Follow-Up Committee Meeting and Senior Officials Meeting of the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and to report the developments in their field of competence to the said meetings.

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### **III**

**REPORT  
OF THE THIRTY SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC  
AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC  
(Virtual Meeting, 25-26 November 2020)**



Original: English

**REPORT  
OF THE THIRTY SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC  
AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC (COMCEC)  
(Virtual Meeting, 25-26 November 2020)**

1. The Thirty Sixth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held virtually on 25-26 November 2020.
2. The Session was attended by representatives of the following Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC):
  - 1- Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
  - 2- Republic of Albania
  - 3- Republic of Azerbaijan
  - 4- Kingdom of Bahrain
  - 5- People's Republic of Bangladesh
  - 6- Republic of Benin
  - 7- Brunei Darussalam
  - 8- Burkina Faso
  - 9- Republic of Cameroon
  - 10-Republic of Chad
  - 11-Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
  - 12-Republic of Djibouti
  - 13-Arab Republic of Egypt
  - 14-Republic of Gabon
  - 15-Republic of The Gambia
  - 16-Republic of Guinea
  - 17-Republic of Indonesia
  - 18-Islamic Republic of Iran
  - 19-Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
  - 20-Republic of Kazakhstan
  - 21-The State of Kuwait
  - 22-Kyrgyz Republic
  - 23-Republic of Lebanon

- 24-State of Libya
- 25-Malaysia
- 26-Republic of Maldives
- 27-Republic of Mali
- 28-Kingdom of Morocco
- 29-Republic of Niger
- 30-Federal Republic of Nigeria
- 31-Sultanate of Oman
- 32-Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- 33-The State of Palestine
- 34-State of Qatar
- 35-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 36-Republic of Suriname
- 37-Republic of Tajikistan
- 38-Republic of Tunisia
- 39-Republic of Turkey
- 40-Republic of Turkmenistan
- 41-Republic of Uganda
- 42-State of the United Arab Emirates
- 43-Republic of Uzbekistan
- 44-Republic of Yemen

- 3. The Russian Federation, Kingdom of Thailand and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus participated in the Session as observers.
- 4. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office and the following OIC Organs/ Institutions attended the Session:
  - 1- Federation of Contractors from Islamic Countries (FOCIC)
  - 2- Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
  - 3- Islamic Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)
  - 4- Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group
  - 5- Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
  - 6- Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC)
  - 7- Islamic University of Technology (IUT)

- 8- Islamic Organization of Food Security (IOFS)
  - 9- Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
  - 10-Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
5. Representatives of the following international organizations attended the Session:
- 1- Association of National Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) in Member Countries of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) (ADFIMI)
  - 2- Developing Eight (D-8)
  - 3- Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
  - 4- International Trade Centre (ITC)
  - 5- Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB)
  - 6- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
  - 7- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - 8- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)
  - 9- World Trade Organization (WTO)
  - 10- World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)

*(A copy of the List of Participants of the Thirty Sixth Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex I.)*

6. The Meeting of Senior Officials of the 36th COMCEC Session that preceded the Ministerial Session was held virtually on 18-19 November 2020 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Mehmet Metin EKER, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC. The Senior Officials deliberated on the agenda items and prepared the Draft Resolutions for consideration by the Ministerial Session.

### **Opening Session**

7. The Opening Ceremony of the Thirty Sixth Session of the COMCEC was held on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC.
8. Welcoming the delegates, H.E. ERDOĞAN expressed his condolences for those who lost their lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic spread all over the world and extended his best wishes for the recovery from these difficult times.

Moreover, H.E. ERDOĞAN also conveyed his condolences upon the important losses of Community of Organization of Islamic Cooperation recently.

9. His Excellency ERDOĞAN underlined the importance of learning crucial lessons from the pandemic by expressing that all humanity shares the same destiny regardless of religion, language and race. Emphasizing the significance of being planned and prepared for crisis management, His Excellency ERDOĞAN stressed the need for acting together as the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
10. H.E. ERDOĞAN drew attention to this year's theme of promoting entrepreneurship and competitiveness for tourism industry by noting that tourism is a sector heavily affected by the pandemic. H.E. ERDOĞAN continued his statement by stressing the role of trade facilitation in mitigation of negative economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, expressing his appreciation for the recent steps taken for the implementation of Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC), H.E. ERDOĞAN highlighted that the Trade Negotiating Committee Meeting, which is proposed to be held in 2021, will be an important step for the effectuation of the System. Furthermore, H.E. ERDOĞAN stated that the OIC Arbitration Center would be operationalized soon after the completion of its institutional structure.
11. H.E. ERDOĞAN also invited the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture to cooperate more closely with the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries in the fields of halal food standardization and certification.
12. H.E. ERDOĞAN continued his statement by stressing the importance of fighting against Islamophobia and xenophobia in western countries and stated that this would only be achieved through stronger cooperation among the Islamic Countries. H.E. ERDOĞAN also underlined that strengthening our economic structures would also be effectual in having a louder voice in international platform on this crucial issue as well.
13. H.E. ERDOĞAN expressed his gratitude for the convening of the COMCEC Working Group Meetings regularly and to all member countries that took part in these meetings. H.E. ERDOĞAN underlined the importance of the recently initiated COMCEC COVID-19 Intervention Program for supporting the member countries in overcoming the negative economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. His Excellency ERDOĞAN also highlighted the importance of the COMCEC Al-Quds Program for improving the socio-economic conditions of Al-Quds as the one of the most important holy cities of the Islamic World.
14. While concluding his speech, H.E. ERDOĞAN expressed his wishes the Session will be beneficial for the member countries and the Islamic World.

*(A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN is attached as Annex II.)*

15. Following the Inaugural Statement made by H.E. ERDOĞAN, the Secretary General of the OIC made a statement.
16. His Excellency Dr. Yousef Al-OTHAIMEEN, the Secretary General of the OIC, thanked the Government of the Republic of Turkey for excellent preparations made for this virtual meeting. H.E. Al-OTHAIMEEN stated that the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on trade of goods, services, transport and global tourism, will further lead to an increase in unemployment levels and poverty in the member countries of the OIC.
17. In this framework, H.E. Al-OTHAIMEEN stressed that OIC has mobilized all its resources and institutions in order to support its members in establishing national plans for mitigating the economic, financial and social effects of the pandemic. H.E. Al-OTHAIMEEN called upon the member countries having surplus of resources to share with the member countries in need so they would better face with the consequences of pandemic. In this respect, H.E. Al-OTHAIMEEN, underlined the significance of coordination, solidarity, complementarity and mutual support among the member countries. Al-OTHAIMEEN commended all the Member States that have continued to support the activities of the OIC, including the contribution to various OIC projects, hosting of OIC several events, signing and ratification of the OIC agreements in the economic domain.
18. The Heads of Delegations of Kuwait, Nigeria and Bangladesh made statements on behalf of Arab, African and Asian Geographical Groups of the OIC regions during the Opening Ceremony. They expressed their gratitude for the excellent preparations for the virtual meeting and extended their condolences for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Izmir. Highlighting the importance of Tourism sector in terms of its direct links to other sectors such as transportation, food, accommodation and finance, the Head of Delegation of Kuwait emphasized, among others, the urgent need for finding solutions to the difficulties emanating from the pandemic and the recovery from its damage. The Head of Delegation of Nigeria, after mentioning how COVID 19 pandemic slowed down the economic growth of OIC, stressed the necessity of exploring ways and means to increase social entrepreneurship for the growth in tourism sector and welcomed the efforts towards making Africa the most preferred tourism destination. The Head of Delegation of Bangladesh also mentioned the negative effects of COVID 19 on economy and the policy measures taken for mitigation negative effects of pandemic in Bangladesh and underlined the support given by Bangladesh to the main OIC projects such as TPS-OIC. He also underlined that the member countries may enhance their cooperation in the field of Information Technologies (IT).
19. Furthermore, Mikayil JABBAROV, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, delivered a statement in the opening ceremony. H.E. JABBAROV highlighted the importance and the support they attach to economic cooperation among OIC member states. H.E. JABBAROV also emphasized the significance

of the political solidarity among Islamic countries. In this respect, H.E. JABBAROV expressed his special thanks to Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan and other Islamic countries for the support extended to Azerbaijan recently on Karabagh issue.

20. H.E. Dr. Bandar M. H. HAJJAR, President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group also delivered a statement at the Opening Session. H.E. Dr. HAJJAR expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Member Countries for their continuing support to the activities of the IDB Group. H.E. Dr. HAJJAR, in his statement, mentioned the efforts of IsDB group in the fields of value chains, digital platforms, and the supports provided for financing health sector and SMEs for job creation during and post Pandemic environment.
21. Mr. Rifat HİSARCIKLIOĞLU, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and the Vice-President of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) also made a speech at the Opening Session. Mr. HİSARCIKLIOĞLU stressed the importance of solidarity and cooperation among the Islamic countries and expressed that one of the best ways to boost the solidarity and cooperation is to increase trade among the OIC member states. Mr. HİSARCIKLIOĞLU stated that TOBB, in collaboration with ICCIA, is undertaking the final preparations for making the OIC Arbitration Center operational soon, which would contribute to enhancement of the intra-OIC trade and investments. Mr. HİSARCIKLIOĞLU also stressed that visa issues continue to be a problem and invited the member states to ease the visa procedures for business people.

### **Ministerial Working and Closing Session**

22. The Ministerial Working and Closing Session of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the COMCEC was held virtually on November 26<sup>th</sup> 2020, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Fuat OKTAY, Vice President of the Republic of Turkey.
23. Following the adoption of the agenda, Mr. Bilal Khan PASHA, Head of Delegation of Pakistan, as the Rapporteur of the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), presented the summary of the outcomes of the deliberations during the SOM.
24. Afterwards, Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ, Director General of COMCEC Coordination Office, made a presentation on the new “COMCEC Covid Response Program”. After briefly mentioning about the programs, projects and initiatives of the COMCEC and the relevant OIC Institutions during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Mr. ÜNLÜ presented the key aspects of the COMCEC COVID Response Programme launched in the purpose of assisting member states in their efforts to alleviate the negative effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
25. Mr. Jeff POOLE, Senior Vice President of The World Travel and Tourism Council, has delivered a keynote speech on the impact of COVID-19 on Travel

& Tourism Sector and the various ways of economic recovery. After providing some insights about the current situation in tourism and travel sector particularly on negative effects of pandemic on these sectors, Mr. POOLE elaborated on the private sector recommendations on promoting entrepreneurship in tourism sector.

26. Following the presentation of Mr. Jeff POOLE, the Exchange of Views Session of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC was held with the theme of “Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness”.
27. Within this framework, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Member Countries made statements and interventions on their country experiences with regards to promoting entrepreneurship for tourism industry competitiveness in their respective countries. In this respect, they emphasized the crucial role of tourism industry in global and national economies since it is closely interlinked with the other sectors such as transportation and agriculture. They also underlined that some member countries are heavily dependent on tourism and suffered tremendously from the Pandemic. In the presentations, several crucial issues were also highlighted such as developing global tourism brands from the OIC region, supporting SMEs which are the backbone of the tourism sector, promoting tourism entrepreneurship, taking necessary precautions for compensating for loss of millions of job due to COVID Pandemic, adopting the tourism sector to new hygiene norms, new certifications and insurance schemes, disseminating digitalization and providing financial support programs to individual entrepreneurs, tax exemptions and credit support programs.
28. During the Closing Session, the Resolution OIC/COMCEC/36-../RES. was adopted.
29. Afterwards, H.E. Khaled OSAILY, Minister of National Economy of Palestine made a statement on behalf of all participating states. H.E. Khaled OSAILY extended his gratitude to the OIC and CCO for the efforts towards the promotion of cooperation among the member states and for the success of the meeting despite the pandemic. H.E. Khaled OSAILY underlined the importance of electronic platforms and digitalization for the effective communication during the pandemic, and solidarity as well as cooperation for overcoming the negative effects of pandemic.
30. H.E. Fuat OKTAY, Vice President of the Republic of Turkey, delivered a closing statement. H.E. OKTAY underlined the importance of global food security by stating that 690 million people have lack of food and 130 million additional people are under the risk of being pushed to the edge of starvation by the end of the year 2020. H.E. OKTAY drew attention to the fact that these figures may worsen if the pandemic continues and stressed the importance of supporting the programs and projects launched by OIC institutions as a response to the negative repercussions of the Pandemic, including the COMCEC COVID Response Program.

31. H.E. OKTAY emphasized that tourism is one of the most heavily affected sectors from the pandemic and these effects would result in a decrease in global tourism volume up to 80%. H.E. OKTAY also highlighted that this pandemic, on the other hand, provides an opportunity for the member countries to revisit their structural problems in tourism sector, such as, limited investments, poor infrastructure, insufficient institutional and human capacity, low service quality and low per capita on tourist expenditures. H.E. OKTAY expressed that encouraging tourism entrepreneurship and building local entrepreneurship capacity are among the efficient ways to address the present and future challenges in tourism industry.
32. H.E. OKTAY underlined the role of trade cooperation for easing the negative effects of the challenging periods during the global economic uncertainties. In this context, H.E. OKTAY stressed the importance of Trade Preferential System among OIC Member Countries (TPS-OIC) and OIC Arbitration Center as important instruments for increasing intra-OIC trade. H.E. OKTAY expressed his hope for the operationalization of the TPS-OIC soon. He also stressed that the operationalization of the OIC Arbitration Center would be an encouraging case point for the other endeavours in various cooperation areas.
33. H.E. OKTAY, by referring to the Palestinian cause as the basis of the establishment of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, underlined the importance of having a common stance on the Palestine issue. In this context, H.E. OKTAY expressed his appreciation for the launch of COMCEC Al-Quds Program aiming to improve the socio-economic conditions in Palestine, in particular Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
34. H.E. Fuat OKTAY concluded his statement by expressing his thanks to all member country delegations, COMCEC Coordination Office, the General Secretariat of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, the Institutions of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation and other international organizations for their active and valuable contributions.

*(The text of the Closing Statement of H.E. Fuat OKTAY is attached as Annex III.)*

35. All documents submitted to the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of COMCEC will be available on the COMCEC web site ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org)).

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# **A N N E X E S**

# **ANNEX**

## **1**

Original: English

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
COMCEC 36th MINISTERIAL MEETING**

**(18-19 / 25-26 November 2020)**

**A. MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OIC**

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

- H.E. KARIMA HAMID FARAYABI  
Minister of Economy
- H.E. MOJGAN MOSTAFAVI  
Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism
- H.E. MOHAMMAD NABI SROOSH  
Acting Deputy Minister of Economy
- Mr. ALI AHMAD SAADAT  
Director General of Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Economy
- Mr. SAYED MARUF SAMI  
Head of Poverty Alleviation Department, Ministry of Economy

**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

- Mr. EGON SOPARAKU  
Tourism Specialist, Ministry of Tourism and Environment

**REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

- H.E. MIKAYIL JABBAROV  
Minister of Economy
- H.E. ROVSHAN NAJAF  
Deputy Minister of Economy
- Mr. FUAD NAGHIYEF  
Chairman of State Tourism Agency
- Ms. KONUL ALIYEVA  
Deputy Head of Department on Cooperation with International Organizations,  
Ministry of Economy
- Ms. INARA MUSTAFAYEVA  
Acting Director, Ministry of Economy

- Mr. JAMILA TALIBZADA  
Head of International Relations Department of the State Tourism Agency
- Mr. AZER ORUCOV  
Senior Consultant of the Tourism Policy and Strategy Department of the State Tourism Agency

#### **KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**

- Mr. AHMED YUSUF ARRAD  
Minister Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Bahrain in Ankara
- Ms. SAHAR RASHID AL MANNAI  
Director of Social Services

#### **PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

- H.E. TIPU MUNSHI  
Minister of Commerce
- Mr. MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM  
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. ABU TAHIR MUHAMMAD ZABER  
Director (Joint Secretary), Bangladesh Tourism Board,  
Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
- Mr. MOHAMMAD SAIFUL HASSAN  
Deputy Director of Planning and Research, Bangladesh Tourism Board,  
Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
- Dr. MALLICK ANWAR HOSSAIN  
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
- Mr. MOHAMMAD JASIM UDDIN  
Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. MAHBUBA KHATOON MINU  
Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

#### **REPUBLIC OF BENIN**

- H.E. BABALOLA JEAN- MICHEL H. ABIMBOLA  
Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts
- Mr. VICTORIN YAOVI EDE  
Director General of Development Financing, Ministry of Planning and Development

- Ms. MAJDOULINE ADAM SOULE  
Assistant of the Minister of State in charge of Planning and Development,
- Mr. HYACINTHE MENSAH MONTCHO  
Director of Studies and the Coordination of Public Development, Ministry of Planning and Development
- Mr. G. FULBERT BILLY CHOEL GODONOU  
Head of Tourist Cooperation Division, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts
- Mr. COSME ZINSE  
Focal Point of Trade, Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. BIENVENU NOUNAGNON ZINSOU  
Head of Studies and Planning Service, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
- Mr. MIRELLE CODJOVI  
Responsible For Unit Budget Transparency and Communication, Ministry of Finance
- Mr. RENA AKOWANOU  
Cadre at Direction of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
- Mr. YAYA MORA BROUTANI  
Director, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Arts

#### **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

- H.E. DATO DR AMIN LIEW ABDULLAH  
Minister of Finance and Economy
- Dr. MAY FA'EZAH ARIFFIN  
Permanent Secretary (Economy), Ministry of Finance and Economy
- Ms. NURUSSAI ADAH MUHARRAM  
Acting Director of Division of International Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Economy
- Ms. AMALINA MURAD  
Special Duties Officer, Ministry of Finance and Economy
- Ms. AMANINA SHAMSUL BAHRIN  
Advisor, Ministry of Finance and Economy

#### **BURKINA FASO**

- H.E. M. HAROUNA KABORE  
Minister of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. MME TRAORE OUEDRAOGO  
Director General, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- Mr. M.ILBOUDO SEYDOU  
Director General, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. PAUL PACNAKDA  
Director General, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. LEMAN SIBIDE  
Executive Director, Ministry of Commerce and Trade
- Mr. HAROUNA LUIS IVANNE BANDAOGO  
Expert, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Craft
- Mr. EMMANUEL SOME  
Legal Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Trade
- Mr. JAN MICHEL KIEMTORE  
Officer, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

#### **REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON**

- H.E. LUC MAGLOIRE MBARGA ATANGANA  
Minister of Trade
- Mr. GÉRARD MESSINA  
Transportations Focal Point, Ministry of Transport
- Mr. AOSSINE BOUBA  
National Focal Point, Ministry of Trade
- Mr. MIREILLE DELPHINE LEA  
Tourism Focal Point, Ministry of Trade
- Mr. DAMBA AYOUBA  
Took Part to the Session of COMCEC, Ministry of Economy
- Mr. PARFAIT EPOH
- Mr. IBRAHIM LINJOUOM  
Service Head of Cooperation, Ministry of External Relation

#### **REPUBLIC OF CHAD**

- H.E. PATALET GEO  
Minister of Culture and Tourism

**REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE**

- H.E. SIANDOU FOFANA  
Minister of Tourism and Leisures
- Mr. CHEICK OUMAR OUATTARA  
Technical Advisor of the Minister of Planning and Development,  
Ministry of Planning and Development
- Ms. LAETITIA MOCKEY  
Ministry of Tourism and Leisures, Advisor
- Mr. MICHEL KRA TIA  
Director, Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Mr. MOHAMED EL AICHOUNI  
Technical Assistant, Ministry of Planning and Development
- Ms. BINTA CHERIF SERIFOU  
Studies Officer, Ministry of Planning and Development

**REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI**

- H.E. HASSAN HOUMED IBRAHIM  
Minister of Trade and Tourism
- H.E. ADEN HOUSSEIN ABDILLAHI  
Ambassador of Djibouti in Ankara,  
Embassy of Djibouti to Turkey

**ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**

- H.E. Amb. OMAR ALI ABOEICH  
Assistant Foreign Minister for International and Regional Multilateral Economic  
Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- H.E. Amb. AMR EL-HAMAMI  
Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. EHAB MOHAMED FATHY  
Head of COMCEC Dept. Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Mr. AMR SELIM  
Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Egypt in Ankara
- Mr. OMAR EL-RIFAI  
First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**REPUBLIC OF GABON**

- H.E. HUGUES MBADINGA MADIYA  
Minister of Trade, Small and Medium Enterprises and Industry
- Mr. LEYINDA KOKA NOMBA  
Advisor, Ministry of Trade
- Mr. JEAN FRANCOIS YANDA  
Director of Trade, Ministry of Trade

**REPUBLIC OF GAMBIA**

- Mr. MOBINO JATTA  
Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

**REPUBLIC OF GUINEA**

- H.E. Amb. DAOUDA BANGOURA  
Ambassador, Embassy of Guinea in Ankara
- Mr. LAYE DAOUNDA KONATE  
Consul, Embassy of Guinea in Ankara
- Mr. BINTA TELIVEL DIALLO  
First Secretary, Embassy of Guinea in Ankara

**REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

- Ms. AMALIA ADININGGAR WIDYASANTI  
Acting Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs, Ministry of National Development Planning
- Ms. HILLARY TANIDA STEPHANY SITOMPUL  
Staff of Directorate for Trade, Investment, and International Economic Cooperation, Ministry of National Development Planning
- Ms. AYU WULAN SAGITA  
Deputy Director, Ministry of Trade
- Ms. PANDE NYOMAN LAKSMI KUSUMAWATI  
Acting Director for Trade, Investment and International Economic Cooperation, Ministry of National Development Planning
- Mr. TUTI WINARTI  
Assistant Deputy Director, Ministry of Trade
- Mr. MOHAMAD ZAENI TASRIPIN  
Expert, Ministry of Agriculture



- Mr. YUDANTO WIBOWO  
Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. WAHYU AJI  
Officer, Ministry of Agriculture
- Mr. ARROZAQ AVE
- Mr. CATUR NUGROHO  
Trade Analyst, Ministry of Trade

#### **ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

- Dr. ZAHED SHAFIEI  
Director General for Tourism Studies and Training, Ministry of Cultural Heritage,  
Tourism and Handicrafts
- Mr. KOUROSH TAHERFAR  
Director General, Office for International Organizations and Institutions (OIETAI),  
Ministry Economic Affairs and Finance
- Ms. MASOUMEH HAGHANI  
Division Chief, Office for International Organizations and Institutions (OIETAI)  
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance
- Ms. NASRIN GHASSEMI MOGHADAM  
Expert, Office for International Organizations and Institutions (OIETAI)  
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance

#### **HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN**

- H.E. ISMAIL ISSA ISMAIL RIFAE  
Ambassador of Jordan in Ankara
- Mr. ZAHER EID AL QATANEH  
Assistant Secretary General for Technical Affairs,  
Director of Foreign Trade Policy Directorate,  
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply
- Mr. MOHAMMED ADNAN ABO ALRAGHEB  
Head of Regional and Economic Organizations Section,  
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply
- Mr. ABDULRAHEEM MAHMOUD AL HYARI  
Economic Researcher foreign Trade Policy Directorate,  
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply

**REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

- H.E. AKTOTY RAIMKULOVA  
Minister of Culture and Sport

**THE STATE OF KUWAIT**

- H.E. BARAK ALSHEATAN  
Minister of Finance
- Mr. TALAL NAMASH AL NAMASH  
Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
- Mr. SAAD MOHAMMED AL RASHIDI  
Acting Director of International Economic Cooperation Department. Ministry of Finance
- Ms. FATMA ABDULRAHMAN AL KANDARY  
Economic First Analyst, Ministry of Finance
- Mr. JAMANAH SOBHI AHMAD  
Foreign Relation Researcher, Ministry of Finance

**REPUBLIC OF LEBANON**

- H.E. Amb. GHASSAN MOALLEM  
Ambassador of Lebanon in Ankara
- Dr. MOHAMAD ABOU HAIDAR  
Director General, Ministry of Economy and Trade
- Ms. ROLA NASRALLAH  
Head of Quality Unit, Ministry of Economy and Trade
- Ms. MARIAM YOHANNA EID  
Head of Agro-Industries Unit, Ministry of Agriculture

**MALAYSIA**

- H.E. HAJAH NANCY SHUKRI  
Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture
- Mr. MOHD DAUD MOHD ARIF  
Undersecretary, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia
- Ms. MADAM NOR HASNAH BADRODDIN  
Senior Director, Ministry of International Trade and Industry
- Ms. LIM MEI YING  
Director, Ministry of International Trade and Industry

- Ms. EMMY JOSEFINA JAMIL  
Principal Assistant Director, Ministry of International Trade and Industry
- Mr. MOHD NAZRIQ LAMIEN  
Senior Assistant Director, Ministry of International Trade and Industry
- Mr. ZULFADLI ZAKARIA  
Assistant Director, Ministry of International Trade and Industry
- Mr. AHMAD KAMRIZAMIL MOHD RIZA  
Undersecretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. JARIN SIJAYA ABDUL HATHI  
Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. MUHAMMAD HIJAZ MOHD RAMLI  
Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

#### **REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

- H.E. ABDULLA MAUSOOM  
Minister of Tourism
- H.E. AHMED ATHIF  
Deputy Minister of Tourism
- Ms. FATHIMATH NAZIYA  
Director, Ministry of Tourism
- Mr. AHMED SALMAN ZAKI  
Assistant Director, Ministry of Tourism

#### **REPUBLIC OF MALI**

- Mr. MAMADOU BALLO  
Direction of International Organizations OIC Section Chief,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

#### **KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**

- Mr. MOHAMMED BENJELLOUN  
Director of International Trade Relations,  
Ministry of Industry, Trade, Digital and Green Economy
- Mr. YOUSSEF EL BARI  
General Secretary,  
Ministry of Industry, Trade, Digital and Green Economy

- Mr. AQALLOUCH EL HASSAN  
Head of Department of Relations with Arab and Islamic Word,  
Ministry of Industry, Trade, Digital and Green Economy
- Mr. MY ISMAIL TAQUI  
Head of Department of Relations with Arab, Islamic and African Countries,  
Ministry of Industry, Trade, Digital and Green Economy
- Mr. EL HASSAN AQALLOUCH  
Head of Department of Relations with Arab and Islamic Word,  
Ministry of Industry, Trade, Digital and Green Economy
- Dr. YOUSSEF BENABDUH  
Charge of Trade Cooperation with OIC Issues,  
Ministry of Industry, Trade, Digital and Green Economy

#### **REPUBLIC OF NIGER**

- Mr. ABDOULAYE BONZUGOU  
Consultant, Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. MOUNKAILA HASSANE  
Director General, Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. IBRAHIM ABDOU  
Director General, Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. ABDOUL KADER ABOUBACAR  
Director, Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. MA ILOU MALAM DJIBO  
Deputy Manager, Ministry of Commerce

#### **FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

- H.E. ZUBAIRU DADA  
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
- Mr. ZAYYAD HABU ABDUSSALAM  
Assistant Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. ALIYU ABANA  
Assistant Director (Focal Point Tourism), Federal Ministry of Information and Culture
- Mr. MUKHTAR AMASA  
Economic Relations Officer, Ministry of Finance

- Ms. HAJARA USMAN  
Focal Point Trade Working Group,  
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Invest
- Ms. ESTHER AGALASI  
Focal Point Transport, Ministry of Transport
- Mr. ABDULAH ZUBAIRU  
Focal Point Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture
- Mr. GARBA ALIYU  
Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. SULGMAN KOLO  
Focal Point Finance, Ministry of Finance

#### **SULTANATE OF OMAN**

- H.E. SAID MOHAMMED AL SAQRI  
Minister of Economy

#### **ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**

- Mr. BILAL KHAN PASHA  
Consul General, Consulate General of Pakistan in İstanbul

#### **THE STATE OF PALESTINE**

- H.E. KHALED OSAILY  
Minister of National Economy
- H.E. FAED MUSTAFA  
Ambassador of State of Palestine in Ankara
- Mr. RAFAT RAYYAN  
Director, Ministry of National Economy
- Ms. RANA ABUSEBA  
Commercial Attache,  
Embassy of the State of Palestine in Ankara

#### **STATE OF QATAR**

- H.E. ALI BIN AHMED AL KUWARI  
Minister of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. AHMAD AHAN AHAN  
Director, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- Mr. SAEED MOHAMMED AL BRAIDI  
Head of Department, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. HASSAN ABDULLA AL MOHANNADI  
Economic Consultant, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. SALEEM ADEL ALKATHIRY  
Researcher, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

- H.E. MAJID ABDULLAH AL KASSABI  
Minister of Commerce and Investment
- Mr. ABDULAZIZ AL SAKRAN  
The COMCEC National Focal Point,  
Saudi General Authority of Foreign Trade
- Mr. AHMED GAZZAZ  
Second Secretary, Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Turkey
- Mr. FAWAZ AL GHAMDI  
Commercial Attache, Saudi General Authority of Foreign Trade
- Mr. NADA MOHAMMED AL HATHOL  
Senior International Organizations Specialist,  
Saudi General Authority of Foreign Trade

**REPUBLIC OF SURINAME**

- H.E. Amb. MIRIAM ANGELA MAC INTOSH  
Permanent Secretary Geopolitical Affairs and International Development  
Cooperation,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and International Development
- Ms. ABYGAIL SEMENTHA SADI  
Focal Point, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
- Ms. ELIZABETH MARIA BRADLEY  
Deputy Permanent Secretary, International Development Cooperation,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation
- Ms. CHERMAIN PANSA  
Official  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation
- Ms. GERMAINE OOSTWIJK  
Senior Official, Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism

## **REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**

- Mr. TOJIDDIN JURAZODA  
Chairperson,  
Committee for Tourism Development under the Government of Tajikistan
- H.E. Amb. MAHMADALI RAJABIYON  
Ambassador of Tajikistan
- Mr. PARVIZ SADIQI  
Counsellor, Embassy of Tajikistan

## **REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA**

- H.E. MOHAMED BOUSSAID  
Minister of Trade and Export Development
- Mr. MOHAMED JAMEL EL IFA  
Civil Services Counsellor Director,  
Ministry of Commerce and Exports Development
- Mr. MOUNA GHLISS  
Director General, Ministry of Tourism
- Mr. HAMED DALY HASSEN  
General Manager,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries
- Mr. MOHAMED DALDOUL  
Head of Service, Ministry of Trade and Export Development
- Mr. ACHRAF GHARBI  
Administrator Advisor,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries

## **REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

- H.E. FUAT OKTAY  
Vice President
- H.E. MEHMET NURİ ERSOY  
Minister of Tourism and Culture
- Mr. İBRAHİM ŞENEL  
President of Strategy and Budget
- H.E. AKİF ÖZKALDI  
Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

- H.E. ADNAN ERTEM  
Deputy Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services
- H.E. ÖMER FATİH SAYAN  
Deputy Minister of Transport and Infrastructure
- Mr. M. RİFAT HİSARCIKLIOĞLU  
Chairman of TOBB
- H.E. Amb. MEHMET METİN EKER  
Ambassador of OIC Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OIC
- Mr. ALİ FUAT TAŞKESENLIOĞLU  
Chairman of SPK
- Prof. Dr. ERİŞAH ARICAN  
Head of Executive Board, BORSA İSTANBUL
- Mr. BÜLENT TEKBIYIKOĞLU  
General Manager, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services
- Mr. İBRAHİM HALİL ÖZTOP  
Director General, Executive Board Member,  
Development Investment Bank of Turkey
- Mr. HALİL AFŞARATA  
Senior Advisor, Vice Presidency
- Mr. CENK URAZ  
Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. ALİ EMRE YURDAKUL  
Deputy Secretary General,  
The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
- Mr. KORKMAZ ERGUN  
Deputy Director General, BORSA İSTANBUL
- Ms. ILGIN ATALAY  
Deputy Director General,  
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
- Ms. ÖZLEM CİMENRE  
Deputy Director General,  
Development Investment Bank of Turkey
- Ms. PINAR YAVUZKANAT  
Vice Head of Department,  
Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services



- Mr. ATAKAN ÖZDEMİR  
Head of Department, Ministry of Trade
- Mr. TAYLAN ÖZGÜR AYDIN  
Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. ALİ ERDURMUŞ  
Head of Department, SPK
- Mr. OĞUZCAN ÜSTÜN  
Director of the International Affairs, EXIMBANK
- Mr. MAHMUT AYDOMUŞ  
Manager, Borsa İstanbul

#### **TURKMENISTAN**

- H.E. MUHAMMETGELDI SERDAROV  
Minister of Finance and Economy
- H.E. ATAGELDI SHAMYRADOV  
Minister of Culture

#### **STATE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

- Mr. BADIR AHMED AL MUSHARRIKH  
Director of Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Economy
- Mr. ABDULLA SALEH AL HAMMADI  
Expert, Ministry of Economy
- Ms. HANAN ABDULLA AL QADI  
Expert, Ministry of Economy
- Mr. ABDULLAH ALI AL DHUHOORI  
Economic Research Assistant, Ministry of Economy

#### **REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

- Mr. ULUGBEK AZAMOV  
Deputy Chairman, State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan

#### **REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**

- H.E. MANSSOR NAGEEB AL-OJ  
Minister of Planning and International Cooperation

**B. OBSERVER COUNTRIES**

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

- H.E. Amb. KONSTANTIN SHUVALOV  
Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**KINGDOM OF THAILAND**

- Ms. AURAMON SUPTHAWEETHUM  
Director General of the Department of Trade Negotiations,  
Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. AUMAPORN FUTRAKUL  
Executive Director of the Bureau of Asia, Africa and Middle East,  
Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce of the Kingdom of  
Thailand

**TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS**

- H.E. HASAN TAÇOY  
Minister of Economy and Energy
- Mr. MUSTAFA KÖPRÜLÜ  
Chief of Branch, Ministry of Tourism and Environment

**C. THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

- Mr. NAGHI JABBAROV  
Professional Officer
- Mr. JAKHONGIR KHASANOV  
Officer

**D. THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS**

**INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC TRADE FINANCE CORPORATION (ITFC)**

- Mr. HANI SALEM SONBOL  
CEO
- Mr. AYMEN KASEM  
Division Manager
- Mr. AMADOU CIRE SALL  
Senior Associate, Trade, Trade and Business Development
- Mr. HARUN CELİK  
Senior Manager

- Mr. HOJAMUROD HOJAEV  
Manager, Relationship Management

**ISLAMIC CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)**

- Ms. LATIFA EL BOUABDELLAOUI  
Director General
- Mr. MAMADOU BOCAR  
Head of Department of Studies and Training

**RESEARCH CENTER FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE (IRCICA)**

- Mr. SADIK ÜNAY  
Consultant to Director General
- Ms. ZEYNEP ZEKİYE DURUKAL  
Consultant

**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (IUT)**

- Prof. Dr. MD. ASHRAFUL HOQUE  
Dean of Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET)
- Prof. Dr. MOHAMMAD RAKIBUL ISLAM  
Dean of Faculty of Science and Technical Education (FSTE)
- Prof. Dr. ABU RAIHAN MOSTOFA KAMAL  
Head of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Centre
- Prof. Dr. MD. ABU RAIHAN  
Head of Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) Department

**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER  
FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)**

- Mr. NEBIL DABUR  
Director General
- Mr. FADI ABDULLAH FARASIN  
Assistant Director General
- Mr. ATILLA KARAMAN  
Director of Statistics and Information Department
- Mr. MAZHAR HUSSAIN  
Director of Economic and Social Research Department

- Mr. ONUR ÇAĞLAR  
Acting Director

#### **E. SPECIALIZED ORGANS OF THE OIC**

##### **ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (ISDB)**

- H.E. BANDAR HAJJAR  
President
- Mr. MOHAMMAD ALI DINMUHAMMADI  
Communications Specialist
- Mr. OUSMANE SECK  
Manager
- Mr. SYED HUSAIN QUADRI  
Acting Director, Country Strategy & Cooperation
- Mr. ABDUL-HAKIM ELWAER  
Principal Executive Assistant for Global Practices and Partnerships, Executive Office of the President
- Mr. DJAMEL GHRIB  
Office of the Global Advocacy and Spokesperson, G20 and MDB Sherpa
- Mr. HAMMAD HUNDAL  
Officer-in-Charge
- Mr. ZAKI MANSOER  
Director, Global Partnership and Resource Mobilization Department

##### **ISLAMIC CORPORATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

- Mr. AYMAN AMIN SEJINY  
CEO, Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD)
- Mr. OSMAN AHMET BUYUKMUTLU  
Director of Strategy, Policy and Research Department, Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector, Islamic Development Bank

##### **ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION FOR FOOD SECURITY**

- Mr. ISMAIL ALY MUHAMMED ABDELHAMID  
Director of Programs, International Organization for Food Security (IOFS)

**ISLAMIC FINANCIAL SERVICES BOARD**

- Mr. ISMAL RIFKI  
Assistant Secretary General, Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB)

**F. AFFILIATED ORGANS OF THE OIC**

**ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE (ICCIA)**

- H.E. YOUSEF HASSAN KHALAWI  
Secretary General
- Mr. ELSADIQ GADALLA MUKHAYER  
Director, Members Relations Management
- Mr. MUHAMMAD IDRIS  
Incharge Meetings & Events
- Ms. AALIA JAFAR  
Director, International Relations

**FEDERATION OF CONSULTANTS FROM ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (FCIC)**

- Mr. HALİL AGAH  
Executive Director

**ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTIONS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADFIMI)**

- Mr. METİN ÖZDEMİR  
Chairman
- Mr. İLHAMİ ÖZTÜRK  
Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. AHMET GÜNEY  
Advisor of Chairman

**FEDERATION OF CONTRACTORS FROM ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (FOCIC)**

- Mr. LAHJOUJI ABDELRAHIM ALAMI  
Vice President

**STANDARDS AND METROLOGY INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SMIIC)**

- Mr. İHSAN ÖVÜT  
Secretary General

- Ms. EMEL GÖNÇ  
Executive Assistant

**ISLAMIC CONFERENCE YOUTH FORUM FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION (ICYF-DC)**

- Mr. TAHA AYHAN  
President

**G. OIC STANDING COMMITTEES**

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)**

- Ms. LUISA EUGENIA BERNAL  
Policy Specialist

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)**

- Mr. CARLOS CONDE  
Head of Middle East and Africa Division
- Ms. MARIAROSA LUNATI  
Senior Advisor

**ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)**

- Mr. HADI SOLEIMANPOUR  
Secretary General
- H.E. Amb. JANDOS ANUAROVICH ASANOV  
Deputy Secretary General

**THE ISLAMIC CORPORATION FOR THE INSURANCE OF INVESTMENT AND EXPORT CREDIT (ICIEC)**

- Mr. OUSSAMA ABDUL RAHMAN KAISSI  
CEO
- Mr. AHMAD MOHAMED AL-SAYED  
Manager, Information Technology
- Mr. ABBAS AL TAYEB FADLALLAH  
Associate, Strategic Planning & Communication
- Ms. AYSE SELDA KURT  
Assistant Turkey Representative

## **INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER (ITC)**

- Mr. ABDESLAM AZUZ  
Senior Trade Promotion Officer

## **ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT (ISFD)**

- Mr. OMAR ALIEU TOURAY  
Lead, Resource Mobilization Specialist

## **H. OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **DEVELOPING EIGHT (D-8)**

- Mr. RASHA HAMDY AHMED HUSSIEN  
Director
- Mr. MD. BIPLOB TARAFDER  
Programme Officer

### **WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)**

- Mr. PANAGIOTIS BARKAS BARKAS  
Young Professional

### **ISLAMIC RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE (IRTI)**

- Mr. SAMI ALSUWAILEM  
CEO

### **UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (UNESCWA)**

- Mr. MOHAMED CHEMINGUI  
Chief Regional Integration Service,  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- Mr. AHMED MOHAMED MOUMMI  
Economic Affairs Officer,  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- Mr. KHALID ABU ISMAIL  
Senior Economist,  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- Mr. ALGHABERI ABDULLAH ADEL  
Economic Affairs Officer,  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

### **THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BSEC)**

- Mr. KANAN JUMSHUD MURTUZOV  
Executive Manager

**ARAB TOURISM ORGANIZATION (ATO)**

- H.E. Dr. BANDAR FAHAD ALFEHAID  
President of Arab Tourism Organization
- Mr. SHERIF FATHI ATTIA  
General Secretary, Arab Tourism Organization
- Mr. KHALID MURAD RENA  
Assistant Secretary General, Arab Tourism Organization
- Mr. WALID ALI ELHENNAWY  
Assistant Director General, Arab Tourism Organization

**WORLD TRAVEL AND TOURISM COUNCIL (WTTC)**

- Ms. GLORIA GUEVARA MANZO  
President and CEO
- Mr. JEFF POOLE  
Senior Vice President
- Mr. CATHRIN CZERWINKA  
Project Director

**O. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE**

- Mr. FATİH ÜNLÜ  
Director General, Head of COMCEC Coordination Office
- MR. SELÇUK KOÇ  
Head of Department
- MR. DENİZ GÖLE  
Head of Department
- Mr. MEHMET ASLAN  
Head of Department
- Mr. GÖKTEN DAMAR  
Expert
- Ms. AYTEN AKMAN  
Expert
- Ms. AYLİN ŞENOL GÜN  
Expert
- Mr. NİHAT AKBALIK  
Expert
- Mr. MUSTAFA ADİL SAYAR  
Expert



- Mr. MEHMET AKİF ALANBAY  
Expert
- Ms. BİLGE ÖZBAY  
Expert
- Mr. CAN AYGÜL  
Expert
- Ms. EDA AKÇA  
Expert
- Ms. BİLGE GÜLLÜ  
Participant List and Contact Informations
- Ms. EMİNE DEMİREL  
Meeting Treats
- Mr. SELİM UYAR  
Participant List and Contact Informations
- HAVVA YILMAZ  
Participant List
- Ms. HANDE ÖZDEMİR  
Simultane and Documents
- Mr. HAKAN USLU  
Meeting Link Operations

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# **ANNEX**

**2**

Original: Turkish

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY H.E. RECEP TAYYİP ERDOĞAN,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC  
AT THE OPENING SESSION  
OF THE THIRTY SIX SESSION OF THE COMCEC  
(25 NOVEMBER, 2020)**

BİSMİLLAHİRRAHMANİRRAHİM.

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE COMPASSIONATE, THE MERCIFUL

Dear Ministers,

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May God's greetings, mercy and abundance be upon you.

It is my honor to greet you all as President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC with my most heartfelt feelings of affection and respect.

I wish the 36<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session of the Economic and Commercial Cooperation Standing Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to be beneficial for our region, our countries and the Islamic world.

Just as we have done every year, I truly wish we could host you in Istanbul this time.

However, as you know, we have had to conduct this meeting online due to the COVID-19 epidemic that has swept the entire world.

God willing, we can overcome this period with the least harm and hold subsequent meetings face-to-face.

I wish mercy from Allah upon those who have lost their lives in the epidemic and a speedy recovery to all our sick brothers and sisters as well.

I pray to Mawla to save us, the Islamic world and all humanity from this evil virus as soon as possible.

I also reminisce the late-Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah, the Chairman of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, the late-Sheikh Salih Kamil, and the Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the late-Ahmed Senyomo, whom have recently passed away.

The late Sheikh Sabah was a highly respected leader who influenced the whole region with his common sense, wisdom and conciliatory personality.

We will always remember with gratitude the contributions Sheikh Sabah made towards ensuring peace and prosperity in our geography.

We are people who believe that with every hardship comes convenience and with every adversity comes relief.

We view every event we experience as the means for both a test and an lesson.

There are lessons to be learned about the future for all of us in the difficulties we face with the Covid-19 outbreak.

First of all, this epidemic reminded us once again that all humanity shares the same destiny and is on the same ship, regardless of religion, language and race.

The epidemic has also shown how important it is to act in a planned manner and to strengthen our ability to cope with emergency interventions and crises by making the necessary investments on time.

I believe that we, as member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, should all plan our steps in the light of these facts.

In addition to the health dimension, we should mobilize our means to diminish the epidemic's economic impact and to ensure there is a continuation of production and demand.

As you know, tourism is one of the sectors most affected by the epidemic.

In particular, we should strive to strengthen competition and entrepreneurship in our tourism industry, which is also the theme of this year's session.

We need to implement measures which encourage and facilitate trade so that our foreign trade does not suffer a heavy blow during the epidemic process.

I would like to emphasize the importance of the steps we shall take in order to increase trade between our member countries within the scope of COMCEC.

I appreciate the efforts made for the implementation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Preferential Trade System.

The Trade Negotiations Committee Ministerial Meeting, which we proposed to be held in the beginning of 2021, shall be a critical step for the system to come online.

We need to expedite the formation of the necessary boards in order for the Istanbul Arbitration Center to complete its institutional structure.

Another matter that we as an organization should focus sensibly on is halal food.

We have been continuing our halal food standards and certification activities for quite some time now.

However, despite all our efforts, we still have not been able to establish the coordination we desire between our countries.

I invite the Islamic Chamber of Commerce to undertake the necessary effort in cooperation with the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries.

My esteemed brothers and sisters,

As Muslims, not only are we fighting a deadly epidemic this year, but we're also struggling with Islamophobia which has recently raised its ugly head in western countries.

Businesses, homes, places of worship and schools belonging to our brothers and sisters living in these countries are exposed to neo-Nazi attacks nearly everyday.

Muslim women are subjected to insults or harassment on the streets, in the bazaars, on busses or on ferryboats because they wear headscarves.

While our holy values are violated under the cover of freedom of thought and the press, cruel attacks are carried out against the Prophet.

Today, unlawfulness against Muslims has become a common occurrence in many western states that have left democracy in the dust.

In fact, Islam and anti-Muslim hostility has turned into policy personally protected at the presidential level in some European countries.

To be honest, today's Muslims face the same campaign of lynching and animosity against the Jews who lived in Europe before World War II.

Just like the European Jews of the 1940s, Muslims are excluded, marginalized and turned into 'scapegoats' by the media and politicians.

It is not only Muslims that bear the brunt of this hate spree, other segments with different ethnic identity, appearance, origins, languages and religions are also affected.

None of us have the luxury of staying silent in the face of these horrific circumstances.

Struggling against Islamophobia and xenophobia is a requirement of our obligation towards our brothers and sisters living in those lands.

We cannot sacrifice the rights and laws of our millions of people to the ambitions of incompetent politicians.

We cannot let the worries of newspaper sales of a racist media poison our future.

We have to fight within the scope of laws and democracy, using international platforms against cultural racism that surrounds the West like the plague.

Undoubtedly, the only way to do this is if we cooperate with each other.

That said, the more we produce as Islamic countries, the more we strengthen our economies, the more the weight of our words will come to bear.

For this, we need to concentrate on taking steps towards value added production and trade instead of an export structure based on raw materials or semi-finished products.

We should turn our savings into large investments in our own region and contribute towards putting our own people to work and developing our lands.

We must prepare our society, especially our youth, for the future world, the technical, economic and social conditions and technologies of the future.

I believe that the following truth has been realized by everyone lately.

In the world of the future, the current economic system based on "interest and domination" will be replaced by participation, where risk sharing is essential.

The widespread use of products such as non-interest bearing notes for financing large long-term infrastructure investments is important at this point.

We should also expedite particular tasks like trading with national currencies that will eliminate exchange rate pressure on our economies and commerce.

COMCEC offers us a unique platform for all these issues.

I appreciate that the COMCEC Working Group Meetings are held regularly.

I would like to express my gratitude to all member countries that participate in these studies.

As the President of COMCEC, I wrote a letter to all the heads of member states at the start of the coronavirus epidemic, expressing that we will come out of this troubled period even stronger than before.

In the process, I received very positive responses from many of my head-of-state brethren.

I wish the COMCEC Covid Response Program, which we started with your contributions, to be beneficial.

We in Turkey acted upon our calls for support and solidarity, transforming them into reality our assistance carried out in the field.

We have indiscriminately provided medical supplies and equipment to all countries and international organizations that have requested such assistance.

Until now, our aid has reached a total of 165 countries, 44 of which are Islamic countries, and nine international organizations.

My dear brothers and sisters,

Jerusalem is a blessed township entrusted to the ummah by the Prophet Nabi, who said, “If you cannot go and pray there, at least send oil to light the lamps of that place.”

The Palestinian cause is one of the building blocks that led to the founding of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation that brought us together in the first place.

We started up a new project within the scope of COMCEC to preserve Jerusalem.

With the COMCEC Jerusalem Program, we aim to improve to the best of our ability the socio-economic conditions of the people of Jerusalem by bolstering the local economy.

I believe that you, our member countries, will provide this program with the necessary support that will increase the welfare of our Palestinian brothers.

Our solidarity is crucial in this period when harassment against Jerusalem is on the rise and the occupying Israeli regime’s attacks intensify.

Undoubtedly, our unity, solidarity and effective cooperation will be the key to our success in the Palestinian cause and in all other fields.

May the Lord be our helper.

As I end my words with these thoughts, I wish that the consultations you shall conduct and the decisions you shall make at the 36<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Meeting will be beneficial for our countries.

While I greet you with respect, I now hand the session to my Assistant, Fuat Oktay, to continue the meeting.

# **ANNEX**

## **3**



Original: Arabic

**SPEECH OF H.E. DR. YOUSEF BIN AHMAD AL-OTHAIMEEN,  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION  
OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)  
AT THE 36th SESSION OF THE OIC STANDING COMMITTEE FOR  
ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION (COMCEC)**

***Videoconference Format***  
**(23-26 November 2020)**

**Your Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC,**

**Honorable Ministers and Distinguished Heads of Delegation,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

***Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatihu***

It is a great honour and privilege for me to address the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), which is taking place via a virtual platform due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey and the chair of COMCEC, for supporting OIC activities and programs, especially in the economic domain. In the same vein, I wish also to thank the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the excellent arrangements made for the success of our today's virtual meeting.

I would also like to take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt condolences to the President of the Republic of Turkey and to all the families of victims of the earthquake in Izmir as well as I wish a speedy recovery to all injured.

The 36<sup>th</sup> Session of COMCEC is holding in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic and we are facing severe challenges to overcome socio-economic and humanitarian crisis caused by the pandemic. Consequently, the global trade declined considerably due to the measures taken to prevent or to slow down the contamination of the COVID-19 and the global merchandise trade volumes declined by 14.3 percent in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the previous period.

In addition, businesses in service sectors are also seriously affected by lockdowns in various areas such as transport, travel, and tourism. The scenarios indicating that the potential shock would cause between a 60-80 percent decline in the international tourism in 2020 and rising unemployment also likely to worsen the risk of poverty in our countries.

In response to the pandemic, OIC Member States have taken strict measures to prevent the outbreak, to ensure the proper functioning of the healthcare system and protect the most vulnerable.

In this context, I wish to inform that the Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the Level of Foreign Ministers on the Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic was held virtually on 22 April 2020. The meeting called for global COVID-19 response efforts to continue in a spirit of solidarity, drawing on scientific research and large-scale coordination, while scaling-up national preparedness and response measures of prevention and alleviation of the devastating effects of the pandemic.

In this regard, the OIC has mobilized the full capacity of the Organisation and its institutions to support our countries in developing and implementing national plans to cope with the COVID-19 and to mobilize OIC-wide coordinated and coherent response to the pandemic and its adverse social, economic and financial impact on societies. It is in this context that I would like to commend the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group for launching a US\$2.3 billion Strategic Preparedness and Response Programme for COVID-19 pandemic, which is aimed at supporting our member states' efforts to prevent, contain, mitigate and recover from the impact of the pandemic. In this context, I wish to thank the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the COMCEC COVID Response (CCR) Programme. The SESRIC, ICDT, ISF, IOFS, SMIIC and ICCIA have also implemented several projects and training and capacity building programmes on various aspects on economy for the benefit of our countries.

In addition, the OIC prioritized mobilization of resources to the needs of our Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in order to enable them to cope with the pandemic and facilitate economic recovery. In this regard, I would like to point out that I urged OIC countries with available excess sources to assist other OIC countries, especially the LDCs in order to enhance their capabilities to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19. In this connection, the OIC General Secretariat and the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) launched a joint Initiative to assist Member States to fight the pandemic. The ISF has provided US\$ 1 million emergency assistance to Member States,

especially OIC LDCs. In this regard, the ISF also opened an account in order to receive donations from the Member States.

While stopping the pandemic and saving lives remain the priority for all of us, promoting solidarity, cooperation, complementary and mutual support among our Member States becomes more important than ever. Accordingly, OIC General Secretariat and its relevant institutions will continue to work closely with its Member States to further a collaborative response to the COVID-19 and facilitate economic recovery in our countries. I wish therefore to express my sincere appreciation to the relevant OIC institutions, which have continued to collaborate with the General Secretariat for the execution of the various projects under the socio-economic agenda of OIC.

**Your Excellency Mr President,**

**Excellencies,**

Before concluding, I wish to seize this opportunity to commend all our Member States that have continued to support the activities of the OIC, including the contribution to OIC various projects, hosting of OIC several events, signing and ratification of the OIC economic agreements. We are convinced that the partnerships, which we seek to consolidate in the relevant socio-economic fields, would benefit our Member States during the Pandemic, much as we also seek to continue to support the global efforts for a more stable sustainable development and a prosperous world.

I thank you for your kind attention, and I wish you all successful and fruitful deliberations.

***Wassalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu.***

# **ANNEX**

**4**

**REPORT OF THE 37<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE  
(November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Virtual Meeting)**

- The 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in a virtual only-format, on the sidelines of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session of the COMCEC.
- The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office. In addition to the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), the following OIC Institutions attended the Meeting:
  - Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
  - Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
  - Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group
  - International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)-IsDB Group
  - Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)- IsDB Group
  - Islamic Corporation for the Development of Private Sector (ICD)- IsDB Group
  - Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
  - Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)
- The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items for discussion:
  - Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy
    - The List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Aligned with the COMCEC Strategy and COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations
    - Utilizing COMCEC Project Funding for the implementation of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations
    - The e-platform (<http://activities.comcec.org>) established by the CCO for the activities of the OIC Institutions
  - OIC Institutions' Efforts in combatting COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the SDGs in OIC Member States
    - Preparations for Annual Report on the Progress Towards Achieving the Prioritized SDGs at the OIC level
    - Activities of the OIC Institutions Serving to the Implementation of the SDGs

- Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action
- The Proposal on the “OIC Business Intelligence Programme”
- Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions for the Benefit of Palestinian People / Al-Quds Sharif as well as Geographically Distant OIC Member Countries and Observer Countries
- Any Other Business

### **Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy: Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the COMCEC Strategy**

- Emphasizing the significance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the realization of the COMCEC Strategy and the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, the Committee reviewed the completed and planned activities of the relevant OIC Institutions directly serving to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations (Group A activities) and activities serving to the objectives of COMCEC Strategy (Group B activities) for the period of December 2019-October 2020 as well as for the period November 2020-November 2021 based on the cooperation areas, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation and financial cooperation.

*(Group A and Group B activities are attached as Annex 1.)*

- The Committee was informed by the CCO that in terms of Group A, 70 activities were reported as completed by the OIC Institutions. In terms of cooperation areas, approximately 40% of the activities were implemented in financial cooperation and trade domain followed by tourism. The Committee was also informed that with respect to types of the activities, the training and technical assistance programs are the commonly used activity types under Group A with more than 50 percent.
- In terms of Group B activities, CCO representative informed the Committee that 114 activities have been completed since the 35th Session of the COMCEC and 116 activities are planned to be organized in the upcoming period by the respective OIC Institutions. Most of the completed and planned activities were reported in the area of trade, followed by poverty alleviation. Furthermore, 14 research reports are planned to be prepared next year.
- The Committee underlined the importance of contributions of the OIC Institutions to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations as well as realization of the objectives of the COMCEC Strategy. In this respect, the Committee commended the efforts of SESRIC in contributing to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations through specifically designed activities such as capacity building and training programmes in the six cooperation areas. The Committee also appreciated the efforts of other OIC institutions for the

implementation of the policy recommendations and requested them to intensify their efforts and consider the possibility of organizing joint activities to that end.

- The CCO informed the Committee about the current developments regarding the projects supported by the COMCEC Coordination Office under the COMCEC Project Funding and also informed the participants that upon the request of project owners, most of the projects were postponed to 2021 for implementation. The Committee appreciated the efforts of the relevant OIC Institutions in submitting projects through the COMCEC Project Funding in the 8<sup>th</sup> project call made in September 2020. Moreover, the Committee invited the relevant OIC Institutions to utilize this mechanism more efficiently for the realization of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations.
- Underlining the importance of the recently established e-platform (<http://activities.comcec.org>) in terms of simplifying and standardizing the reporting process, the Committee welcomed that as per decision of the previous Sessional Committee meeting, a training session on the said e-platform was organized by the CCO for the benefit of the OIC Institutions. The Committee commended the CCO for preparing a guideline including the essentials of the System. Furthermore, the Committee requested the OIC Institutions to continue reporting their activities through the said platform.
- The Committee took note with appreciation the proposal of the CCO to organize a special virtual consultative session with the participation of the concerned OIC Institutions to discuss the ways and means of enhancing the role of OIC institutions in effective implementation of the COMCEC Policy Recommendations.

### **OIC Institutions' Efforts in combatting COVID-19 Pandemic**

- The Committee was informed by the OIC Institutions about their activities / programs aiming to help member countries in their efforts towards mitigating the adverse effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Committee commended the efforts of the OIC Institutions, particularly, among others, “the COMCEC COVID-19 Response Program” launched by the CCO and COVID-19 consultative meetings held virtually in three cooperation areas (Trade, Tourism, Agriculture); publication titled “Socio-Economic Impacts of Covid-19 Pandemic in OIC Member Countries,” and various training and capacity building programs conducted by SESRIC; “Strategic Preparedness and Response Program for the COVID-19 Pandemic” initiated by the IsDB Group; insurance coverage programme initiated by the ICIEC, the webinars on the impact of Covid-19 on intra-OIC trade and investment flows organized by the ICDT in collaboration with OIC and International Institutions; various activities (financing support, webinars, support for equipment and capacity development, harmonization of standards, etc.) undertaken by ITFC to assist Member Countries’ fight against COVID-

19 pandemic, platforms formed by ICCIA for disseminating information for the benefit of private sector in the OIC Member Countries .

### **Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions to the Implementation of the SDGs in the OIC Member States**

- The Committee was informed by the SESRIC of the preparations regarding the annual report on the progress at the OIC level towards achieving the prioritized SDGs as decided by Member States to be submitted to the 36<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Sessions of the COMCEC.
- The Committee was informed by the CCO that in line with the relevant resolution of the 35<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session, “the List of Activities of the OIC Institutions Related to the SDGs for the period of 2020 and 2021” will be compiled by the CCO and submitted to the 36<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Session. Recalling the decision of the previous Sessional Committee Meeting, the Committee requested the SESRIC and CCO to consider the possibility of establishing an online platform to better follow-up of the SDG-related activities of the OIC Institutions.

### **Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Section of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action**

- The importance of the contributions of the OIC Institutions to the implementation of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action was highlighted.

### **The Proposal on the “OIC Business Intelligence Programme”**

- The Committee was informed by the ICIEC (IsDB Group) on the preparations towards the launching of “the OIC Business Intelligence Programme” initiative. The Committee noted the recent developments and efforts and requested the ICIEC in cooperation with SESRIC to finalize the technical preparations for the operationalization of the Program.

### **Possible Contributions of the OIC Institutions for the Benefit of Palestinian People/ Al-Quds Sharif as well as Geographically Distant OIC Member Countries and Observer Countries**

- The Committee was informed 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. The Committee appreciated the efforts of the



OIC Institutions and requested them to further enhance their possible contributions including the possible joint activities, projects, and programmes.

#### **Any Other Business**

- The Committee Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

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# **ANNEX**

## **5**

Original: English

**CLOSING STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. FUAT OKTAY,  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY,  
AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE  
36TH MINISTERIAL SESSION OF COMCEC  
(26 November 2020, Virtual Meeting)**

**Esteemed Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

Essalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

We have successfully concluded the 36th Session of COMCEC after fruitful discussions.

We have adopted a set of resolutions along with policy recommendations on the theme "Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness".

We are passing through a turbulent time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has enormous negative impacts in almost every segment of life.

Global food security is no exception.

According to World Food Programme, 690 million people do not have enough to eat.

Nowadays, 130 million additional people are under the risk of being pushed to the edge of starvation.

The OIC member countries are not immune either. Cooperation and solidarity are the core principles to overcome this great challenge.

In this context, developing and implementing joint projects and programs are of particular importance.

Thus, we have launched COMCEC COVID-19 Response Program. This novel OIC programme would generate positive outcomes.

**Distinguished Participants,**

As we have discussed during the Exchange of Views Session, tourism is one of the most heavily affected sectors from the pandemic.

Tourism, with an annual average growth rate of 4-5% generates 8% of the global GDP and 10% of employment.

Yet by its nature, it is extremely vulnerable to crises such as natural disasters, epidemics, economic and political crises etc.

So far, past crises with few exceptions had only limited regional impacts. However, unlike its predecessors, Covid-19 pandemic has become a global crisis.

Covid-19 is estimated to have a seven times larger impact on tourism than the Financial Crisis of 2008.

It probably will take time to recover the pre-crises levels not before the year 2023.

On the other hand, this pandemic also provides an opportunity for us to revisit our structural problems in tourism sector.

These are; limited investments, poor infrastructure, insufficient institutional and human capacity, low service quality and low per capita tourist spending.

There are several tools to improve tourism entrepreneurship within the OIC.

First and foremost, tourism entrepreneurs need to be supported.

This can be achieved through low-cost credits and micro-funding opportunities, land allocations, tax holidays and other financial supports.

We can also positively discriminate entrepreneurship that enhances diversity and innovation in tourism activities.

This would add value to local quality of life, contribute to destination development, promotion of local culture and assist the new innovative industries.

Local entrepreneurs can also be encouraged to accumulate knowledge, experience, and receive certification in tourism industry.

This would minimize leakages and franchising and management fees paid to non-OIC brands.

Facilitating investments and easing formalities for intra-OIC tourism investments and brands are also relevant to this end.

Within this framework, we have to find ways and means of adopting ourselves to the new normal.

We need to explore the possibility of having “safe travel corridors” and “travel bubbles” among OIC countries.

Within this context, I would like to highlight once more Turkey’s “Safe Tourism Certification Programme”.

**Distinguished Participants,**

Palestinian cause constitutes the basis of the establishment of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif are always at the core of our hearts. Likewise, they should be also at the core of our actions.

Unfortunately, the Israeli occupation continues to further isolate the Palestinian people.

We must adopt a common stance on the Palestine issue.

We should therefore urgently take the necessary steps that our Palestinian brothers and the Islamic Ummah have been expecting.

Within this context, I sincerely appreciate the newly initiated COMCEC Al-Quds Program.

I hope that the program would contribute to improving the socio-economic conditions there.

I hope this program would promote Al-Quds Al Sharif as a competitive tourism destination.

Esteemed Delegates,

The total trade volume of Islamic countries in 2019 approached 4 trillion USD.

That shows an increase in the volume of foreign trade over the years.

But, periodic fluctuations and decreases in export revenues are also experienced due to the oil prices.

Increasing volume of trade and deepening our trade cooperation are indeed effective remedies for global economic uncertainties.

As highlighted by His Excellency President ERDOĞAN yesterday, we have to transform our trade structure from mainly raw or semi manufactured goods to value-added production and trade.

The more we have strong economic ties and enhanced trade with each other, the stronger we can resist to external shocks and challenges.

I sincerely believe that the Trade Preferential System Among OIC Member Countries (TPS-OIC) is one of the most important instruments for increasing intra-OIC trade.

As we all know, TPS-OIC is currently at its implementation stage as 13 members have assumed their commitments regarding ratification of the Agreements and updated their concession lists.

In order to make progress in this field and to discuss the issues regarding the implementation of the TPS-OIC, we held a Virtual Consultative Meeting on 27 October 2020 organized by COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT.

We hope that the Trade Negotiating Committee can also convene at the soonest in order to launch the implementation of TPS-OIC by 1 July 2021.

I believe that once TPS-OIC is implemented and operational, other brotherly countries of the OIC will also begin joining the system.

**Dear Participants,**

Another important project of COMCEC is the OIC Arbitration Center which is expected to provide trustworthy, quick and efficient settlement of trade and investment disputes.

Arbitration as the main dispute settlement procedure in international trade is one of the main pillars on which international trade is based on.

The Center will also contribute to the enhancement of the cross-border business relations between the member countries.

After a three-years period, which is relatively a short span of time, we have completed the legal basis of this important Center.

The Host Country Agreement signed during the 35th COMCEC Ministerial Meeting was ratified by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on January 18th, 2020.

Now, only some administrative preparations remain for the operationalization of this Center.

**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

The OIC Gold Exchange project is one of the OIC related significant project which we would like to achieve soon.

We need to develop the infrastructure to make gold trading possible among OIC Exchanges.

This will pave the way for development of new products and services based on gold as well as other areas of cooperation.

**Honorable Ministers,**

I would also like to briefly touch upon the activities carried out within the scope of the COMCEC Working Groups.

As we all well aware, policies that are formulated without sufficient elaboration rarely succeed.

In this respect, the working methodology of the COMCEC Working Groups aims to reveal the current situation and best practices in each sectoral theme.

Then it offers pertinent policy recommendations. For that very reason, the policy recommendations of our Working Groups provide us a unique opportunity to overcome the challenges.

The COMCEC Project Funding mechanism proved to be a useful instrument for implementing the policy recommendations.

We are glad to see the growing interest of the Member Countries in this important mechanism.

**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

Before concluding, I should like to touch upon Islamophobia which has become the most common manifestation of racism and xenophobia today.

In various parts of the world, Muslims are subjected to hate speech.

They are still being attacked, insulted, despised for their beliefs and even murdered every day.

As the Islamic world, it is essential and incumbent on us that we continue to draw attention to this crucial issue.

We must wake up to these dangerous rhetoric and actions.

We should send a clear message to the West regarding our red lines. We can then make other countries realize the severity of the problem.

**Esteemed Delegates,**

I hope that our discussions, deliberations and resolutions will bear fruitful results and deepen our cooperation as the Islamic Ummah.

We wish that our jointly adopted policies and projects should not remain on paper, but put into action for the benefit of the Islamic community.

As the Republic of Turkey, with the help of our National Coordination Committee, we will follow-up the implementation of the resolutions closely.

I will also personally follow-up the implementation of our precious resolutions on our part.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank His Excellency President ERDOĞAN, Chairperson of COMCEC, for his exemplary leadership and his continued support to the whole Islamic World.

I would also like to thank all member country delegations, the General Secretariat of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, the Institutions of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation and other international organizations for their active and valuable contributions.

My special appreciation goes to the COMCEC Coordination Office, our translators and interpreters, and all staff taking part in the organization of our meeting for their valuable efforts towards successful conduct of our meeting.

Thank you very much.

*Esselamu Alaikum wa Rahmetullahi wa Barakatuhu.*



# **ANNEX**

**6**

Original: English

**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS**

- 1- HANDBOOK TITLED "GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION BODIES IN THE OIC COUNTRIES" is available on the COMCEC website "<http://ebook.comcec.org/>".**

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Original: English

## **2- THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS HIGHLIGHTED BY 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMCEC TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP**

The COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) successfully held its 15th Meeting on July 7th, 2020, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Pricing of Transport Infrastructure in the OIC Member Countries”. During the Meeting, TCWG made deliberations on the policy recommendations related to the pricing of transport infrastructure. The policy recommendations were formulated by taking into consideration the research report titled “Pricing of Transport Infrastructure in the OIC Member Countries” and the responses of the Member States to the policy questions sent by the COMCEC Coordination Office. The policy recommendations are as followings:

***Policy Recommendation I: Developing contemporary transport infrastructure pricing policies and making use of implementation instruments such as PPPs, where possible, and public transport operations for a well-functioning transport system.***

### **Rationale:**

An enabling legal framework accompanied by an integrated transport policy is of particular importance for the success of transport infrastructure pricing systems. This would also facilitate the effective participation of the private sector in the development of transport infrastructure. The contemporary transport policies envisage an enabling legal framework that explicitly highlights the government’s commitments and the mechanisms for risk transfer between public and private stakeholders by streamlining all the different pricing implementations and convert them into a single transport infrastructure pricing act. In this vein, contemporary transport policies encourage the participation of the private sector in transport infrastructure projects. The success of transport infrastructure pricing schemes depends largely upon the implications, externalities, and people’s perception of transport infrastructure pricing schemes. In this framework, the contemporary transport policies attach particular importance to the social and economic conditions of the users.

***Policy Recommendation II: Assigning an autonomous operator (entity/institution/body) for the effective collection of charges and allocation of funds arising from transport infrastructure pricing services.***

**Rationale:**

Transport infrastructure pricing is a multidimensional issue involving public, private, and civil society. Within this respect, several institutions and organizations have varying roles in the formation of transport infrastructure pricing and charging policy, regulation, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The coordination among the relevant institutions and stakeholders is of crucial importance. However, considering the complexity of management of the pricing of transport infrastructure, effective coordination among the public and private stakeholders is an important challenge to be addressed. The roles and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders may not always be explicit. In this respect, for improved governance, the roles of regulators and operators can be separated, and autonomous commercialized institutions may provide the services demanded by stakeholders and users with greater efficiency. Therefore, the assignment of autonomous entities that would provide an effective collection of charges and the allocation of funds arising from transport infrastructure pricing services is of particular importance.

***Policy Recommendation III: Utilizing transport infrastructure pricing tools (tolls, levies, vehicle tax, fuel tax, mileage tax, etc.) to effectively manage transport demand as well as to raise funds for transport infrastructure development.***

**Rationale:**

An efficient and effective transport system is vital for the socio-economic functioning of any society. Transport networks, including road, rail, and air networks, have expanded consistently especially in developing countries in line with the growing demand. As the demand for transport infrastructure has increased considerably over the years, governments have initiated some mechanisms to diversify funding sources and to address this growing demand. The principle of cost recovery from transport users, known as transport infrastructure pricing, is one of the widely used mechanisms to source public finance to increase infrastructure capacity and recovery of costs, to effectively manage the demands for transportation services, to charge transport sector externalities including greenhouse gas emissions. Tolls, levies, vehicle tax, fuel tax, mileage tax, and vignettes are some of the widely used tools in transport infrastructure pricing systems. While developing countries use these tools mainly to provide new infrastructure and improve transport infrastructure performance, developed countries primarily make use of these tools for managing traffic demand.

***Policy Recommendation IV: Utilizing contemporary collection (i.e. automated electronic tolls, on-board-units, and Global Navigation Satellite System) and enforcement systems for ensuring an effective transport infrastructure pricing.***

**Rationale:**

The applied method and used technology are extremely vital for the better management of the pricing of transport infrastructure. An effective and efficient toll collection and enforcement system can leverage the abilities of the whole infrastructure pricing system. Collection can be done by employees, automatic machines, or a combination of both. Toll plazas and electronic tolls are two basic toll collection systems. Toll plazas consist of a series of toll gates, where each gate only opens once the driver pays the toll by cash, bank cards, vouchers, or others. On the other hand, electronic tolls allow toll payment without requiring vehicles to stop. Vehicles are required to carry an authorized on-board unit (OBU), electronic tag or transponder. Compared to toll plazas, electronic tolls do not require toll gates, which minimizes construction costs and this system can be implemented in high-density road networks. Some countries have a hybrid system where conventional toll plazas coexist with electronic tolling systems.

***Instruments to Realize the Policy Advice:***

**COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

**COMCEC Project Funding:** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above-mentioned policy areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organizing seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments, and training materials/documents.

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### **3- POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 15TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC TOURISM WORKING GROUP**

The COMCEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) has successfully held its 15th Meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Developing Medical Tourism in the OIC Member Countries.” During the Meeting, Tourism Working Group, made deliberations on medical tourism in the OIC Member Countries. Accordingly, the participants has come up with some policy recommendations.

***Policy Advice 1. Encouraging marketing and branding activities in order to boost the image of the destination country with a view to attract international patients.***

***Rationale:***

Countries attract international patients with their capacity and capabilities in health provision. However, they increase their chance to be preferred as a destination country as much as their country image allows this position. In this sense, security and trustworthiness step forward as factors which influence country’s brand image. When country image is problematic as regards economic or other circumstances, it becomes important to obtain an improved image in the first place. In order to convince international communities towards a shift in their perception about the country, rebranding strategies can be introduced. Rebranding helps spread the message that the destination country is safe and trustworthy for all activities undertaken within its borders, including healthcare provision as well. For instance, integration of insurance systems is defined as an effective model for medical tourism activities regarding ease and secure payment procedures available in different countries. Medical tourism is not solely about health provision and medical services. Instead, second pillar of medical tourism consists of the tourism component. As a supporting factor to medical tourism, other tourism facilities (i.e. historical sites, cultural heritage etc.) can be promoted.

***Policy advice 2. Using online platforms for customized marketing strategies towards target groups***

***Rationale:***

Online platforms, especially popular social media channels such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, etc. provide virtual environments to express opinions and preferences. Although these platforms are not particularly designed for marketing, advertisements are usually permitted. Data collection from the registered accounts enables algorithms to suggest personalized advertisements in parallel to the users’ activities. From the medical tourism perspective, such platforms can be used in order to attain the target groups.

Based on their personal choices, matching treatments can be displayed on the channels they frequently use. Such advertisement strategy on medical products and services is especially applicable for cosmetic procedures towards those who are interested in wellbeing and beauty products. As for the OIC member countries, such an interactive tool can be used in order to understand the needs of target population. This would allow to develop segmentation strategy with the objective to respond in the most effective way to the needs of target population within the segment.

***Policy advice 3. Promoting development/implementation of exchange programs among the OIC Member Countries for medical personnel in order to boost knowledge and experience sharing***

***Rationale:***

In response to the medical needs of individuals and societies, health sciences discipline work on development of new techniques and tools. The way to treat diseases may vary across countries. Countries develop their own unique approach in relation to their level of health infrastructure in terms of medical education and R&D capacity. From this point of view, knowledge and experience sharing becomes important for medical personnel in order to adopt different approaches into their practices. The communication between medical personnel as regards the advancements in the healthcare sector facilitates dissemination of best practices in the field. Such a blend of knowledge between healthcare professionals can create a larger impact. It has, in fact, the potential to boost the industry as well. Therefore, exchange programs can nurture the healthcare industry at healthcare personnel and healthcare provision levels among the OIC member countries.

***Policy advice 4. Encouraging bilateral or regional/multilateral arrangements (such as patient exchange programs, pre-diagnosis services, alliances between healthcare providers and streamlining health insurance schemes etc.) between public/private stakeholders including insurances and hospitals in order to sustain the exchange of patients.***

***Rationale:***

Bilateral, regional and multilateral arrangements can increase health mobility between the signing parties and serve as a stimulating factor to boost trade relations. In this respect, partner countries may benefit from the increase in health mobility through filling the gap in demand towards medical treatment. This may also enable the other side of the arrangement to provide healthcare services and meet its potential in medical tourism. These arrangements may take multiple forms such as patient exchange programs, pre-diagnosis services, alliances between healthcare providers and streamlining health

insurance schemes. For instance, opening a pre-diagnosis center in a partner country would give the opportunity to the supplier country to display its medical services. On the other side, the partner country would benefit from medical knowledge and experience of the visiting medical staff coming from the partner country. As for protocols signed between healthcare providers and health insurances, it is possible to affirm that both sides would benefit from medical tourism schemes.

***Policy Advice 5. Establishing a database on health tourism for the use of OIC member countries for further cooperation in terms of patient-treatment exchange and capacity building in healthcare provision***

***Rationale:***

Data collection in medical tourism constitutes a big problem. Countries experience challenges in finding the appropriate information as regards activities taken place in medical tourism industry. The lack of data collection methodology and database creates obstacles in terms of marketing as well.

Both side of the medical tourism actors (suppliers and demanders) can take data-based concrete actions for future collaborations. For instance, supplier countries can provide data on their medical services that are integrated in the medical tourism whereas demanders can list their priorities in medical treatments. Such a database can open a platform for collaboration not only in terms of patient-treatment exchange but also in terms of capacity building in healthcare provision as well. OIC level data sharing in medical tourism will facilitate both supply and demand side among the region.

***Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:***

– **COMCEC Tourism Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

– **COMCEC Project Funding:** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the Member Countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above-mentioned policy areas, the Member Countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organizing seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents.



– **OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum:** In its meetings, the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas and the sub-areas from the private sector perspective.

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#### **4- POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE 15TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP**

A policy debate session was held during the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group. The Working Group came up with some concrete policy recommendations for enhancing good governance practices for ensuring food security and nutrition in the Member Countries. The policy recommendations given below have been identified in light of the main findings of the research report titled *"Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Member Countries"* and the responses from the Member Countries to Policy Questions conveyed by the COMCEC Coordination Office.

***Policy Recommendation I: Developing a comprehensive national food security and nutrition strategy and/or strengthening the existing food security policies and strategies to extend their reach and inclusiveness so that everyone can reap the benefits, including the poorest and the most vulnerable to achieve food security and nutrition for all.***

##### **Rationale:**

An enabling legal framework accompanied by a comprehensive food security and nutrition policy is of particular importance for the success of the food security governance. A comprehensive food security and nutrition strategy could be developed as the first step of planning for good food security governance. Under the shadow of COVID-19; the said strategy could specifically re-define the vision, goals and priorities of the country on food security governance in line with the current and future food security and nutrition trends of the country, and guide complementary and cross-cutting strategies, laws, and programs, as well as activities for achievement of objectives. In this regard, the member countries may utilize the experiences and facilities provided by the OIC Institutions (e.g. COMCEC, IOFS, SESRIC, SMIIC, IsDB) as well as the international organizations (e.g. UNFAO).

***Policy Recommendation II: Establishing a high level national coordination mechanism (i.e. an inter-ministerial or presidential council) for ensuring a healthy and sustainable multi-stakeholder dialogue for the effective coordination of all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the processes of policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring; and endowing it with significant execution power and sufficient human and financial resources.***

**Rationale:**

For successful food security and nutrition policies, governance and coordination mechanisms need to be drastically upgraded in all areas from policy formulation to implementation and monitoring. Effective coordination and coherence mechanisms require an inclusive and participatory process in which all segments of the population, especially the most vulnerable, have their needs and rights properly represented.

Different stakeholders have their own objectives, policy preferences, and functions, and this creates an inherent fragmentation in the sphere of governance. The OIC member countries may thus benefit from establishing a high level national coordination mechanism (inter-ministerial or presidential council), endowed with significant executive power. Member countries may benefit from mandating the operations, meetings, responsibilities, accountability criteria, and stakeholder participation mechanisms of their national coordination mechanisms. Moreover, they are recommended to ensure that the national coordination mechanism has sufficient human and financial resources.

***Policy Recommendation III: Improving the coordination and coherence of policy actions on food security and nutrition in turbulent times (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic) at all levels ranging from sub- national to national; national to bilateral or multilateral; sub-regional to regional, and finally, from OIC-level to global level.***

**Rationale:**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic downturn are expected to worsen food insecurity and malnutrition situation in many countries mainly through (i) the declining availability of food (due to contraction of food production and trade) and (ii) the access to food (due to employment and income losses). Recently published figures indicate that, by the end of 2020, 130 million people in low and middle income countries will be added to those already suffering from acute hunger before the pandemic started. Roughly half of the OIC Member Countries are among the countries that face the highest risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Minimizing the risks associated with the pandemic necessitates good governance practices especially with respect to the coordination of policy actions at national and sub- national levels and bilateral, OIC-level and finally global levels.

***Policy Recommendation IV: Designing a detailed and transparent implementation plan for the national and sub-national tasks and equipping the fieldwork personnel with relevant know-how and allocating sufficient financial resources to each and every step of the implementation process.***

**Rationale:**

Adopted policies and programs that are not supported by detailed and transparent implementation plans may end up being partially implemented or not implemented as a result of departures of critical post-holders due to new appointments and other bureaucratic obstacles. This is more than highly possible in this new era where COVID-19's negative effects are felt considerably. Therefore, the top challenge regarding implementation is to design the policies and programs with an explicit implementation plan for the national and sub-national tasks. One of the main governance challenges regarding implementation is associated with the lack of sufficient human and financial resources. Therefore, the OIC member countries may focus on mechanisms to train the field-work personnel so as to equip them with relevant know-how, and to allocate sufficient financial resources to each and every step of the implementation process.

***Policy Recommendation V: Establishing an online platform/food information systems (e.g. vulnerability atlas, food security fora) that ideally transmits real-time information on monitoring food security and nutrition governance with a view to generating credible data and statistics and formulating evidence-based policies.***

**Rationale:**

COVID-19 pandemic has shown once more the importance of the monitoring of acute food insecurity through the food information systems. Limited availability of timely, reliable and consistent data on food security and nutrition hampers evidence-based decision making by both public and private sector actors in the Member Countries as well as the international organizations. Besides utilizing the existing instruments such as OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) more effectively, new projects that are inter and intra related with other harshly affected sectors (tourism, trade, finance etc.) from COVID-19 need to be designed and conducted to generate credible data and statistics, to strengthen the Member Countries' capacities to analyze them, and support the development of policies, investment and action plans based on this evidence all across the OIC.

***Policy Recommendation VI: Promoting capacity building and knowledge/experience sharing among the OIC Member Countries in the four levels of good governance of food security and nutrition (i.e.***

***(i) Policy and Legal Framework (ii) Coordination and Coherence (iii) Implementation, and (iv) Information-Monitoring-Evaluation.)***

**Rationale:**

There are lessons that member countries can learn from the experiences of fellow members within the OIC. When effective sharing and capacity building mechanisms are established, successful outcomes of well- tested food security governance policies and practices in one country can allow others to adopt those without making the costly mistakes that the initiating country may have made during the process of fine-tuning new initiatives, saving valuable resources. Hence, regular or occasional gatherings of policy makers as well as practitioners from member countries to discuss common problems related to food security governance, and creation of staff exchange and training programs can be encouraged. The growing experience of all countries with on-line gatherings and meetings during the pandemic presents itself as an opportunity to make such events increasingly feasible. Also, the countries may seek technical assistance from OIC institutions and/or seek project-based funding from the OIC and other international bodies.

**Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:**

**COMCEC Agriculture Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

**COMCEC Project Funding:** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the member countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above-mentioned policy areas, the member countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

**Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS):** IOFS, as a specialized institution of the OIC dedicated to promoting food security and nutrition, may contribute to policy formulation in the OIC member countries and support good food security governance within the OIC.

**SESRIC:** Member Countries may utilize the Capacity Building Programs of SESRIC as well as OIC Statistical Commission in the areas related to food security and nutrition.

**IDB Group:** The facilities of the IDB Group, particularly the IsDB Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Implementation, may be utilized by the Member Countries to achieve good governance of food security and nutrition.

**SMIIC:** The Technical Committees of the SMIIC can be utilized.

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## **5- THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP**

The COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group (PAWG) has successfully held its 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “*Urban Poverty in the OIC Member Countries.*”

During the Meeting, PAWG made deliberations on reducing urban poverty in the OIC Member Countries. Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the research report conducted specifically for the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of PAWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions were the main input for the discussions. During the Meeting, the participants agreed on the policy recommendations included in the Room Document. The existing document includes these policy recommendations highlighted during the Meeting.

***Policy Recommendation 1: Developing comprehensive and effective urban planning strategies that particularly focus on better management of slums to prevent uncontrolled growth of existing slums and formation of new ones, and improving the access of slum dwellers to basic services such as education and health services through strategic investments.***

### **Rationale:**

Slums are the main poverty hubs in urban areas. Developing more effective urban planning strategies that particularly focus on better management of slums (through dissolving/depopulating them and preventing formation of new ones) could be a first step towards eradicating urban poverty. There are numerous good examples of such urban planning strategies in the Islamic world (e.g., Housing Development Administration (TOKİ) in Turkey and Purbachal New Town project in Bangladesh). Improving the access of slum dwellers to education and health services through strategic investments can help break poverty cycles. Moreover, in developing as well as implementing these strategies, it is crucial to utilize the relevant ICT tools and techniques more effectively to monitor slums and accurately identify the urban poor.

***Policy Recommendation 2: Designing effective local labor market policies that would help tackling the informality problem and create more and better jobs***

***Rationale:***

In the OIC member countries, roughly one in three jobs is formed in the informal labor market. Informal workers are not protected by labor legislation or a social security system. Families residing in slums are mostly employed in informal sector, which suggests that informal employment is closely linked with more intensive urban poverty. To tackle the informality problem, it is crucial to develop local labor market policies, which gradually reduce the share of informal employment over time and create more and decent jobs. These labor market policies include, among others, training and skill acquisition, improved flexibility of formal work, stricter enforcement, differential tax schemes targeting youth, women or other disadvantaged groups, supporting job creation and social protection.

***Policy Recommendation 3: Activating the Islamic Social Finance Tools and systematically integrating them into the general urban poverty policy toolbox***

***Rationale:***

The existing evidence suggests that the Islamic social finance system is a viable complementary tool that can be used in combination with traditional poverty reduction policies to eradicate urban poverty in the OIC countries. For example, organizing an effective distribution of individual-level compulsory transfers, charity-based recommended transfers, and other voluntary transfers (both pecuniary and non-pecuniary) would greatly improve welfare in the society and reduce poverty in urban settings. Activating the Islamic social finance tools and systematically integrate them into the general urban poverty reduction policy toolbox within a well-crafted “policy-mix” (e.g. the zakat-based infrastructure projects implemented in Indonesia); and utilizing the related ICT tools (such as blockchain technologies, FINTECH systems, cashless smart cards, geographical information systems) that facilitate a more effective use of the Islamic social finance tools (e.g., the Social Family Card in Egypt; cashless shopping cards distributed to refugees living in camps in Turkey and Jordan) is of crucial importance for reducing urban poverty. The OIC Member Countries provide numerous good practices on Islamic social finance tools as a source of inspiration for their fellows. Through experience sharing and capacity building programs, this valuable experience could be shared among the member countries.



***Policy Recommendation 4: Improving urban governance capacity and strengthening resilience to shocks (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic)***

**Rationale:**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic downturn are expected to worsen the urban poverty in the Member Countries. Although COVID-19 is a global shock, its adverse consequences are more severely felt by the poor, who are more likely to live in overcrowded neighborhoods and slums. Therefore, improving urban governance capacity by establishing a viable long-term national strategy aiming to effectively tackle urban poverty, improving resilience to unexpected events such as COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, large population movements, and health shocks; strengthening policy coordination between national and local authorities, enhancing legal and institutional capacity, and getting connected to the international policy network in a more effective way are recommended. Minimizing the risks associated with the pandemic necessitates good governance practices especially with respect to the coordination of policy actions at national and sub-national levels and bilateral, OIC-level and finally global levels.

***Policy Recommendation 5: Conceptualizing urban poverty and developing/improving data collection and measurement practices to achieve evidence-based policy making***

**Rationale:**

Urban poverty is highly multidimensional, and those multiple dimensions need to be systematically internalized to improve the understanding of the main policy issues. Conceptualizing and defining urban poverty within a multidimensional and region-specific context is also very important since those concepts and definitions crucially affect humanitarian policy and the nature of other basic services provided such as health, water, sanitation, sewage, etc. Without a well-structured conceptualization, national and local authorities will be ill-equipped to address the key urban poverty challenges. Moreover, improving data collection practices and developing new instruments to enhance measurement of urban poverty is of particular importance for evidence-based policy making. In this regard, it is recommended to utilize the relevant ICT tools and techniques more effectively to conceptualize, collect data and monitor slums and accurately identify the urban poor.

**Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:**

**COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

**COMCEC Project Funding:** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office issues calls for project proposals each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the member countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For realizing above-mentioned policy recommendations, the member countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding facility. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparation of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

**SESRIC:** Member Countries may utilize the Capacity Building Programs of SESRIC to realize the above-mentioned policy recommendations.

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## **6. THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP**

The COMCEC Financial Working Group (FCWG) has successfully held its 14th Meeting on September 15th, 2020 in virtual-only format with the theme of “Improving the Shariah Governance Framework in Islamic Finance”. During the Meeting, FCWG made deliberations on improving shariah governance framework in Islamic finance sector in the OIC Member Countries. Room Document, prepared in accordance with the main findings of the analytical study conducted for the 14th Meeting of FCWG and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions, was the main input for the discussions. Accordingly, the participants have come up with some policy recommendations.

**Policy Advice 1: Developing a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for the Shariah Governance processes and arrangements to ensure that all the operations and business activities in Islamic Finance are in accordance with Shariah.**

### **Rationale:**

Islamic banking and financial market laws should contain the definitions of all currently known and approved Islamic finance products and services as well as instruments. The concerned law should stipulate the general rule of prohibiting trade in pure risk and debt. The law may also authorize the regulator to add new products once they are approved. Furthermore, a special standard for the listed companies and Islamic financial instruments should be attached to the law with a stipulation of an annual review. Such standards would set the required conditions for ensuring Shariah compliance. Besides, a handbook on Islamic finance products and instruments should be issued by the regulators to support and facilitate the implementation of the respective law.

**Policy Advice 2: Encouraging the establishment of national Shariah Supervisory Boards (SSBs) supervising the institutional SSBs.**

### **Rationale:**

National Shariah Supervisory Boards (SSBs) have various important functions. They can play a very significant role in resolving the disputes between Islamic Financial Institutions (IFIs) and customers. Furthermore, approving new products, supervising IFIs on proper income purifications, reviewing yearly accounting of profit and zakat calculations and their distribution, assessing and regularly reporting Shariah non-compliance risks to shareholders and investment account holders are among the other major functions of National SSBs. The National SSBs are very instrumental in securing the interests of all stakeholders, not just shareholders.

**Policy Advice 3: Developing guidelines for ensuring/facilitating the active involvement of Investment Account Holders (IAHs) in IFIs' management in accordance with their contribution to the mudaraba pool.**

**Rationale:**

Comprehensive guidelines about Shariah Governance Framework can be developed to enable all stakeholders (i.e. customers, management, shareholders, supervisory authorities) perform their roles in accomplishing the Shariah Governance objectives, and to promote soundness and stability of IFIs. In this regard, the following mechanisms, among others, might be taken into consideration during the preparation of the concerned guidelines:

- Voting in the general assembly and board of directors should be distributed between shareholders and IAHs in proportion to their resources,
- The resources provided by IAHs might be measured as of the beginning of the financial year,
- IAHs might be allowed to assign their representatives in the general assembly of IFIs,
- BoD seats might be assigned to the IAHs with the largest accounts, in a proportion of their resources.

**Policy Advice 4: Encouraging talent development through training and professional certification programs and increasing the awareness of stakeholders about Shariah Governance.**

**Rationale:**

In many cases, there might be a need for improving the qualifications of SSB's members and a shortage of qualified Shariah experts. The practice of assigning SSBs membership exclusively from among Shariah specialists without identifying the necessary qualifications such as academic degree, research and teaching experience etc. is a major challenge. In this respect, a set of criteria may be identified for the appointment of the SSB members. In addition, training and professional certification programs can be conducted for talent development in this crucial area.

**Policy Advice 5: Promoting the integration of Islamic Finance sector into whole economy with a view to making monetary policy more inclusive.**

**Rationale:**

In order to integrate the Islamic finance sector into the macro- economy and make monetary policy more inclusive, monetary authorities are advised to do the following:

- To issue Central Deposit Certificates (CDC) in proportion to the ratio of total Islamic finance assets to the total financial assets in the whole economy, against their cash value which would be placed as Central Deposits in IFIs. Accordingly, the

monetary authority may wish to reduce money supply by the same amount or any amount that would make such issue non-inflationary, by increasing the legal reserve ratio.

- The monetary authority would set the instructions to control the investment of central deposits.
- The monetary authority can issue more CDC's and make them available for sale to the public, including IFIs. Their profits would be added to the Central Deposits in IFIs.
- The monetary authority may allow trading of CDC's in money market.
- The monetary authority can change the rate of growth of money through: (1) Adding to or subtracting from its Central Deposits balances with IFIs, (2) using open market operations in CDC's to adjust the rate of growth of the money supply.

**Instruments to Realize the Policy Advices:**

**COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group:** In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

**COMCEC Project Funding:** Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office issues calls for project proposals each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the member countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For realising above- mentioned policy recommendations, the member countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding facility. These projects may include the organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparation of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

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# **ANNEX**

**7**

Original: English

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND/OR  
PRESENTED AT THE THIRTY SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC  
(Online, 25-26 November 2020)**

1.	COMCEC Annual Progress Report 2020.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(1)-CCO
2.	Making Cooperation Work: COMCEC Strategy for Building an Interdependent Islamic World.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20//D(2)-CCO
3.	Report of the OIC General Secretariat .....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(3)-OIC
4.	Annual Economic Report on OIC Member Countries 2020- .....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(4)-SESRIC
5.	Brief on Trade Cooperation/TPS-OIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(5)-CCO
6.	Proceedings of the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group .....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(6)-CCO
7.	“COMCEC Handbook for High Performing National Trade Facilitation Bodies” prepared for the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(7)-CCO
8.	Proceedings of the COMCEC Trade Working Group Consultative Meeting on COVID-19: “The impacts of COVID-19 on Trade and the Way Forward in the OIC Member Countries.” .....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(8) - CCO
9.	List of TPS-OIC Signatory and Ratifying Countries.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(9) - CCO
10.	Executive Summary-Annual Report on intra-OIC Trade.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(10) - ICDT
11.	Report on OIC Trade Fairs and Exhibitions.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(11)-ICDT
12.	Report on the Issues Relating to the Activities of the World Trade Organization (WTO).....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(12)-ICDT
13.	ITFC Progress Report on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade ...	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(13)-IsDB-ITFC
14.	Report of the SMIIC .....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(14)-SMIIC
15.	Report on the Activities of the ICCIA.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(15)-ICCIA
16.	Brief on Transportation and Communications.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(16)-CCO

17.	Proceedings of the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Transportation and Communications Working Group .....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(17)-CCO
18.	Policy Recommendations of the 15th COMCEC Transportation and Communications Working Group Meeting .....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(18)-CCO
19.	Brief on Tourism.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(19)-CCO
20.	Proceedings of the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(20)-CCO
21.	The Policy Recommendations of the 15th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group .....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(21)-CCO
22.	Proceedings of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group Consultative Meeting on COVID-19: “The Impacts of COVID-19 on Tourism in the OIC Member Countries and The Way Forward.” .....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(22)-CCO
23.	Brief on Agricultural Cooperation.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(23)-CCO
24.	Proceedings of the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group .....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(24)-CCO
25.	Policy Recommendations of the 15th COMCEC Agriculture Working Group Meeting.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(25)-CCO
26.	Proceedings of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group Consultative Meeting on COVID-19: “The Impacts of COVID-19 on Food Security and Agriculture in the OIC Member Countries.” .....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(26)-CCO
27.	Brief on Poverty Alleviation .....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(27)-CCO
28.	Proceedings of the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(28)-CCO
29.	Policy Recommendations of the 15th COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group Meeting.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(29)-CCO
30.	OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap (2020-2025).....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(30)-SESRIC
31.	Towards the Achievement of Prioritized Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries-Progress Report..	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(31)-SESRIC
32.	Report on the OIC Institutions’ Activities on the Implementation of SGDs .....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(32)-CCO
33.	Brief on Financial Cooperation.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(33)-CCO
34.	Proceedings of the 14th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(34)-CCO



35.	Policy Recommendations of the 14th COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group Meeting.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(35)-CCO
36.	Report of the 14th Meeting of the OIC Exchanges Forum.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(36)-BIST
37.	Final Communique of the 2nd Meeting of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(37)-TCMB
38.	Policy Recommendations for the Exchange of Views Session.....	OIC/COMCEC/36-20/D(38)-CCO

Reports are available on the COMCEC website. ([www.comcec.org](http://www.comcec.org))

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