

OIC/COMCEC/26-10/REP

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

REPORT
TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC

Istanbul, 5-8 October 2010

COMCEC Coordination Office
Ankara, October 2010

Address:

COMCEC Coordination Office

State Planning Organization

Necatibey Cad. 108

Ankara-TURKEY

Phone : 90-312-294 55 10

Fax : 90-312-294 55 77

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

e-mail : [comcec @ dpt.gov.tr](mailto:comcec@dpt.gov.tr)

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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

RESOLUTION No. 1/11-E (IS) ON THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COMCEC

The Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century) held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal from 6 to 7 Rabiul Awwal 1429H (13-14 March 2008);

Recalling the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December, 2005;

Recalling also the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the Member States of the OIC, approved by the Tenth Session of the COMCEC and endorsed by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference. Recalling the resolutions adopted by Islamic Summit Conference and Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

Recalling the resolutions adopted at the twenty-three previous sessions of the COMCEC initiating effective action in economic cooperation among the Member States;

Also recalling the resolutions of the Ministerial level meetings in different areas of cooperation held under the auspices of the COMCEC;

A. Activities of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC):

Recalling Resolution No. 30/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference; and Resolution No. 2/34-E adopted by the Thirty-fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers; Recalling also Resolution No. 8/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994) which endorsed the Strategy and the Plan of Action; Noting with appreciation the efforts of the General Secretariat, subsidiary organs, affiliated and specialized institutions of OIC, working in the field of economy and trade, to implement the resolutions of the COMCEC;

Noting with appreciation that the Strategy for Economic and Commercial Cooperation adopted by the COMCEC allows for cooperation among sub-groups of Member States and is based on the principles giving emphasis to private sector, economic liberalization, integration with the world economy, with due respect to the economic, political, legal and constitutional structures of the Member States and their international obligations; Appreciating that, starting with its Eleventh Session, COMCEC serves as a platform where the Ministers of Economy of the Member States could exchange views on current world economic issues; Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. **Stresses** the need for COMCEC to continue to pay utmost attention to coordination and cooperation among Member States with regard to the membership of new countries that wish to join the World Trade Organization, and to the clarification of positions on the new issues and agreements under consideration within the framework of the WTO with a view to strengthening the negotiating position of these countries at the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations especially with respect to the built-in agenda and to the new ones.
2. **Emphasizes** the need to implement the revised Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States the OIC, in compliance with the principles and operational modalities of the Strategy and the procedures set forth in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.
3. **Invites** the Member States to host sectoral Expert Group Meetings in priority areas of cooperation in the Plan of Action, such as "Transport and Communications", "Food, Agriculture and Rural Development", "Health and Sanitary Issues", "Energy and Mining" and "Human Resources Development".
4. **Requests** the coordinators and the owners of the COMCEC projects to make necessary efforts for early implementation of these projects and **also calls** on all the member states and OIC Institutions to propose new projects and programmes to enrich the agenda of the COMCEC through the Sessional Committee.
5. **Welcomes** the successful conclusion of the first and second rounds of trade negotiations for establishment of the Trade Preferential System among the Member States of OIC (TPSOIC) which produced the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and the TPSOIC Rules of Origin and expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for hosting these rounds.

6. **Adopts** the TPS-OIC as the basis for reaching the 20 percent intra-OIC trade level set by the Ten-Year Program of Action as well for enhancing and deepening trade liberalization within the OIC Community.
7. **Endorses** the target date of January 1st, 2009, taken at the First Meeting of the Ministers of Commerce of the Member States of The Trade Negotiating Committee on November 24th, 2006, in Istanbul, for the establishment of the Trade Preferential System among the Member States of OIC (TPS-OIC) and urges the Member States of the Trade Negotiating Committee to finalize the signature and ratification of the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and the TPSOIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience in order to make the TPSOIC operational by January 1st, 2009.
8. **Calls upon**/Mandates the Chairman of the COMCEC and the Secretary General of OIC to coordinate their efforts, with a view to achieve the required number of ratifying countries for the PRETAS and the TPSOIC Rules of Origin, in order to make the TPS-OIC a reality by the target date.
9. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host a TNC meeting in the year 2008 to consider the last preparations undertaken by the TNC Member States before the implementation of the TPSOIC system and recommends a Meeting of the Ministers of Commerce of the Member States of The Trade Negotiating Committee be held in 2008 to review the work of the Trade Negotiating Committee and evaluate the progress towards a fully operational TPS-OIC.
10. **Expresses** its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) for their performance as the Secretariat of the Trade Negotiating Committee and thanks the Islamic Development Bank for contributing to the financing of the First and Second Round of the Trade Negotiations launched on April 6th 2004 and November 24th, 2006 respectively.
11. **Welcomes** the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman as new members of the TNC.
12. **Notes** with appreciation that the 23rd Session of the COMCEC was held from 13-16 November 2007, in Istanbul under the Chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey and the 24th Session of the COMCEC will be held from 21-24 November 2008, in Istanbul and 24th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC will be held on 13-15 May 2008 in Antalya and calls upon the Member States to effectively and actively participate in these meetings.

13. **Underlines** the crucial importance of the active participation of the private sector in economic cooperation among the Member States and expresses its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Economic Conference and the Business Forum on the sidelines of the 20th COMCEC and welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Trade Fair and International Business Forum by Turkish Independent Businessmen and Industrialists' Association (MUSIAD) bi-annually as a sideline activity of COMCEC.

14. **Recognizes** that the Exchange of Views organized during the annual sessions of the COMCEC would be utilized to coordinate the positions of the Member States vis-a-vis major world economic issues and welcomes the initiatives of COMCEC on a new mechanism for the preparation and implementation of the exchange of views sessions. Also welcomes the decision taken by the 23rd Session of the COMCEC that "improving investment climate" be the theme for the exchange of views at the 24th Session of the COMCEC.

15. **Notes** with appreciation that the 11th Trade Fair of Islamic Countries was successfully organised in Dakar, Republic of Senegal from 21st to 25th November 2007 under the High Patronage of the President of the Republic of Senegal.

16. **Welcome** the offers of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Guinea to host the 12th and the 13th editions of the Trade Fair of Islamic Countries.

17. **Thanks** the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Experts Group Meeting on Tourism Development in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 9-11 May 2007.

18. **Welcomes** the holding of OIC Forum on Enhancement and Promotion of Trade and Investment in Cotton Sector which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 12-13 November 2007 and thanks the Republic of Turkey for hosting it and calls upon the Member Countries to support the OIC Cotton Plan of Action and deepen cooperation in this important sub-sector.

19. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host 9th Meeting of OIC Standardization Expert Group in April 2008 with the task of studying and developing OIC Halal Food Standards.

20. **Welcomes** the initiative of the COMCEC to develop cooperation with relevant international organization like ITC, UNCTAD, UNIDO, WTO, FAO, IFDA, etc. with a view to develop specific projects for trade promotion and capacity enhancement in the member countries.

PART TWO

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS AND REPORT
OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC
AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION**

I

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(İstanbul, 5-8 October 2010)

Original: English

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 5-8 October 2010)

		<u>Document Code</u>
1.	Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries by SESRIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(1)
2.	Report on the Implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the OIC Member States by OIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(2)
3.	Report on the Mid-Term Review Meeting on the Implementation of the OIC Ten Program of Action by OIC...	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(3)
4.	Progress Report on the Implementation of the OIC Ten Year Program of Action by ICDT.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(4)
5.	Report on the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the OIC Member Counties: A Critical Evaluation by COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO).....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(5)
6.	Plan of Action of ICDT 2006-2016.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(6)
7.	Note on the Agreement on Investment Promotion, Agreement on Investment Promotion, Protection and Guarantee Concluded Between the OIC Member States by ICDT.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(7)
8.	Report on the Project of the Free Trade Area Among the OIC Member States by ICDT.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(8)
9.	Reports on Meetings of the Committee on the Regional Project of “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Cross-Border Network and Protected Areas in West Africa” by ICDT.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(9)
10.	Progress Report on Activities of the OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC-SWG) by SESRIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(10)
11.	Report of the 15 th Sessional Committee	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/Sc.Rep
12.	Tunis Declaration Seminar on “Competition Policies and Regulations in the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC)” by ICDT.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(11)
13.	Note on the Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference by ICDT.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(12)

		<u>Document Code</u>
14.	Executive Summary Annual Report on Trade Among the OIC Member States 2010 by ICDT.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(13)
15.	The List of the TPS-OIC Signatory and Ratifying OIC Countries by CCO	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(14)
16.	Follow-up Report of the Implementation of “The Executive Programme of the Road Map for Achieving Intra-OIC Trade Targets on Intra-OIC Trade” by ICDT.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(15)
17.	Report of the Second Consultative Meeting of the OIC Institutions on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade by ICDT.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(16)
18.	Report on IDB Group’s WTO Related Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program for the OIC Member Countries by IDB.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(17)
19.	Report on the Issues Relating to the Activities of the World Trade Organisation by ICDT.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(18)
20.	ITFC Progress Report on the Expansion of the Intra-OIC Trade.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(19)
21.	ICDT’s Reports on Fairs and Exhibitions of OIC Member Countries Documents Presented by ICDT.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(20)
22.	The Private Sector Arm of The IDB Group-ICD.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(21)
23.	Private Sector Meeting by ICCI	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(22)
24.	Report of the Workshop on “Trade and Investment in the Cotton Sector in OIC Member States” by ICDT.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(23)
25.	Report of the Third Project Committee Meeting and the Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Implementation of the OIC Cotton Action Plan by Ministry of Industry and Trade of Republic of Turkey.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(24)
26.	Report on the Activities of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) As of 30 August 2010 by IDB and ISFD.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(25)
27.	Report on the activities of OIC Development Cooperation Forum (OIC-DCF) by SESRIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(26)
28.	Implementation Report Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) by SESRIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(27)
29.	Report of the Meeting of High Level Officials from OIC Member States on Food Security by CCO.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(28)

		<u>Document Code</u>
30.	Final Communiqué of the Meeting of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) “Payment Systems and Capacity Building in OIC Member States” by SESRIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(29)
31.	Findings and Recommendations of the Workshop on Agriculture and Rural Development by IDB and CCO.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(30)
32.	Results of the Questionnaire Circulated by the SESRIC to the Member Countries on the Proposed Themes for the COMCEC Exchange of Views Sessions by SESRIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(31)
33.	The Report of the First Meeting of the General Assembly of SMIIC by SMIIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(32)
34.	The List of the SMIIC Signatory and Ratifying OIC Countries by CCO.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(33)
35.	General Guidelines on Halal Food by Standardization Expert Group (SEG).....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(34)
36.	Guidelines for Bodies Providing Halal Certification by SEG.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(35)
37.	Guidelines for the Halal Accreditation Body Accrediting Halal Certification Bodies by SEG.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(36)
38.	Progress Report on E-Government Applications and their economic impacts on the OIC Member Countries by SESRIC.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(37)
39.	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum by Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE).....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(38)
40.	Report on the Activities of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry by ICCI.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(39)
41.	Report Regarding Activities of the Organisation of the Islamic Shipowners’ Association (OISA).....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(40)
42.	Report on the Development of the OIC Halal Food Standards and Procedures by Turkish Standards Institute	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(41)
43.	Note on The Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC)	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(42)
44.	“OIC-VET Subprogramme on Trade, Economy and Finance (OICVET-TEF)” Concept Note by SESRIC	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(44)
45.	Report on Role of ICIEC in Promotion of the Intra-OIC Trade by ICIEC	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(45)
46.	Note on Cooperation among the Central Banks of the OIC Member Countries by SESRIC	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(46)

		<u>Document Code</u>
47.	A Note On Exchange Tradable Islamic Financial Products by ISE.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(48)
48.	IIFM Reference Paper on I'aadat Al Shira'a (Repurchase) and Collateralization (Structuring Possibilities) by ISE.....	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/D(49)
49.	Country Reports and/or Written Presentations on the "Agriculture and Rural Development" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Republic of Turkey - State of Kuwait - Republic of Tunisia - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Sultanate of Oman 	OIC/COMCEC/26-10/CR

II

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

(İstanbul, 5-8 October 2010)

Original: English

**REPORT
OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC**

(İstanbul, 5-8 October 2010)

1. The Twenty-sixth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) was held in İstanbul, from 05 to 08 October 2010.

2. The Session was attended by representatives of the following Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC):

- 1- Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- 2- People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- 3- Republic of Azerbaijan
- 4- Kingdom of Bahrain
- 5- People's Republic of Bangladesh
- 6- Brunei Darussalam
- 7- Republic of Cameroon
- 8- Union of Comoros
- 9- Republic of Djibouti
- 10- Arab Republic of Egypt
- 11- Republic of Gabon
- 12- Republic of Gambia
- 13- Republic of Guinea
- 14- Republic of Indonesia
- 15- Islamic Republic of Iran
- 16- Republic of Iraq
- 17- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- 18- Republic of Kazakhstan
- 19- State of Kuwait
- 20- Republic of Lebanon
- 21- Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- 22- Malaysia
- 23- Republic of Maldives

- 24- Republic of Mali
- 25- Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- 26- Kingdom of Morocco
- 27- Republic of Niger
- 28- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- 29- Sultanate of Oman
- 30- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- 31- State of Palestine
- 32- State of Qatar
- 33- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 34- Republic of Senegal
- 35- Republic of Sierra Leone
- 36- Republic of Sudan
- 37- Syrian Arab Republic
- 38- Republic of Tajikistan
- 39- Republic of Togo
- 40- Republic of Tunisia
- 41- Republic of Turkey
- 42- Republic of Uganda
- 43- State of the United Arab Emirates
- 44- Republic of Uzbekistan
- 45- Republic of Yemen

3. Also Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Russian Federation, Kingdom of Thailand, Central African Republic and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus participated in the Session as observers and the Republic of Macedonia as guest.

4. The OIC General Secretariat and the following subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated OIC institutions attended the Session:

- 1- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
- 2- Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
- 3- Islamic Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)
- 4- Islamic University of Technology (IUT)
- 5- Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

- 6- Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)
- 7- International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)
- 8- Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI)
- 9- Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)
- 10- Organization of the Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA)
- 11- Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC)
- 12- Federation of Islamic Countries' Contractors (FICC)
- 13- Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)

5. Representatives of the other two Standing Committees namely, Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) also attended the Session.

6. Representatives of the following UN and other international organizations attended the Session as well:

- 1- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- 2- UN Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- 3- Developing Eight (D-8)
- 4- Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)
- 5- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- 6- Economic Cooperation Organization Trade and Development Bank

(A copy of the List of Participants of the Twenty-sixth Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex 1.)

7. The Meeting of Senior Officials of COMCEC that preceded the Ministerial Session was held on 05-06 October 2010 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Kemal MADENOĞLU, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey to work on the items included in the Draft Agenda of the 26th Session of the COMCEC and prepare the Draft Resolutions for consideration by the Ministerial Session.

8. During the deliberations, considering the importance of Islamic banking and development of OIC economic cooperation, Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its readiness to host a working group meeting on the issue in 2011.

Opening Session

9. The Opening Ceremony of the Twenty-sixth Session of COMCEC was held on 07 October 2010 under the chairmanship of H.E. Abdullah GÜL, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC.

10. In his inaugural address, H.E. Abdullah GÜL first welcomed the delegates of the COMCEC Member States. Referring to past activities of COMCEC, H.E. GÜL emphasized the pivotal role of COMCEC as incessantly carrying out its endeavors and serving as a solid platform of cooperation in the area of economy and trade. Upon underlining some of the structural problems in the OIC Member States, H.E. GÜL stressed the necessity of social participation in administrative structures to ensure their stability.

11. H.E. GÜL continued his statement by pointing out the benefits of free movement of goods, capital, information and persons among the Member Countries which will pave way for a more rational use of resources in areas like trade, investment, technology and employment. In this regard, H.E. Abdullah GÜL stressed the importance of COMCEC Projects and programs such as Trade Preferential System of OIC (TPS-OIC), Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC), OIC Halal Food Standards and OIC Vocational Education and Training Program (OIC-VET). With regards to TPS-OIC, H.E. Abdullah GÜL, the Chairman of the COMCEC requested the Member States who did not do so, to sign and ratify TPS-OIC Agreements as soon as possible and join the project which is about to be operational.

12. H.E. Abdullah GÜL also touched upon the crucial decisions adopted by the COMCEC Economic Summit held on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the COMCEC. He shared his belief in the need for a plan of action to define priorities of cooperation and an effective implementation mechanism. H.E. GÜL also pointed out that enhancement of cooperation in agriculture, transportation and tourism would make substantial contribution to economic development.

13. Before concluding his remarks, H.E. Abdullah GÜL shared deep sorrow over the flood disaster in Pakistan and called on all the Member States to

extend a generous helping hand to the people of Pakistan who are struggling for their lives under harsh conditions in Pakistan.

(A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of H.E. Abdullah GÜL is attached as Annex 2.)

14. H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, Secretary General of the OIC, made a statement at the Opening Session. He expressed his thanks to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality and its continuous support to develop economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.

15. In his speech H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU elaborated on the milestones achieved in the conduct of the various activities under the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action. H.E. Prof. Dr. İHSANOĞLU emphasized that the major components of the economic agenda of the OIC were anchored on the promotion of intra-OIC trade, the eradication of poverty, agricultural development and food security, as well as Private Sector development. He commended the collaborative manner in which the Secretariat and all OIC institutions had worked for the vision of the OIC Leaders to materialize.

16. H.E. Prof. Dr. İHSANOĞLU gave an analysis of the constraints on the scheduled expansion of intra-OIC trade. The Secretary General expressed the need for robust national responses through improving domestic institutional frameworks. He, therefore, urged the delegates at the meeting to consider supporting numerous capacity-building programmes by the various OIC institutions. He also explained the new focus on fostering cooperation in the agricultural and food sector as evident in the implementation of the OIC Cotton Action Plan and the engagement with regional and international organizations for a comprehensive partnership for economic cooperation.

(A copy of the address of H.E Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU is attached as Annex 3.)

17. The Heads of Delegation of the State of Kuwait, Republic of Sierra Leone and the Islamic Republic of Iran made statements on behalf of the Arab, African, and Asian groups of Member States, respectively. They expressed their thanks to the Republic of Turkey for the hospitality extended to the delegates

and H.E. Abdullah GÜL for his wise guidance for enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States. The Heads of Delegations expressed their deep sympathy for the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan over the flood disaster.

18. The Heads of Delegations emphasized the necessity of improving cooperation among the Member States and underlined the substantial role of COMCEC in improving economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States in order to increase trade and economic capacity of the Member States. They also thanked OIC Secretary General H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office and relevant OIC institutions for their efforts to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation among the Member Countries.

19. H.E. Dr. Ahmed Mohammed ALI, the President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), delivered a statement at the Opening Session. H.E. Dr. ALI commended the efforts of COMCEC for enhancing cooperation among the OIC Member Countries and gave information about the recent performance of the IDB.

(The text of the Statement of the IDB President is attached as Annex 4.)

20. H.E. Shaikh Saleh Bin Abdullah KAMEL, the President of the ICCI, also delivered a statement at the Opening Session. H.E. KAMEL lauded the efforts of Turkey in playing a positive role for the cause of Ummah and underlined some of the projects and activities of the ICCI.

(The text of the Statement of the President of the ICCI is attached as Annex 5.)

21. A special signing ceremony was held at the Opening Ceremony. During the signing ceremony, the Headquarters Agreement of the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC), namely the “Agreement on the Establishment of SMIIC in Turkey” was signed between H.E. Nihat ERGÜN, the Minister of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Turkey and Mr. Lütüf ÖKSÜZ, the Interim Secretary General of the SMIIC. Also a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between OIC General Secretariat and D-8 Secretariat. Finally, the Union of Comoros signed the Trade

Preferential System of OIC (TPS-OIC) Framework Agreement, Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme and the Rules of Origin.

22. Lastly, an award ceremony was organized during the Opening Ceremony of the 26th Session of the COMCEC. “The Islamic Solidarity Prize for the Enhancement of Trade among OIC Member Countries” of the IDB was accorded to Dr. Abdurrahman Al Zamil, Chairman of the Executive Board of Saudi Export Development Centre on behalf of his Institution by H.E. Dr. Ahmed Mohammed ALI, the President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

23. Following the Opening Ceremony, H.E. Abdullah GÜL received the Heads of Delegations.

Ministerial Working Session

24. The Ministerial Working Session of the Twenty-sixth Session of the COMCEC was held on 07 October 2010, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey.

25. The Session adopted the Draft Agenda of the Twenty-sixth Session of the COMCEC.

(The Agenda of the Session is attached as Annex 6.)

26. The Exchange of Views Session of the 26th COMCEC was held with the theme of “Agriculture and Rural Development in the OIC Member States”. At the outset of the Session, H.E. Ahmet YAMAN, Deputy Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey, summarized the discussion of the said subject by the senior officials.

27. Following the presentation of H.E. Ahmet YAMAN, Mr. Hans P.BINSWANGER-MKHIZE, research fellow from the Tshwane University of Technology of South Africa made a presentation on “Structural Transformation and Changes in Agricultural Development Opportunities”.

28. The Heads of Delegation of the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Pakistan, Indonesia, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Gambia, Uganda, Afghanistan shared their country experiences in the area of agriculture and rural development.

29. Mr. David NABARRO, Coordinator of the UN System's High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition, made a presentation as a Keynote Speaker on "Recent Trends in Efforts to Ensure Food and Nutrition Security."

30. The Heads of Delegation of Turkey, Senegal, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Mali, Bangladesh, Qatar, Oman, Nigeria, Libya expressed their views and experiences in the area of food security, agriculture and rural development. The Head of Delegation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, observer of the OIC, also shared his views on the issue.

31. After the deliberations, Mr. Ömer Cihat VARDAN, Chairman of the MÜSIAD delivered his statement on the outcome of the 14th International Business Forum held on 06-09 October 2010 concurrently with the 26th Session of COMCEC.

Closing Session

32. The Closing Session of the Twenty-sixth Session of the COMCEC was held on 8 October 2010 under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey.

33. Mr. Dr. Yousaf JUNAID, Counsellor General of Pakistan in Istanbul and Rapporteur of the Session, presented the Draft Resolutions to the Ministerial Session. In his presentation, Dr. JUNAID summarized the proceedings of the Session and highlighted important points of agreement contained in the resolutions.

34. The Session then adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/26-10/RES.

(Resolution OIC/COMCEC/26-10/RES is attached as Annexes 7.)

35. A special signing ceremony was also held at the Closing Session. During this ceremony, the Head of Delegation of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, H.E.

Abdul Hadi ARGHANDIWAL, Minister of Economy, signed the General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation and Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments.

36. H.E. Mr. Hameed OPELOYERU, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs read out the message of H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, Secretary General of the OIC. In his message, H.E. İHSANOĞLU congratulated the Session on the impressive and successful outcome of this meeting, which is an indication of quality of contributions and inputs from all participants. He also congratulated the new members of the Bureau, namely State of Qatar, representing Arab Region, Republic of Kazakhstan, representing the Asian Region, Republic of Mali, representing the African Region and Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Rapporteur.

(The text of the Message by H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, is attached as Annex 8.)

37. H.E. Abdul Hadi ARGHANDIWAL, Minister of Economy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, made a statement on behalf of all participating Member Countries, in which he thanked H.E. Abdullah GÜL, the President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of COMCEC, the OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, IDB Group, ICDT, ICCI and all parties concerned for their contribution to the work of the Session and to the enhancement of joint actions among the OIC Member States.

38. H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey made a closing statement at the Session. H.E. YILMAZ stated that COMCEC needed to produce more comprehensive and up-to-date framework of cooperation with an effective implementation mechanism which would address the current needs and requirements of the Member Countries. H.E. Dr. YILMAZ emphasized that in order to alleviate poverty and enhance the welfare, the Member Countries would attach paramount importance to agriculture and rural development projects and programs. H.E. Dr. YILMAZ underlined the crucial role of transportation in increasing trade and tourism among the member countries and requested the Member States to actively participate in the preparations of the Exchange of Views Session on the topic which would be held during the 27th Session of the COMCEC. Lastly, H.E. Dr.

Cevdet YILMAZ shared his pleasure for the establishment of the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC) which would provide additional stimulus to trade among OIC countries.

39. H.E. Dr.YILMAZ concluded his statement by thanking all delegations, OIC institutions, COMCEC Coordination Office, organizers and interpreters for their valuable contribution to the 26th Session of the COMCEC.

(The text of the Closing Statement of H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ is attached as Annex 9.)

40. All documents and presentations presented to the 26th Session of COMCEC will be available on COMCEC web site (www.comcec.org).

A N N E X E S

ANNEX

1

Original: English

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(İstanbul, 5 – 8 October 2010)**

A. MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

- H.E. ABDUL HADI ARGHANDIWAL
Minister of Economy
- Mr. MOHAMMAD ISMAIL RAHIMI
General Director of Policy and National Development
Strategy Monitoring and Evaluation
- Mr. AZIZULLAH OMAR
Director of Multilateral Relations and IFLS

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

- H.E. HAMID TEMMAR
Minister of Prospective and Statistics
- H.E. MOULOUD HAMAI
Ambassador of Algeria in Ankara
- Mr. SCANDER MEKERSI
Director of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Mr. KHALED TADOUNT
Advisor, Ministry of Posts and
Information Technology and Communication
- Mr. ENWER BENGUERNANE
Deputy Director of Ministry of Trade
- Mr. ABDELAZIZ AMROUS
Director of Cooperation, Ministry of Tourism and Handicraft
- Ms. AHLEM SARA CHARIKHI
Diplomatic Attachee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. RACHID MEDDAH
Consul General of Algeria in İstanbul
- Mr. YUCEF ABBOU
Vice Consul General of Algeria in İstanbul

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

- H.E. ŞAHİN MUSTAFAYEV
Minister of Economic Development
- Mr. RUŞEN NECEF
Principal Clerk
- Mr. MANAF BAYRAMOV
Advisor

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

- Mr. SHAIKH MOHAMMED BIN ESSA AL-KHALIFA
Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain's Economic Development Board
- Mr. MANAF HUSSEIN AL-SABBAGH
Offical in Charge of Development and Economic Planning in the
Economic Development Board
- Ms. ZAHRA AL-RAHMA
Head of the International Relations and Organisations Department in the
Foreign Economic Relations Department in the Ministry of Finance
- Mr. HAMAD AL-SAYYAR
Second Secretary in the Embassy of Bahrain to Turkey
- H.E. Dr. EBERAHIM YUSUF AL-ABDULLA
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Republic of Turkey

REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

- Mr. TARIK ASHAN
Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. SHAHIDUL ISLAM
Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. SHAH ASIF RAHMAN
First Secretary of the Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara

- Mr. JASHIM UDDIN
First Vice President, Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. ABDUL MOMEN
Director, Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. HASEEN AHMED
Director, Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry

BRUNEI DARUSSELAM

- H.E. DATO PADUKA HAJI ABDUL MOKTI BIN HAJI
Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam in Amman, Jordan
- Mr. ASBI BIN AHAD
Third Secretary, Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Amman, Jordan

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

- H.E. IYA TIDJANI
Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon in Riyadh
- Mr. HAMAN OUMAR
General Secretary of Ministry of Commerce
- Ms. MBAJON NDJEPANG MARTHE CHANTAL
Senior Advisor Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon
- Mr. EVANE EVARISTE
Operation Manager with the Services of the Prime Minister
- Mr. BOUBA AOUSSINE
Deputy Director for the Commercial Exchanges, Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. MOUCHE NJINDOU HENRI
Deputy Director, Ministry of Finance
- Mr. JOSEPH NDOH NDZIE
Research Officer at the Ministry of Economic,
Planning and Development of the Territory
- Mr. BITSE EKOMO CHRISTOPHE BERTRAND
Head of Service for the Economic Cooperation with the OIC at the
Ministry of External Relations
- Mr. NTEP NTOOGUE
Head of Section of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

- Mr. OSMAN MEREZCI
Honorary Consul of Cameroon to the Republic of Turkey

REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI

- H.E. DYA-EDDIN SAID BAMAKHRAMA
Ambassador of the Republic of Djibouti in Riyadh

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- H.E. RACHID MOHANED RACHID
Minister of Trade and Industry
- H.E. ABDERAHMAN SALAHELDIN
Ambassador of Arab Republic of Egypt in Ankara Embassy
- Mr. SAYED ELBOUS
Senior Advisor to the Minister
- Ms. WAFAA ELHADIDY
General Consul of Arab Republic of Egypt in İstanbul Consulate
- Mr. KHALID EMARA
Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for IUT
- Mr. MONGY ALY BADR
Minister Plenipotentiary “Commercial Consul” Arab Republic of
Egypt Commercial Office in İstanbul
- Mr. HUSSEIN EL SAHARTY
Counselor in the Multilateral Sector of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. IBRAHIM SULTAN
Counsellor of Arab Republic of Egypt in İstanbul Consulate
- Mr. SOLIMAN KHALIL
Vice Commercial Consul of Arab Republic of Egypt in İstanbul Consulate
- Ms. MONA WAHBA
Executive Director International Relations Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Mr. IHAB FATHI
Head of COMCEC Department, Foreign Trade Agreement Department
Ministry of Trade and Industry

- Mr. AHMED MOSTAFA
Economic Researcher, Foreign Trade Agreement Department
Ministry of Trade and Industry

REPUBLIC OF GABON

- H.E. PACOME RUFIN ONDZOUNGA
Minister of Housing and Urban
- Mr. ISMAEL OCENI OSSA
Head of Mufti of Libreville
- Mr. SANI IBRAHIM
Economic and Financial Advisor
- Mr. GUY ROGER KAMBOGO
Specialist of the Ministry of Finance
- Mr. GUY IBRAHIM MEMBOUROU
Public Relations Representative of Islamic Affairs High Council
- Mr. CONSTANT VIRABEL AMANI
Aider of the Minister of Housing and Urban

REPUBLIC OF GAMBIA

- H.E. Dr. MAMADOU TANGARA
Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad
- Mr. HABIB JARRA
Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad
- Mr. MODOU K. CHAM
Director of Planning, Ministry of Economic Planning and Industrial Development
- H.E. GIBRIL JOOF
Ambassador of the Republic of Gambia to TURKEY

REPUBLIC OF GUIENA

- Mr. ORHAN ARGUN
Honorary Consul General

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

- H.E. M. HATTA RAJASA
Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs
- H.E. DIPO ALAM
Cabinet Secretary Minister
- Mr. GUSMARDI BUSTAMI
Director General of International Trade Cooperation,
Ministry of Trade
- Mr. RIZAL AFFANDI LUKMAN
Deputy Minister, Cooperation and International Financing Coordination Division
- Mr. CHAIRIL ABDINI
Deputy Minister of State Secretary for Policy Support
- Mr. AMIR SAMBODO
Expert Staff of Coordinating, Minister, Synchronization of Macro Economic and
Real Sector
- Ms. SONDANG ANGGRAINI
Director of Services Negotiations, Ministry of Trade
- Mr. RONALD Y.P. MANIK
Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. MUKHAMMAD FAHRUROZI
Head of Division for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,
Bureau of Foreign Technical Cooperation, State Secretariat
- Ms. YUANA ROCHMA
Head of Section for Economic Cooperation and UN Multilateral Financing, CMEA
- Ms. DEWI KARTIKAWATI
Head of Section for Import, Foreign Trade Policy Center
- Mr. SURANA
Deputy Director for Regional Cooperation, International Relations Bureau
Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Mr. RESTOG KRISNA KUSUMA
Head of Section for Economic Cooperation and non UN Multilateral Financing

- Ms. LILIS FAUZIAH
Assistant Deputy Director for OIC and ICCA, International Relations Bureau
Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Mr. UNTUNG SANTOSO
Staff for Multilateral Cooperation, International Relations Bureau
Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Mr. BUDI SAROSO
Deputy Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Industry of Commerce for Middle East
- Ms. AZIZA RAHMANIAR
Head of Sub-Section for Tariff, Foreign Trade Policy Center
- Ms. TRISNA ULFATMI
Staff, Ministry of Trade
- Mr. SUYOTO HERJAN
First Secretary, Embassy of Indonesia in Ankara
- Mr. HIDAYAT ATJEH
First Secretary, Embassy of Indonesia in Ankara
- Ms. AVI DEWANI SARI HARAHAP
Third Secretary, Embassy of Indonesia in Ankara
- Ms. CUT SILVIA
Economic Affairs Staff, Embassy of Indonesia in Ankara
- Ms. MISELLITA MAHARANI
Protocol Staff, Embassy of Indonesia in Ankara
- Mr. WAWAN HERMANSYAH
Staff of Minister

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

- H.E. Dr. SEYED SHAMSEDDIN HOSSEINI
Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance
- Dr. BEHROUZ ALISHIRI
Vice Minister and President of Organization for Investment,
Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran
- Mr. MOHAMMAD ALI NIKBAKHT
Deputy Minister of Agricultural

- Mr. AKBAR GHAHREMANI
Deputy Director General, Office of Loans,
International Organizations and Institutions
- Mr. KOUROSH TAHERFAR
Deputy Director General, Office of Supervision on Loans and
Foreign Facilities
- Mr. GHADER AFSHARI BADRLOO
Assistant to the Minister
- Dr. HAMID BORHANI
Deputy of Central Bank of Iran
- Dr. MOHAMMAD NAHAVANDIAN
Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce
- Mr. MOUSA KHAJOU'EE
Advisor to the Presidential Supreme Council of Information
- Mr. SEYED ALI AKRAMIFAR
Acting Research Deputy of Presidential Technology Centre
- Mr. MOHAMMAD REZA KARBASI
Director General of Islamic Chambers, Chamber of Commerce of Iran
- Mr. ABDOLHOSSEIN FAKHARI
Executive Director General, Centre for Research and Information,
Chamber of Commerce and Islamic Industry
- Dr. SEYED HABIBOLLAH TABATABA'EEYAN
Head of Technology Management Association of Iran
- Mr. ROUHOLLAH ABUJA'FARI
Expert, Research Deputy, Presidential Technology Centre
- Mr. MAHMOUD HEIDARI
Consul General
- Mr. ABDULLAH AKHLAGHI
Economic Atteche
- Mr. MOHAMMAD NAJAFI GAEINI
Protocol

- Mr. HABIB MESRI
Interpreter
- Mr. HASAN ALAMI
Representative of the Supreme Leader of Islamic Republic of Iran at the
Ministry of Jihad Agriculture
- Dr. ABDOLRASOUL POUR ABBAS
Vice Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and Head of Technical and
Vocational Training Organization
- Mr. MOHAMAD HOSSEIN SHOJA'EE
Advisor to the Head of Standard Organization and
Advisor to the Representative of the Supreme Leader of Islamic Republic of Iran at the
Ministry of Jihad Agriculture
- Dr. KOUROSH PARAND
Advisor to the Head of Technical and Vocational Training Organization
- Mr. REZA BAJOULVAND
Deputy of Technical Training of Trainers,
Technical and Vocational Training Organization
- Mr. ALI ASGHAR KESHTKAR
Deputy of Supervision, University of Applied Science and Technology
- Mr. MOHAMMAD ALISHAHI
Expert of International Affairs, Technical and Vocational Training Organization
- Mr. AHMAD DEGHAN

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

- H.E. TAREQ AHMED BAKER AL-HASHIMI
Vice President of the Republic of Iraq
- H.E. SAFAI AL-DEEN AL SAFI
Minister of Trade
- H.E. ABDUL AMIR A. TABIKH
Ambassador of Iraq in Ankara
- Mr. ADEEL KAREEM KAKE AHMAD
Undersecretary for Issuing Development and Investment,
Ministry of Industry and Minerals

- Mr. HUSHAM MOHAMED HATEM
General Manager of Economic Foreign Relations Department
Ministry of Trade
- Mr. MOHAMMED HASSAN ABBUD
General Manager of Economic Department,
Ministry of Industry and Minerals
- Dr. WATHIQU TAHA MOHAMED
Director of International Relations Department
Ministry of Trade
- Ms. SENA MOHAMMED JAWAD
Expert, Development and Investment Service Department,
Ministry of Industry and Minerals
- Ms. SAWSAN KASSIM
General Director for Foreign Relations Department of Investment,
Ministry of Industry and Minerals
- Mr. NATHIM HUSSAN ABBAS
Iraqi Commercial in Ankara
- Mr. KHALID IBRAHIM AL-SHALLAL
Third Secretary, Director of COMCEC Section at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry
- Dr. DIYAA ALMAWLAWI
Advisor, Ministry of Technology and Science of Iraq Ministry

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

- Mr. NIDAL AL-ABBADI
Representative from the Directorate of Policies and Foreign Relations /
Minister of Industry and Trade

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

- Mr. BAKHYT BATYRSHAYEV
Permanent Representative to OIC
- Ms. KURALAY YELEUSIZOVA
Director of the IT Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications
- Ms. NESIPGUL YESEMBAYEVA
Deputy Director, Ministry of Transport and Communication

- Mr. KANAT SARSENBEKOV
Head of Division for Program Controls and Analysis,
Ministry of Agriculture
- Mr. NURBIBI ALDANOVA
Head of Division, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
- Mr. YERNUR TUYAKBAYEV
Counsellor of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

STATE OF KUWAIT

- H.E. MUSTAFA JASSEM AL-SHAMALI
Minister of Finance of State of Kuwait
- H.E. ABDULLAH A.A. AL-DUWAIKH
Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Turkey
- H.E. SHEIKH FAHAD SALIM S.N. AL-SABAH
Consul General of the State of Kuwait in İstanbul
- Mr. SAMI AL-SAQABI
Assistant Undersecretary for Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance
- Mr. ISHAQ ABDULKARIM
Director of the Department of International Economic Cooperation in
Ministry of Finance
- Mr. KHALED AL-ROWAYEH
Director of the Minister's Office - Ministry of Finance
- Mr. MISHAL AL-ARDI
Deputy Director of the International Organizations, Ministry of Finance
- Mr. ADEL I. M. S. AL ZUABI
Third Secretary of the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Ankara
- Mr. SALIM AL BATHER
Economic Analyst, Ministry of Finance
- Mr. KHALED ALAZMI
Embassy of Kuwait in İstanbul
- Mr. KHALED ALMUTAIRAT
Embassy of Kuwait in İstanbul

REPUBLIC OF LEBANON

- H.E. ADNAN KASSAR
Minister of State
- Mr. WAJIB ABDEL SAMAD
Charge d'Affaires of Lebanon to Turkey
- Mr. HANI CHEMAITELLY
Lebanese Consul General in İstanbul
- Mr. FOUAD FLAIFEL
Director General
- Mr. MALEK ASSI
Head of Department
- Ms. ALINE YOUNES
Representing Lebanese MFA
- Mr. MOHAMAD LAMA
Officer
- Ms. MAY DIMASHKIYEH SERHAL
Officer
- Mr. KHALED HARB
Officer

SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

- Mr. Eng. LUTFI MISBAH ALHAGRAI
Deputy Minister of Industry, Economy and Trade
- Mr. ABDULLATIF HUSSIEN FUGHI
General Director
- Mr. DIYAEDDIN TAWFIK HAMMUDA
General Manager, Ministry of Industry, Economy and Trade
- H.E. ZIAD ADHAM AL-MUNTASSER
Ambassador of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to Turkey
- Mr. MOHAMMED ALI ZENATI
Conselor of Libyan People's Beaream in Ankara

- Mr. SALEM AHMED MURGHAM
Officer, Ministry of Industry, Economy and Trade
- Mr. ALI AHMED RAHUMA
Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Wealth
- Mr. TARIQ SEIF AL NASER
Officer
- Mr. TARIQ AL-AZHARI
Officer
- Mr. ABDUL AL MAGID AL-SADEK
Officer
- Mr. ABDULMANEN TAKITA
Consulate General of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in İstanbul
- Mr. SAED IBRAHIM AHMED
Custom Department

MALAYSIA

- Mr. ZULKAFI ABDUL KARIM
Senior Director, Strategic Planning,
Ministry of International Trade and Industry
- Ms. NORAZAH ABDUL JABBAR
Principal Assistant Director, Ministry of International Trade and Industry
- Mr. RAFAIQ BAKRI B. ZAKARIA
Director of Strategic Management, Department of Standards Malaysia,
Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation
- Mr. MAHDI MOHD ARIFFIN
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, SME Corporation Malaysia
- Ms. NUR SUHADA AHAD
Assistant Manager, SME Corporation Malaysia
- Ms. MAZITA MARZUKI
Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. WAN AHMAD TARMIZI WAN IDRIS
Trade Commissioner, MATRADE
Embassy of Malaysia in Cairo

- Mr. HANISOFIAN BIN ALIAS
Head of Cluster Development, Halal Industry Development Corporation
- Ms. HAKIMAH MOHD YUSOFF
Principal Assistant Director, Department of Islamic Development, Malaysia

REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

- Mr. NIHAT BOYTUZUN
Honorary Consul General

REPUBLIC OF MALI

- H.E. MOHAMED MAHMOUD BEN LABAT
Ambassador of Mali to Saudi Arabia and OIC
- Mr. FARUK CENGİÇ
Honorary Consul General of Mali
- Mr. MOUSSA ALIOU KONE
Counselor of Mali in Riyadh
- Mr. OUMAR MAIGA
OIC Desk Officer in the Management of International Cooperation,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mali
- Mr. TARAIFI MAIGA
Food Safety

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

- Mr. MOHAMED LEMINE OULD AHMED
Advisor to the Minister of Economic Affairs for the
Economic and Social Development
- Mr. MOHAMED LEMINE OULD DHEHBY
Director General of Treasury and Public Compatibility,
Ministry of Finance

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

- Mr. ELAID MAHSOUSSI
General Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Trade
- Mr. MOULAY MHAMMED MAOUKIL
Chief of Department of Relations with the Arabic and Islamic Countries at the
Ministry of Foreign Trade

REPUBLIC OF NIGER

- H.E. HAMID AHMED
Minister of Commerce and Industry
- Ms. MOUSSA MARIAMA SIDDO
Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Mr. BONZOUYOU ABDOULLAH
Director General, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. GARBA ABDOULAYE
Director, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. MAHAMADOU ABDOU MAIGA
Chief of Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- Mr. YUSUF KAYA
Honorary Consul of Niger to the Republic of Turkey
- Ms. ELVAN JANSET BATIBAY
Secretary of the Honorary Consul

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

- H.E. Dr. ALIYU IDI HONG
Minister of State Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- H.E. Prof. SHEIKH AHMED ABDULLAH
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
- H.E. ABDULLAH GARBA MUHAMMED AMINCHI
Ambassador of Nigeria to Saudi Arabia
- H.E. AHMED ABDULHAMID
Ambassador of Nigeria to Turkey
- Mr. C.O. ADUKU, DD
Deputy Director MFA
- Mr. AEDSHIDA
Deputy Director MFA
- Mr. OLATUNJI O. OJAOLA
Deputy Director, Ministry of Agriculture

- Mr. M.L. GANA
Deputy Director MFA
- Mr. A.G. MUHAMMED
Minister Embassy of Nigeria in Riyadh
- Mr. ZUBAIRU MOHAMMED YELWA
Embassy of Nigeria in Ankara
- Mr. BABA YUSUF GARBA
S.A. (OHMOS-1)
- Mr. M.M. USMAN
First Secretary, MFA
- Mr. ALIYU USMAN
P.A. (HMOS-1)
- Ms. RAMATU DANGANA MOHAMMED
P.A. Ministry of Agriculture

SULTANATE OF OMAN

- H.E. MOHAMMED BIN NASSIR AL KHUSAIBY
Secretary General of the Ministry of National Economy
- Dr. SHEIKH ABDULMALIK BIN ABDULLAH AL HINAI
Undersecretary of the Ministry of National Economy for Economic Affairs
- Mr. HAMED BIN SAYYED ALKIYUMI
Minister Plenipotentiary
- Mr. SALIM BIN MOHAMMED AL HAJRI
Economic Researcher at the said Ministry
- Mr. SULTAN AL QATBI
Counselor Sultanate of Oman
- Mr. ALI BIN ESSA AL ZEDJALI
Coordinator in the Secretary General's office

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

- H.E. TARIQ AZIZUDDIN
Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey

- Dr. YOUSAF JUNAID
Consul General of Pakistan in İstanbul

- Mr. MOIN UL HAQUE
Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara

- Mr. MURAD ASHRAF JANJUA
Counsellor, Consulate General of Pakistan in İstanbul

STATE OF PALESTINE

- H.E. Dr. HASAN ABU-LIBDEH
Minister of Economy

- Mr. ABDALHAFID NOUFAL
Deputy Minister of National Economy

- H.E. NABIL MAAROUF
Ambassador of Palestine to Turkey

- Mr. JAFAR HDAIB
General Director of Investment Committee

- Ms. SAIDAH AHMED ABBAS
Director, Ministry of National Economy

STATE OF QATAR

- H.E. SHEIKH JASSIM BIN ABDULAZIZ BIN JASSIM AL-THANI
Minister of Business and Trade

- H.E. Amb. ABDULRAZZAK AL-ABDULGHANI
Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Republic of Turkey

- Mr. SAOUD JASSIM AL-JUFAIRI
Director, Economic Affairs Department, Ministry of Business and Trade

- Mr. AHMED SALEH AL-MOHANADI
Head, Arab and Islamic Affairs Section, Ministry of Business and Trade

- Mr. RASHED MOHAMMED AL-BARAIDI
Researcher, Ministry of Business and Trade

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

- H.E. ABDULLAH BIN AHMED ZAINAL ALIREZA
Minister of Trade and Industry
- Mr. ABDULLAH BIN ABDULWAHAB AL-NAFISA
Director General, Foreign Trade
- Mr. HUSSAIN BIN SHUWAISH AL-SHUWAISH
General Director, Ministry of Finance
- Mr. NASIR BIN MOHAMMED AL-MOTLAQ
Economics Adviser, Ministry of Finance
- Mr. TALAL BIN AHMED AMIR
Secretary of the Minister of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. HUSSAIN BIN EID AL-RASHEED
Economic Researcher, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. NAJI ALANBAR
Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

- H.E. AMADOU NIANG
Minister of Commerce
- H.E. Amb. MOUHAMADOU DOUDOU LO
Ambassador of Senegal to Saudi Arabia, Permanent Representative at the OIC
- Mr. NICOLAS AUGUSTE NYOUKY
Counsellor Senegal Embassy in Ankara

REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

- H.E. JOSEPH SAM SESAY
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security
- H.E. WUSU BYRNE MUNU
Ambassador to the Saudi Arabia and also Permanent Representative to the OIC

REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

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Minister of Agriculture

- H.E. Dr. NAGMELDIN DAWOUD
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Trade
- H.E. OMER HAIDER ABU ZAID
Ambassador of Sudan to Turkey
- Ms. ABLA MALIK
Ministry of Agriculture
- Ms. KALTOUM SATTI
Ministry of Finance and National Economy
- Mr. ABUBAKER MOHAMED ELFATIH MUSTAFA
Commercial Consul
- Mr. NOURELDAIM ABDELGADIR
Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. TALIB JURNA DAFAALAH
Vice Consul
- Mr. OMER ELFAROUG ELSANOSY ABDELKAREEM
Counsellor at the Embassy

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

- H.E. LAMIA MERI AASI
Minister of Trade
- Ms. RIMA BOUZKANDA
International Relations
- Ms. OLA HISOU
International Relations

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

- Mr. ISMOILOV HABIBULO
First Secretary of Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Republic of Turkey
- Mr. NOZIMJONI ZARIFI
Translator

REPUBLIC OF TOGO

- Mr. RASSIDI SOUMAILA
Chief of the Money and Credit, Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Mr. MOUDEEN TIDJANI DOURODJAYE
Member of Togo

REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

- H.E. ABDESSALEM MANSOUR
Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fishery
- H.E. EL HADI GLEY
Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Turkey
- Mr. MOHAMED LASSOUED
Director for International Relations,
Minister of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources and Fishery
- Mr. MOHAMED JAMEL ELIFA
Director for Cooperation with Regional and International Organizations,
Ministry of Trade and Handicraft
- Ms. JAMILA EL OUAER
Counselor, Embassy of Tunisia

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

- H.E. Dr. CEVDET YILMAZ
Minister of State
- H.E. NİHAT ERGÜN
Minister of Industry and Commerce
- H.E. MEHMET MEHDİ EKER
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
- Mr. KEMAL MADENOĞLU
Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization
- Mr. AHMET YAMAN
Deputy Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization
- Mr. ZEYNETTİN KASIMOĞLU
General Secretary of the State Planning Organization

- H.E. MİTHAT RENDE
General Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. MUSA KULAKLIKAYA
Director of Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA)
- Mr. TAHİR BÜYÜKHELVACIGİL
Chairman of Turkish Standards Institutions (TSE)
- Mr. HÜSEYİN ERKAN
Chairman of İstanbul Stock Exchange (İMKB)
- Mr. İSMAİL KALENDER
Acting General Director, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
- Mr. HASAN KÖSEOĞLU
Deputy General Director, Undersecretariat of Customs
- Mr. MUSTAFA BALTACI
Deputy Chairman of İstanbul Stock Exchange (İMKB)
- Mr. FEVZİ ÖZKAN
Deputy Chairman of the Turkish Competition Authority
- Mr. BEKİR SITKI ŞAFAK
Deputy Chairman of Capital Markets Boards (SPK)
- Mr. OSMAN ASLAN
Assistant General Director, Export Credit Bank of Turkey
- Mr. SALİH MUTLU ŞEN
Consul General of Turkey to Jeddah
- Mr. ERDEM DİREKLER
Head of Department, Ministry of Transportation
- Dr. MUSTAFA İMİR
Head of Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
- Mr. ENGİN DİKİCİ
Head of Department, Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Ms. ÇİĞDEM KILIÇKAYA
Head of Department, Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade

- Ms. SELMA TEZYETİŞ
Head of Department,
Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB)
- Mr. BARIŞ YENİÇERİ
Head of Department, Export Promotion Center (İGEME)
- Ms. FÜSUN KARACASOY
Head of Department,
Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB)
- Mr. AYDIN HASKEBAPÇI
Head of Department, Capital Markets Boards (SPK)
- Dr. ERALP POLAT
International Relations Director, İstanbul Stock Exchange (İMKB)
- Mr. İHSAN ÖVÜT
Director of International Relations, Turkish Standards Institutions (TSE)
- Mr. SALİH YÜKSEL
Technical Chief, Turkish Accreditation Council (TÜRKAK)
- Mr. SALİH BEKTAŞ
Head of Department, Turkish Patent Institute
- Mr. BÜLENT ARASLI
Acting Head of Department, Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Dr. YUSUF ŞENGÜR
Member of the University of Anatolia
- Mr. RIDVAN AĞAOĞLU
Principal Clerk, Ministry of State
- Mr. TEOMAN ATAİNCİ
Press and Public Relations Counselor, Ministry of State
- Mr. YUSUF YÜKSEL
Adviser of Undersecretariat of the State Planning Organization
- Mr. AHMET BOZBEY
Expert, Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA)
- Mr. SELAMİ GÜLAY
Principal Clerk, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

- Mr. EMİN ASLITÜRK
Principal Clerk, Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Mr. DEVLET ARIK
Press and Public Relations Counselor, Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Mr. YUSUF İNCE
General Director, Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Ms. ESRA HATİNOĞLU
Architect, Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Ms. DİDEM KILIÇOĞLU
Head of Department, Undersecretariat of the Prime Minister for Foreign Trade
- Mr. EGEMEN KILIÇ
Deputy Manager, Export Credit Bank of Turkey
- Ms. LERZAN KAYIHAN ÜNAL
Expert, Competition Authority
- Mr. YAŞAR TEKDEMİR
Acting Director of International Relations, Competition Authority
- Ms. DENİZ BERBER
Acting Head of Section, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
- Mr. MEHMET FERHAT AKGÜL
Assistant Expert, The Central Bank
- Mr. MUSTAFA GÜMÜŞ
Assistant Head of Department, Capital Markets Boards (SPK)
- Mr. ABDULLAH BAYRAK
Assistant Expert, Undersecretariat of Treasury
- Mr. BURAK ÖZSARAÇ
Assistant Expert, Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Mr. SALİH KILIÇ
Assistant Expert, Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Mr. FARUK BİLGİ
Expert, Export Promotion Center (İGEME)

- Ms. DENİZ YALÇIN
Assistant Expert,
Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB)
- Dr. H. İBRAHİM ÇETİN
Technical Assistant Expert, Turkish Accreditation Council (TÜRKAK)
- Ms. HÜMEYRA COŞAR
Foreign Relations Staff, Turkish Standards Institutions (TSE)

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

- H.E. CHEKAMONDO RUKIYA KULANY
Minister of State for Finance,
Planning and Economic Development (Privatization)
- H.E. Amb. RHODA KAISHO SINANI
Director Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. ADDY NYERWANIRE
Minister Counsellor Uganda Embassy in Riyadh
- Mr. BRIAN PHENOX MWANIKA
Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. NANDUDU EDNA
Personal Assistant/ Minister of Tourism, Trade and Industry
- Ms. AGNES KAINZA
Personal Assistant to the Minister of State for Finance,
Planning and Economic Development in Charge of Organization

UNION OF COMOROES

- H.E. FAHMI SAID IBRAHIM
Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. SARMAD HARAKE
President Top Advisor
- Mr. KAAAN SARIAYDIN
Finance and Economy Advisor
- Mr. HAKAN YAVUZ
Photographer

STATE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

- H.E. Eng. SULTAN BIN SAEED AL-MANSOURI
Minister of Economy
- Mr. MOHAMMED SALEH SHALWAH
Executive Director of Economic Policy
- Dr. KHALID AHMAD AL-MOLLA
Minister Plenipotentiary of International Organizations Department
- Mr. YAGOUB YOUSUF AL-MUBAREK
Minister Plenipotentiary of the Department of Economy
- Mr. SAIEF SALEM AL-HAMRANI
Officer, Minister Office
- Mr. ALI OBAID AL-SHAMSI
Director of Planning and Decision Support
- Mr. TAREQ AHMED AL-MARZUQI
Director of Government Communications
- Mr. SAID OBAID AL-JARWAN
Second Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of the
Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. ABDULLAH SULTAN
Secretary General of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- Ms. NAWAL AL-TAMIMI
Economic Researcher, Ministry of Foreign Trade
- Mr. ABDULAZIZ MOHAMMED AL-NUAIMI
Senior Manager UEA Central Bank
- Mr. ABUBAKER AL-SAYYARI
Senior Economist, UEA Central Bank
- Mr. JAMAL ALI AL-SHAMSI
Statistical, UEA Central Bank

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

- H.E. UFLAT KADYROV
Ambassador of Uzbekistan in Ankara

- Mr. ISLAM KARIMOV
Undersecretary of Embassy

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

- Mr. M. HISHAM SHARAF ABDULLAH
Vice Minister of Planning and International Cooperation
- Mr. ABDUL AL WALI ABDULLA AL-AQEL
Adviser of the (Vice Minister) Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
- H.E. Dr. ABDULGAWI A. A. AL-ERYANI
Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen in Ankara
- Mr. AHMED AL-JARRADI
Director of International Organisations and
Conferences Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. FADIL MAQBEL MANSOOR
Director General of Foreign Trade at the
Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Mr. ALI YAHYA SHEJAR
Director of Public Relations at the
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

B. OBSERVERS

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

- Mr. HAMDO TINJAK
Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and
Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. MIDHAT SALIC
Assistant Minister for International Trade Relations,
Ministry of Foreign Trade and
Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. NUSRET CANCAR
Ambassador at Large, B&H Ministry of Foreign Affairs

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- Mr. KEMALETTİN ÖZDEMİR
Honorary Consul of Central African Republic to the Republic of Turkey

TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

- H.E. ZORLU TÖRE
Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- H.E. SUNAT ATUN
Minister of Economy and Energy
- Mr. ÖMER KÖSEOĞLU
Undersecretary of Minister of Economy and Energy
- Mr. ÖDÜL MUHTAROĞLU
Head of Department
- Mr. M. SADETTİN TOPUKÇU
Director
- Mr. KORALP ŞERİFOĞLU
Principal Clerk, Ministry of Economy and Energy
- Mr. MEHMET YILDIRIM
Deputy Director

KINGDOM OF THAILAND

- Mr. AMNUAY PATISE
Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. MALASEE PANUMAS
Senior Trade Officer, Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. SRAWUT CHANKAO
Senior Trade Officer
- Mr. CHINNAVORN VISESSUVANBOOM
Trade Officer, Department of Trade Negotiations
- Mr. NATHAPONG AMBUPRAHA
Trade Officer, Ministry of Commerce

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- Mr. DMITRY KUZNETSOV
Assistant of the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to
the Organization of the Islamic Conference for Economic Affairs

C. GUESTS

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

- H.E. Amb. ABDULKADAR MEMEDI
State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Special Envoy of
the Government of the Republic of Macedonia to OIC
- Mr. SERDJIM MUHAMED
Deputy Head of Sector, Strategic Planning Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

D. THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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Secretary General
- H.E. Amb. HAMEED A. OPELOYERU
Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs
- Mr. CHEIKH OUMAR SOW
Director General of the Economic Affairs Department
- H.E. Amb. NABIKA DIALLO
Advisor to the Secretary General
- Mr. HASAN OKER GÜRLER
Advisor to the Secretary General
- Mr. GHOLAM HUSSEIN DARZI
Director in the Economic Affairs Department
- Mr. FATİH MEHMET ÖKE
Director in the Information Department
- Mr. NAGHI JABBAROV
Professional Officer in the Economic Affairs Department
- Mr. JAKHONGIR KHASANOV
Professional Officer in the Economic Affairs Department
- Mr. HASAN BASRİ ARSLAN
Professional Officer in the Cabinet
- Mr. ABDUNUR SEKINDI
Professional Officer in the Cabinet

E. OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

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

- Dr. SAVAŞ ALPAY
Director General
- Mr. MEHMET FATİH SERENLİ
Director of Technical Cooperation Department
- Dr. MURAT ATLAMAZ
Senior Researcher
- Mr. ATILLA KARAMAN
Researcher

ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)

- Mr. ALLAL RACHDI
Director General of ICDT
- Mr. EL HASSANE HZAINÉ
Director of Studies and Training Department
- Mr. MAMOUDOU BOCAR SALL
Expert, Head of Studies Section
- Mr. ABDELAZIZ ALAMI
In Charge of Studies

ISLAMIC RESEARCH CENTER FOR HISTORY ART AND CULTURE (IRCICA)

- Mr. HALİT EREN
Director General, IRCICA

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (IUT)

- Dr. M. IMTIAZ HOSSAIN
Vice-Chancellor, IUT

F. SPECIALIZED ORGANS OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

- H.E. Dr. AHMAD MOHAMED ALI
President, IDB Group

- Mr. SALEH JELASSI
Technical Assistant of President, IDB
- Dr. AFTAB AHMAD CHEEMA
Expert, Cooperation Department, IDB
- Mr. ABDUL BASIT RASHEED JAM
Cooperation Officer, Cooperation Department, IDB
- Dr. OSMAN EL-FIEL
Manager, Integrated Rural Development Division,
Agriculture and Rural Development Department, IDB
- Mr. MOHAMED ALI TOURE
Senior S&T Expert
Science & Technology and Technical Cooperation Division
Human Development Department, IDB
- Dr. AZHARI GASIM AHMED
Expert, Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD)
- Mr. MOHAMMAD ALI DIN MOHAMMADI
Media Specialist, External Relations & Internal Communications Department, IDB
- Mr. MOHAMMAD ABASS SAAD
Media Specialist, External Relations & Internal Communications Department, IDB

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

- Mr. LUTFI S. ZAIRI
Assistant to CEO, ICIEC

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC TRADE FINANCE CORPORATION (ITFC)

- Dr. WALEED AL-WOHAIB
CEO
- Mr. HANI SALEM SONBOL
Deputy CEO
- Mr. JAMAL AL-SAYED OMER
Director, CEO Office
- Mr. MOHAMED IQBAL AZAD
Adviser to CEO

- Mr. MARWAN TOUHAMI ABID
Event Manager
- Mr. AYHAN KARACA
Manager, TCPP

ISLAMIC RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE (IRTI)

- Mr. MOHAMED YOUBAH
Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI)

G. AFFILIATED ORGANS OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ICCI)

- H.E. SALEH ABDULLAH KAMEL
President of ICCI
- Dr. BASSEM AWADALLAH
Secretary General
- Ms. ATTIYA NAWAZISH ALI AYAZ
Assistant Secretary General, Coordination
- Ms. ALAA AL-DULAIMY
Assistant Secretary General for Media and Information
- Mr. ABDULMOHSEN HASAN LINJAWI
Assistant Secretary General
- Dr. MAHMOOD KHIDR
Assistant to the President

ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION (OISA)

- H.E. Dr. ABDULLATIF A. SULTAN
General Secretary, Organisation of the Islamic Shipowners
- Mr. MOHAMMAD ZAFAR BHATTI
Director Finance

FEDERATION OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES' CONTRACTORS (FICC)

- Mr. ABDERRAHIM LAHJOUJI
President of FICC

- Mr. ABDELHAMID BENAMAR
Director General of FICC

STANDARDS AND METROLOGY INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SMIIC)

- Dr. LÜTFİ ÖKSÜZ
Interim General Secretary, SMIIC
- Ms. CAHİDE EKİZ
Secretariat of SMIIC

H. STANDING COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (COMSTECH)

- Dr. MUHAMMED ALI MAHESAR
Assistant Coordinator General COMSTECH

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRES (COMIAC)

- Ms. OUMOU KALSOUM SALL DIOP
Director of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Representant of COMIAC

G. OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)

- Mr. ZIAD IFRAM
Chief, Arab Countries Programme

DEVELOPING EIGHT (D-8)

- Dr. WIDI A. PRATIKTO
Secretary General of D-8
- Amb. KIA TABATABACC
Director
- Ms. ESEN GÖNEN
Economist

UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

- Mr. MUSTAPHA SINACEUR
Subregional Coordinator for Central Asia
- Mr. ABDUL KOBAKIWAL
Chief, Integrated Food Security Support Service
- Ms. AYŞEGÜL AKIN
- Mr. B. HUDDLESTON

ARAB ORGANIZATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (AOAD)

- Mr. RAED HATTAR
Chief of the Director General Office
- Mr. FAISAL ALI SALMAN
International Relation Officer

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC)

- Mr. ABDESLAM AZUZ
Senior Trade Promotion Officer
Office for Arab States
- Mr. EKUTO BONZEMBA
Trade Promotion Officer
Office for Africa

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BANK (ECOBANK)

- Mr. ABOLGHASSEM ERFAN
Vice President
- Mr. ÖMER FARUK BAYKAL
Chief Economist
- Mr. MUHAMMAD AZHAR RAUF
Deputy Director, Strategy and Policy Department
- Mr. FAZLI SAK
Manager, Strategy and Policy Department

I. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

**General Directorate of Foreign Economic Relations,
State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey**

- Mr. METİN EKER
Director General,
Head of COMCEC Coordination Office
- Mr. EBUBEKİR MEMİŞ
Head of Department
- Mr. HÜSEYİN AVNİ METİN
Head of Department
- Mr. SELÇUK KOÇ
Coordinator, Drafting
- Mr. METİN GENÇKOL
Expert, Drafting
- Mr. MURAT DELİÇAY
Expert, Drafting
- Mr. ALP TOLGA ŞİMŞEK
Expert, Drafting
- Mr. GÖKTEN DAMAR
Expert, Drafting
- Mr. ALİ İŞLER
Expert, Drafting and Bilateral Talks
- Mr. AHMET BAŞAK KAYIRAN
Expert, Press Relations
- Mr. ORHAN ÖZTAŞKIN
Press and Protocol Relations
- Dr. NAZIM GÜMÜŞ
Protocol Relations
- Ms. AYLİN ŞENOL GÜN
Assistant Expert, Drafting
- Ms. SEMA HİMA
Organisation Coordinator

- Ms. SEHER KURUGÜL
Coordinator of Documentation Center
- Ms. H. GÜL SAYIN
Assistant Coordinator of Documentation Center
- Ms. MÜKERREM ÖZKILIÇ
Coordinator of Registration Office
- Ms. BİGE HAMURDAN
Coordinator of Registration Office
- Ms. BİLGE GÜLLÜ
Social Program
- Ms. EBRU ÇETİNKURŞUN
Social Program
- Mr. KEMAL ARSLAN
Coordinator of Meeting Rooms
- Mr. ERCAN İBİK
Assistant Coordinator of Meeting Rooms
- Ms. Z.LEYLA AŞK
Bilateral Talks
- Ms. ŞERİFE MENĞİ
Executive Secretary
- Mr. SEYFİ UYANIK
Press Relations

J. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION

- Mr. YAŞAR GÜLSOY
Head of Department
- Mr. MEVLÜT YAŞAR
Coordinator of Transport and Personnel Relations
- Mr. NURETTİN AYDIN
Coordinator of Accomodation
- Mr. BURHAN KORKMAZ
Coordinator of Technican

- Mr. TAYFUR YÜKSEL
Security Relations
- Mr. CAFER ERDOĞAN
Stock Coordinator
- Mr. ÖMER BIYIK
Technician
- Mr. SEYİT AMBARKÜTÜK
Technician

ANNEX

2

Original: Turkish

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY
H.E. ABDULLAH GÜL, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND CHAIRMAN OF COMCEC,
AT THE OPENING SESSION**

(İstanbul, 7 October 2010)

Honorable Secretary-General,
Honorable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to get together with the delegates of brotherly member countries of the COMCEC, here in Istanbul, the 2010 European Cultural Capital.

It is a great source of pride for my country to have you as our guest in this cultural landscape where tolerance and compassion have taken root, bridging different continents. With this spirit, I would like to welcome you all to Turkey.

Distinguished Delegates,

We have gathered here for the 26th Meeting of COMCEC which has, since its foundation, incessantly carried out its endeavors and became a solid platform of cooperation between Islamic Countries in the area of economy and commerce.

COMCEC is determined to reinterpret developments in the Islamic World from a humane and economic perspective and take initiative in the resolution of problems. We will continue strengthening the economic ties between us with a view to lay the foundations of a lasting cooperation.

Distinguished Guests,

The world is undergoing rapid transformation. Today, solidarity between our countries is needed more than ever for the resolution of problems.

Each and every development has the power to simultaneously impact all countries and economies. The last crisis we have encountered has shown how strong this interdependence has become.

As you all know, the global financial crisis, which was caused by the idiosyncratic problems of the developed market economies, consequently also had a deep impact on economies of developing and the least developed countries.

However, compared to other developing countries, Islamic countries have been more exposed to the effects of the downturn. In this period, the performance of our economies lagged behind those of other developing countries.

Since the second half of 2009, a trend of mild recovery has been observed in the global economy. The enhancement of our resilience to such crises and our advance to the place we deserve in the globe rest with our ability to find solutions to chronic structural problems in the Islamic world.

Distinguished Delegates,

Hereby, I would like to underline some of the structural problems in the Islamic World. First of all, I would like to emphasize that the level of financial and social development of our countries is way below our potential.

Our countries, home to vast natural resources, are not getting the share they deserve from global welfare. Islamic countries which make up 22% of the world population, have unfortunately only received around 7% of the global economic output in 2009. The average per capita income in the Islamic countries appears to hover below the average of developing countries.

Poverty in Islamic countries tops the list of most serious problems that requires a solution. Twenty two of the member countries are among the least developed countries. Wars, violence and natural disasters taking place in the Islamic territory have further aggravated poverty

Moreover, we are behind the world standards in social realms of development like education and health. The rate of literacy in our countries is below the global average. Likewise, we have a multitude of shortcomings in providing health services to our people in modern standards.

I would like to highlight a point in this respect. Overall and balanced development can only be ensured through consistent, transparent and accountable administrations.

In this matter, administrative structures that value social participation are needed. By so doing, the legitimacy of our administrations will expand and they will become more stable and at peace with shared values of our people.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Guests,

Though they may be located in different territories and display a wide variety in terms of political and economic spectrum, Muslim communities hold a massive potential as they share the same religion and sacred values. This potential feeds off of our shared values which constitute a common denominator as well as our social heritage and the enterprising spirit of our young population in search of growth and welfare.

The global community of Islam should be well aware that world problems calls for common sense and concerted action in the global scale Therefore boundaries between our countries should not distance us from each other or hinder cooperation among us.

As essential elements for economic, social and cultural development, the free movement of goods, capital, information and humans among our countries' across borders, constitutes the first step of our engagement in a global development-driven endeavor.

Steps enabling the movement of these four elements between our economies more freely will pave the way for a more rational use of resources in areas like trade, investment, technology and employment

Given this perspective I believe that:

- the Trade Preferential System project aimed at enabling the movement of goods between our borders more freely;
- the financial cooperation aimed at facilitating capital flow;
- the establishment of the Standard and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) aimed to set standards of traded goods; the OIC Halal Food Standards;
- and the OIC Vocational and Technical Training Program (OIC-VET) aimed to allow free movement of professional know-how and skills between our countries,

requires, the highest level of consideration and support in our part.

Visa waiver programs between some COMCEC member countries or introduction issuance of visas at ports of entry constitute a major step towards enabling free movement of persons between our countries.

Both COMCEC and other OIC Institutions should develop policies that would ensure the free movement of the aforementioned elements and should provide guidance to the member countries.

Honorable Ministers,
Esteemed Delegates,

In this respect, I would like to underline some of the crucial decisions we have taken at the COMCEC Economic Summit we organized last year on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the COMCEC.

One of the resolutions that we have taken was to review the OIC Plan of Action and to revise it in the light of contemporary needs. Within this scope, I attach importance to the review of the Action Plan and underpin our need for a plan of action which defines the priorities of cooperation between our countries and provides an effective implementation mechanism.

Also, as you may all remember, the Economic Summit also decided to revive cooperation in agriculture, transportation and tourism. I would like to point out that enhancement of cooperation in these areas will make substantial contribution to our countries' endeavor en route to development.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Agenda of the 26th COMCEC Session has been drawn out in the last Follow-Up Committee Meeting. In this Session, with your contribution, we are set to make progress with regard to the follow up of decisions taken, the current agenda items and the project proposals.

Trade is placed high in the COMCEC agenda. The trade volume in our countries has dropped in 2009 in parallel to the contraction in the global volume of trade. However it is pleasing to see that the share our countries get from global trade has been displaying a consistent rise in ratio.

I believe we can overcome the recent stagnation observed in Intra-OIC trade by implementing our projects.

The Trade Preferential System between OIC member countries will enter into force once the number of countries which have signed the Rules of Origin Agreement rises from 9 to 10. In this respect, the approval process relating to the TPS-OIC agreements needs to be accelerated.

Moreover, I expect those countries that have already approved the Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) to submit their list of preferences to the Secretariat of the Trade Negotiating Committee. in order to initiate the implementation of the Trade Preferential System.

With the implementation of this project, we will have made a significant and lasting contribution to the attainment of the target for 2015 as 20% in Intra-OIC trade. To emphasize the significance of this issue, I would like to point out that in the EU, the Intra-bloc trade accounts for 65% of the total volume of trade. Therefore, I am calling on all signatory countries to fulfill their commitments.

Distinguished Delegates,

Seizing investment opportunities is another point that would enhance our economic cooperation. As you will remember, I occasionally call on member countries to explore ways of investing their accumulated capital among each other. The downturn period so far has revealed once again that the investment potential and the accumulated capital in the member countries alleviate the impact of the crisis.

Hereby, I would like to express the importance I attach to cooperation initiatives between the Stock Exchanges and the Central Banks which take up an important place in the agenda of the COMCEC. Cooperation efforts between our Stock Exchanges have reached a certain level of maturity. At this stage, we need to enhance the implementation of this project.

Furthermore, cooperation between the central banks has become a platform where instability in the financial markets and precautionary and early warning systems are addressed. I believe the results of the meeting held last week in Istanbul should be evaluated carefully. Hereby, I invite all member countries to partake in these endeavors.

Distinguished Guests,

Undoubtedly, one of the most significant factors in enhancing our cooperation is the promotion of private sector activities. As you may all know, OIC bodies are

making important endeavors on this issue. The strengthening of cooperation between the public and private sectors is one of our fundamental goals. To this end, primarily private entrepreneurship should be fostered, barriers before trade be removed, and capital support and trade guarantees be provided.

Within this framework I would like to draw attention to the Business Forum and Expo to be hosted this year by Independent Industrialists and Businessmen Association (MUSIAD). I would like to invite all distinguished delegates to participate in this event which offers opportunities for business connections, problem sharing and rapprochement.

Distinguished Delegates,

As you know, the Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) has taken effect as of last May with and the aforementioned Institute was established. Now it is time for SMIIC, which successfully held its first general assembly last week, to embark on concrete cooperation projects. Concurrently I would like to state that the number of SMIIC members has reached 12 with the approval of Turkey and Pakistan.

I attach importance to the establishment of an authorized institution in developing and sustaining standards in the face of increased competition and emerging need for common practices. I hope this seed planted in the soil will flourish and grow into a tree, also with your contributions and come to fruition for the benefit of all member countries.

I would like to express my thanks to SMIIC member countries, the OIC General Secretariat, Turkish Standards Institute and COMCEC Coordination Office. I invite all countries which have not done so, to sign or approve this to avail themselves of this synergy created by this cooperation at their earliest convenience.

Let me draw your attention to our two years of efforts for the development of halal food standards. Halal food has currently manifested itself as a substantial trading sector worldwide. Therefore, we need to devise regulations governing this important subject matter and develop a system that would meet the needs of Muslims and render the trade among us more secure.

I would like to emphasize that, in the following stage, it would be appropriate to carry out the works for establishing necessary standards in this area under the auspices of SMIIC with the participation of OIC Member Countries.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

Our Honorable Ministers will exchange views on agriculture and rural development during this COMCEC Session. Since 2008, agricultural population have accounted for approximately 38% of the total population of Islamic Countries.

The share of agricultural population in the total population of our member countries as of 2008 was over 50 percent. These statistics are relevant as they highlight the key importance of agriculture in alleviating poverty and ensuring rural development.

Islamic countries cover approximately 25% of the world's total circumference. Forty three percent (44%) of this area has been classified as lands suitable for agriculture as of 2007. But our countries are currently able to utilize only 20% of the suitable farming land for production purposes. This percentage is below the average in the globe or in developing countries.

During the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Summit I attended last month, as the world leaders, we have assessed that we are far way from attaining the MDG, especially with respect to issues like chronic hunger, famine and poverty alleviation. On this occasion, I made a call during this summit for enhancement of cooperation in investments in the area of agriculture.

The crises encountered in global food prices and the financial downturn have once again highlighted the importance of development in agriculture and provision of food security for the achievement of the goal of alleviating poverty and securing rural development. With the impact of these crises, the number of people living under the poverty threshold in the world rose 100 million in 2009 and exceeded the level of 1 billion.

Looking into the situation in Islamic countries, the 2009 Global Hunger Index reveals that nearly half of the 57 Islamic countries are listed as “serious”, “alarming” or “extremely alarming” categories. In other words, hundreds of millions of people in Islamic territories are suffering from famine.

Nearly half of the 57 Islamic countries are in the United Nations List of Least Developed Countries (LDC). I believe that the multilateral relations which are concretized under the auspices of international organizations will support the development of these countries. Turkey continues to extend support to these countries in major international platforms thus drawing the world's attention to their problems.

In this respect, I would like to bring to your attention that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will be organized in Istanbul between May 30, June 3 2011 at the level of Heads of State and Government. I would like to invite member countries of COMCEC which displays one of the best examples of South-South Cooperation, to this conference which will draw 6000 participants.

Forecasts suggest that current food security problems will even get worse in the short and medium term which necessitates humanity to set out on urgent structural reforms for the settlement of this problem. I would like to remind you the resolution on our cooperation taken at the Economic Summit on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of COMCEC.

I attribute importance to the step taken to establish the COMCEC Food Security Task Force at the 25th COMCEC Session.

Honorable Ministers,
Honorable Secretary-General,
Distinguished Delegates,

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to share with you the deep sorrow I felt over the flood disaster in Pakistan. May Allah have mercy on the souls of our brothers and sisters who lost their lives in this disaster, which was greater in magnitude than the earthquake in Haiti and the Tsunami combined.

On behalf of Turkey, I would like to stress that we will continue to provide assistance to Pakistan at the bilateral level as well as in all relevant international organizations. In addition let me point out that a fellow Turkish Ambassador was appointed as the head of the UN's humanitarian relief operation in Pakistan.

I would also like to welcome the initiatives of the OIC General Secretariat in providing aid to Pakistan. Hereby, I call on all our countries to extend a generous helping hand to our brothers who are struggling for their lives under harsh conditions in Pakistan.

Distinguished Delegates,

I have full confidence that endeavors made by the 26th COMCEC will shed light on the problems troubling our countries from a humane and economic perspective and provide relevant and viable solutions.

I wish the days you will be spending in this ancient city where continents and cultures meet will be beneficial to all.

As I conclude my remarks with these considerations, I would like to express my thanks to all member countries, all affiliated and subsidiary organs of the OIC and their staff for their valuable contribution to COMCEC efforts in this regard. I wish solidarity and brotherhood binding us will prevail and be ever growing. I also believe that our meeting will serve this cause. I wish you all success in your endeavors.

ANNEX

3

Original: English

**SPEECH OF H.E. PROF. EKMELEDDİN İHSANOĞLU
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE OPENING SESSION
(İstanbul, 7 October 2010)**

In the Name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Your Excellency, Chairman of COMCEC
Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegation
Honourable Delegates
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalam alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu

It is, for me, a great honour and privilege, to address the Twenty-Sixth Session of COMCEC, which takes place traditionally in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey. Let me, first and foremost, congratulate His Excellency, President Abdullah Gül, under whose purview falls the chairmanship of this esteemed Standing Committee of the OIC, which is charged with coordinating the economic agenda of the Organization. It is gratifying to note that COMCEC has remained at the forefront of facilitating the implementation of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action, which was adopted by OIC leaders at the 3rd Extra-ordinary Summit in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in 2005.

I must also use this opportunity to express my appreciation to the authorities in OIC Member-States for their constant cooperation with the General Secretariat, such that has facilitated, in no small measure, the work of following-up the various decisions taken by this august body, the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers and indeed the Summit of Kings and Heads of State and Government of OIC Member States.

This session is significant and, at the same time, historical. It is coming in the aftermath of the 25th COMCEC Session, which witnessed the convening of a COMCEC Summit. It is also taking place a few months to the convening of the 12th OIC Summit in Sharm Al-Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt, which will consider the findings of all the three OIC standing committees, including COMCEC, on the mid-term review of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action.

This COMCEC session will, therefore, have the unique opportunity of examining the various achievements so far realized in the implementation of the various economic programmes of the Organization.

It will, at the same time, prescribe the ways and means of realizing the set objectives of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action during the remaining five-year period.

As this historical session considers supplementary options to accelerate the implementation of the vision of OIC leaders for collective socio-economic welfare for the peoples of OIC Member States, I am glad to inform that the reforms, which were carried out in the OIC General Secretariat, since 2005, have largely contributed to the milestones achieved in the execution of the various activities under the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action. The major components of the economic agenda of the Ten Year Programme of Action are anchored on the promotion of intra-OIC Trade and the eradication of poverty among the vulnerable segments of the OIC community.

Mr. Chairman
Distinguished Delegates

The promotion of intra-OIC trade has received considerable boost through the Executive Programme for Enhancing intra-OIC Trade, which has continued to address the objective of increasing access to OIC markets, which cover the entire population of 1.5 billion people and a combined GDP of US\$ 6.3 trillion in 2007. It also has the objective of increasing competitiveness and value-addition to enable wealth creation and increased agro-industrial productivity.

The Executive Programme has, therefore, proved its effectiveness in the steady increase of trade exchanges among OIC countries. It is gladdening to note that the increased activities of the relevant OIC trade organs, namely ICDT and ITFC, have contributed to the progressive improvement of intra-OIC trade from US\$271.45 Billion in 2004 to US\$ 426.75 billion (i.e. from 14.5% in 2004 to 16.65% in 2009). This latest figure dropped from US\$551 Billion in 2008 due to the effect of the global financial crisis.

Notwithstanding, the OIC General Secretariat has continued to carry out all necessary actions so as to actualize the objective of attaining the target of 20% of intra-OIC trade in 2015. Accordingly, and owing to our deliberate demarches, it was possible to secure an unprecedented number of 35 ratifications and 57 new signatures from 2005 to date.

As a result of this initiative, two instruments for the OIC Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC) have since entered into force and with only one outstanding ratification before the Agreement on the Rules of Origin enters into force, the arrangement through which the 57 member-states of the OIC would engage to eliminate their respective tariffs and trade barriers would be in place. Meanwhile, trade promotion and financing measures are progressing as evident in the many financing approvals by the various OIC institutions, totaling US\$2.166 Billion in 2009.

In analyzing the constraints in the way of promoting trade exchanges, the need for robust national responses, through improving domestic institutional frameworks, has become paramount. It is therefore recommended that the delegations at this session should consider supporting the numerous capacity-building programmes by the various OIC institutions. This will certainly pave the way for aligning their national trade policies to enhance intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of trade.

In addition to agreed measures to enhance capacity of OIC member states to undertake WTO negotiations, there are also recommendations towards the actualization of the regional frameworks for cooperation in the area of trade. This meeting would need to give consideration to the role of regional groupings as building blocks for intra-OIC economic integration. On the whole, the consensus among OIC countries signifies that trade liberalization remains the most viable mechanism to promote productivity, economy of scale, transfer of technology, regional cooperation and socio-cultural understanding.

Your Excellency
Distinguished Delegates

The need to promote the objective of increasing competitiveness in OIC countries is closely related to the new focus on fostering cooperation in the agricultural and food sector. In addition to the mandate contained in the Ten Year Programme of Action, the triple food, energy and financial crises, which followed the adoption of this landmark OIC blueprint in 2005, have necessitated increased attention in this domain.

I am glad to report here that the OIC Cotton Action Plan (2007-2011) has succeeded in reviewing and approving sixteen projects, which are now being processed for financing. In addition, the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee on the Cotton Action Plan held recently in Casablanca on 27-28 September 2010 has recommended and approved new projects for the rehabilitation of this crucial economic sector. I would, therefore, seek your kind consideration of the salient

recommendations issued by this meeting, including proposal to extend the OIC Cotton Action Plan for another period of five years from 2011 to 2016. In doing this it would be also necessary that our deliberations should address the crucial constraints of funding as a way of ensuring timely implementation of the various OIC projects and programmes.

Accordingly, Food Security and Agricultural Development programmes have also been accorded prominence in the efforts at addressing the basic welfare of the poor and vulnerable segments of peoples in OIC Member States. This is also within the framework of poverty alleviation, which has also become a topical issue in our engagement with regional and international organizations, within the framework of a comprehensive partnership for economic cooperation, including the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

With an estimated figure of 1.02 billion food-insecure people in the world, 41 out of the 57 Member States of OIC are considered as food deficit countries. These countries receive food aid averaging about 11% of the Official Development Assistance to developing countries, even as they continue to require an estimated annual amount of US\$24.5 billion to make up for their food deficits.

Gladly, the current OIC responses have been significant, despite the absence of an OIC policy on agriculture and food security. In this regard, let me commend the on-going partnership with the Food and Agricultural Organization under both the COMCEC Task Force on Food Security, and the IDB Jeddah Declaration. These technical cooperation arrangements, which include partnership funding of food security programmes, are excellent examples of the comprehensive approach, which the OIC intends to adopt towards ensuring the effective and speedy implementation of the OIC economic agenda.

This developing partnership with international organizations has also proved useful in the execution of the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa. It is my sincere hope that this session will further consolidate on the gains, which were realized in the promotion of food security by translating the findings of the recently concluded expert and high level meetings on Food Security into an actionable plan that will represent a credible road map for the actualization of the food security objectives of our Organization.

Mr. Chairman
Distinguished Delegates

As we continue to galvanize actions in the area of inter-OIC trade, poverty reduction and other activities in such sectors as air and maritime transportation, financial and tourism, adequate emphasis is also being placed on involving a wider community of economic stakeholders for the speedy implementation of the Ten Year Programme of Action. This approach will enable us overcome the problems of inadequate funding, absence of national ownership, and non-inclusiveness, which were identified as crucial to the timely realization of OIC economic objectives.

Furthermore, this strategy is also informed by the fact that the Private Sector, in partnership with national investment and development agencies, can play a supportive role in the economic transformation of OIC countries. The operations of an estimated number of 100 multi-national companies in OIC countries with an asset value of US\$200 Billion can impact positively on the economic agenda of the OIC. In this regard, there is the need to involve the entire Private Sector, national specialized agencies, and other regional actors in the elaboration, execution and monitoring processes of the envisaged development projects.

Accordingly, the activities of the Islamic Chambers of Commerce must be complemented with the participation of Private Sector operatives in all spheres. It is highly gratifying that the successful staging of 2nd OIC Business Forum and the 13th Private Sector Meeting on the sidelines of the 37th Council of Foreign Ministers in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 14 May 2010 has underscored the feasibility of a rewarding collaboration between the Private and Public Sector establishments in promoting trade and investment in OIC countries. It is also heartwarming that the recent launching of the OIC Business Owners Union under the auspices of the Islamic Chambers of Commerce (ICCI) can stimulate the desired public-private partnership necessary for our investment promotion.

Equally significant is the current emphasis on improving the institutional framework for economic cooperation in OIC countries. To this end, I wish to welcome the inauguration of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) at its maiden meeting held in Ankara on 2nd August 2010. The entry into force of the SMIIC Statute will impact positively on our desire to activate trade exchanges in OIC countries, since this new institution would increase the capacity of OIC countries to enhance the quality of its products and improve its ability to compete at the international level.

In the same vein, the promotion of the role of regional groupings for the actualization of the integration arrangement has led to the envisaged activation of strategic partnership with the General Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in the domain of food security. The scheduled signing of an MOU between the OIC and the Developing Eight Countries (D-8) is also against the backdrop of building the requisite partnership among regional and international organizations for cooperation on matters of common economic interests.

It is also against this background that the last OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Dushanbe, Tajikistan recommended the development of a special programme for Central Asia, with a view to assisting these newly independent OIC Member States in overcoming emerging challenges of socio-economic development. I am full of hope that COMCEC will identify with this laudable initiative within the purview of its various socio-economic programmes.

As we dwell on regional and international partnerships, permit me to avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge the milestones, which we have recorded in our biennial meeting with the United Nations institutions and agencies. The OIC has always recognized that the dividends accruable from our bilateral cooperation are considerable, particularly in the domain of technology transfer, industrial capacity-building and the promotion of South-South cooperation.

Mr. Chairman
Distinguished delegates

As we begin the second half of the implementation of the Ten Year Programme of Action, the issues of project financing, ownership and the OIC implementation mechanism have remained very daunting and crucial. There are recommendations to the effect that the identification and mobilization of all national, regional and international partners would help address funding constraints. This session would need to seize on the opportunity afforded by the creation of the OIC Development Cooperation Forum, which seeks to promote collaboration and synergies among our national development agencies.

In this regard, attention would need to be focused on addressing the paucity of funds in the two poverty alleviation funds, namely the Islamic Solidarity Funds for Development and the Special Programme for the Development of Africa. This is necessary so that the laudable objectives for which the funds were established can be realized.

In the months ahead, the General Secretariat shall, in collaboration with other relevant OIC institutions, step up collaborative work with such regional organizations as ECO, GCC, ECOWAS, WAEMU, NEPAD, D8, COMESA, ECCAS to underscore their respective roles as building blocks for the promotion of intra-OIC trade and the envisaged economic integration of the OIC region.

All said, it is my sincere hope that this session would, in addition to the various issues before it, pronounce on the desirability of a harmonized implementation mechanism, which will address the pitfalls already identified in the course of the various studies undertaken by our economic institutions.

Your Excellency,
Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished delegates,

It will not be out of place for me to observe on this occasion the fact that our Organization has grown steadily to become an important actor on the international plane. It has become the largest and most influential promoter of South-South cooperation in the world. This status has been duly acknowledged by the Secretary General of the United Nations His Excellency Ban Ki-moon in his recent remarks at the Annual Coordination meeting with OIC Foreign Ministers in New York on 24 September 2010, whereby he described the OIC as a strategic and crucial partner of the United Nations Organization.

In this regard, I will always count on your continuous support in sustaining this positive global recognition for the OIC, which remains the second largest international organization after the United Nations.

In conclusion, permit me to salute the resilience and dedication of our colleagues in the General Secretariat as well as those in other OIC institutions working in the economic field. This esprit de corps have facilitated considerably the task of following-up the implementation of the vision and mission of COMCEC, throughout the outgoing year. We are confident that the spirit of cooperation, coordination and collaboration, which has always characterized our joint actions within the various institutions of the OIC, shall be sustained for the purpose of attaining our noble objectives.

Finally, let me wish this 26th COMCEC session a resounding success.

Wassalam aleikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu.

ANNEX

4

Original: Arabic

**ADDRESS BY
DR. AHMAD MOHAMED ALI,
PRESIDENT, ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
AT THE OPENING SESSION**

(İstanbul, 7 October 2010)

In the name of Allah the Merciful and the Compassionate

Excellency Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman
of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation
(COMCEC)

Honorable Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu
Secretary-General of the OIC

Honorable Ministers
Honorable Members of Diplomatic Corps
And Representatives of International and
Regional Organizations

Distinguished Members of Delegation
Brothers and Sisters,

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh

I wish, on behalf of your Institution, the IDB Group, to express deep appreciation to His Excellency President Abdullah Gül and the cherished Turkish people for the kind hospitality and warm reception accorded us. I wish also to voice heartfelt gratitude to the Turkish government for embracing the COMCEC since its foundation and for lending unfailing and unending support in the service of common economic and commercial action.

I would like to take the lead in applauding compelling ideas and opinions contained in your inspiring address – Your Excellency the President. You have managed to place our Meeting against the backdrop of world

economic challenges and the modality of response of our member states to these challenges during the difficult period the global economy is going through whereby its guidance and orientation, the COMCEC will review global economic developments with particular emphasis on monitoring the implementation of the OIC Ten-Year-Program of Action and the Plan of Action for the promotion of economic and trade cooperation among OIC Member Countries. Our Conference further will draw from your exhaustive statement knowledgeable experience to address challenges defying the fulfillment of our peoples' aspirations and ambitions.

The invaluable statement made by Honorable Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, OIC Secretary-General holds highly appreciable elements.

Your Excellency the President,

The agenda of your esteemed COMCEC encompasses a group of topics related to successive crisis challenges. It is an agenda where issues are of paramount significance in the sense that the Ummah is brought into one whole to get prepared for taking hold of opportunities such crises provide to help achieve the objectives of economic and trade cooperation for the sake of which this solemn COMCEC of yours had been founded. These opportunities involve evaluation of progress made along the track of implementing the Ten-Year Program as our peoples virtually count on your practical steps taken in the light of this evaluation to the effect of promoting economic and commercial cooperation among OIC member countries, including cooperation among development institutions, poverty reduction initiatives and enhancement of food security at a time when we all are looking forward to the findings of the Exchange of Views Session on "Agriculture and Rural Development" and their translation into activities of exploiting arid land and combating unemployment in its different forms.

In this respect, I am pleased to inform your esteemed COMCEC that the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development established upon the resolution issued by the Macca el Mekkaramah Extraordinary Summit on Poverty-Fighting was aimed to appropriate \$ (10) billion, with 2.63 billion US dollars of which as contributions. The Fund has financed a number of projects amounting to (57) in (28) member countries with a total amount of (\$ 595.6) million.

No doubt developing interest in such crucial themes during the period of successive global crises is a highly sensitive approach globally speaking with

regard to synergy within our member countries' group entertaining respective qualities namely:

- The OIC is the second largest international organization after the UN in terms of the number of member countries in the whole world;
- Its economies combined are in control of massive and integrated capabilities, massive in terms of resources, whether natural, financial and human; and integrated in the sense that if employed together, the most favorable output is only foreseeable. However it is a region with extensive food shortage and its living security is contingent upon exporting from abroad.

Excellency the President;
Brothers and Sisters,

As crises and their adverse implications remain in place, higher demand on development operations of IDB Group will continue to grow, in quantity and in quality, in magnitude and in effect.

Therefore your institution has spared no effort under these difficult conditions in utilizing benefits of support lent by its member states to give strength to the most affected countries in face of financial crises and downturns. Your institution – Thanks to Allah the Almighty – has proved its steadfastness and resilience versus overriding crises, the Bank having maintained the highest credit classification as manifest before and after the crisis: (AAA).

Feeling this sense of responsibility, the Group's financing activity of last year leaped quantitatively, with the volume of funding amounting to 7 and a quarter billion US dollars, with an increase of 29% compared to last year. This is a good step in the direction of redeeming the promise made by the Institution to contribute to expediting economic recovery in member states through doubling the volume of financing operations for the three years (1430 – 1432 Hij). The Bank also moved forward by leaps and bounds from a qualitative perspective that doubled concentration of finances on some sectors based on special interest in developing basic and social infrastructure. Action proceeded according to a new business model pinned on transformation from financing single projects to all-inclusive programming. Perhaps the most crucial expedient for the operationalization of the new model rests with "partnership strategy with member states" being a major platform for dialogue and an

effective means for engaging countries in designing programs from the point of view of the range of strategic interventions in favor of these countries themselves as well as member countries in partnership with them. It is not thus surprising that the outcome of the first experience of its kind – meaning the strategic partnership with Turkey – is but an evidence of major transformations in the Bank's philosophy of cooperation with its member countries. This model will enable the Bank's Group to play a more effective role in bolstering intra-cooperation within the framework of South-South Cooperation similar to the blessed initiative of the Turkish Republic to the interest of African countries. The Bank also received invitations from the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Arab Republic of Egypt for contribution in strengthening cooperation with African countries. The Bank will progressively set out on expanding this Program to help build strategic partnerships with all its member states.

In this respect, I pay tribute to Istanbul's hosting of a Conference that is about to make a breakthrough in the long-lasting ordeal of the Somali people, as time has come for an end to their sufferings. This partnership may have a prospective effect on promoting human security in areas of conflict and energizing affection and compassion to assist communities suffering scourges of poverty, fragility and racing crises. From this august platform I address your solemn COMCEC and all our member states through you all, to support this new mobility representing a bright side of fraternal partnership in the face of seditions that pierce through the body of the nation, overburden development and plunge millions into labyrinth of ignorance and poverty.

Excellency the President,

In my statement last year on the occasion marking the Jubilee of your solemn COMCEC, I called for intensifying close cooperation between the COMCEC and the IDB. In this regard, I have the pleasure to make a pointed reference to achievements made through the Joint Program for Regional Cross-border Cooperation. The Bank adopted technical aid in support of the experience of developing local communities along Syrian – Turkish borders, making success an example to follow in overcoming frictions and rather turn border areas into processes of building workshops and cooperation and allegiance platforms.

Concerning the Joint Program for Internship Exchange, the Bank proposed that a working team comprised of representatives from the Statistical, Economic and Social Research Training Center for Islamic Countries

(SESRIC), the COMCEC and the Bank, be formed to study development of programs in areas of trade, finance and economy. The SESRIC will display outputs in this context at the COMCEC Meeting today.

Excellency the President;

Taking stock of the progress achieved in promotion of economic and commercial cooperation and with the trade preferential system in place, this will bring us to the talk about entry into force of agreements and treaties on economic cooperation, investment and intra-OIC trade. These instruments' coming to fruition is relevant to the degree measuring how far the sector is sensitized vis-à-vis the opportunities they offer.

It is regrettable to admit that these agreements are moving at a snail's pace in an era of maximum speed and in oblivion of the fact that the integration of member states confers on them a negotiating and bargaining power versus international economic blocs, without which they will have no firm foot on the ground in international market. All are aware of the repercussions each country is likely to encounter if it were to face existing economic blocs individually. There is a pressing need that the General Secretariat of the COMCEC and the OIC General Secretariat undertake to develop a mechanism to follow up on the completion of procedures of entry into force of these agreements.

From this podium, I wish to express readiness of the IDB to harness expertise, financial and knowledgeable capacities and international relations, and to employ them as fuel for the drive towards development and prosperity for the member states. Your institution has the honor to work with the COMCEC Chairmanship to crystallize tangible initiatives to make use of contributions of Islamic banks and development funds in providing appropriate mechanisms for investment projects promoting integration, incorporation and tenacity.

I conclude by thanking Allah the Almighty for the support and sponsorship the Bank is bestowed by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and all the member states. Thanks to Allah and to the credit of supportive member countries, the Bank has succeeded to win this international status.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu.

ANNEX

5

Original: Arabic

**ADDRESS OF
H.E SHAIKH SALEH BIN ABDULLAH KAMEL,
PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY, AT THE OPENING SESSION
(İstanbul, 7 October 2010)**

*In the name of Allah, The Almighty, for Thou only, the Perfection and Glory,
All praise for Allah, The Almighty, to Thou only, shall be the final return,
Peace be Upon the Prophet, of the greatest ethics and morals, our Prophet and
Master, Mohammad, and upon his companions and his family.*

Honorable President of the Republic Turkey
H.E. Abdullah Gül, May Allah grants him success and guidance
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahu Wabarakatuh

At the outset, I thank, Almighty Allah for improving my health, so that I gain the honor of standing before Your Excellency this year, as I could not attend last year's meeting due to health reasons, that deprived me from participation that I like, in a place that I like and among people that reciprocate our likeness.

It is a good occasion that our meeting is being held this year after a Turkish standing that is filled with dignity and integrity, which is the courageous position made by the Esteemed Government and the Noble People of Turkey, in supporting and standing by the just cause, which is the general cause of the entire Ummah, i.e. the Palestinian Cause, for which, the whole world is now more convinced and persuaded about its justice, after gaining an Islamic dimension, which should have never been deprived of, any day. Hence, it was not only an Arab cause, but rather, firstly and lastly is a cause of a Qibla and the Massra, of the Prophet Peace Be Upon Him.

Thanks to Turkey and thanks to you, Your Excellency and our sincere prayers of Mercy and Forgiveness to our Martyrs, who sacrificed their lives in defense of justice and in solidarity with truthfulness.

Your Excellency,

The convoy of liberty was a living example of the ability of Islamic Ummah, when it unified its visions and its objectives. I am mentioning this example, to underline the significance of joint Islamic work in all spheres and various areas, particularly the economic ones. As the 3rd Extra Ordinary Islamic Summit, held in Makkah al-Mukarramah in December 2005, realized the importance and depth of the economic factor in raising the Ummah and resolving its stumbling. As you are aware the 10 Year Program of Action emanated from the said Summit, for which I could not hide my pleasure for it, as I am aware of its impact and influence on the current status of Islamic Ummah and its future. However, the question that always looms in my mind, was what are the follow-up mechanisms of COMCEC, which I assume that it is responsible for follow-up of 10-Year Program of Action implementation. Indeed, Mr. President, one meeting in a year is not enough to measure the performance and the level of accomplishment of this ambitious plan. Especially we are now in the year 2010, which means that half of its duration has lapsed “May Allah Prolong your lives” but, I don’t think that we have implemented 50% of its contents and objectives.

I am saying this at least from the perspective of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Hence, we, Mr. President, gain support and encouragements, from our Kings, Presidents, Emirs “May Allah Protect them all”. It is naturally that in this world we strive and do our best, but to be frank, I should say, we beg and request that this instruction get translated into reality in the same pace that we wish for. Therefore, our list of achievement is quite humble and very short of our expectation and ambition. This is a natural outcome of the fact that we waste our time and efforts in resolving problems and tackling hindrances that are existing from a long time, I may also say some were inherited from the colonial eras that planted seeds of differences, disputes and disparities among the sons of the one Ummah. There is no interpretation for justifying the phenomenon of the continuous failure when it comes to the subject of the joint Islamic work.

This is at the official levels, whereas the implementation mechanisms of the private sector have gone beyond our expectation by the Grace of Almighty Allah.

For instance, this is a good news for you and us that International Company of FORAS, which was established in Jeddah, with the partners from various OIC Countries, has now projects in Africa that accounts to 2.5 billion dollars. There are many feasibility studies and projects that are under process by the support of

Almighty Allah, which are aimed at increasing the level of intra-tourism and labour exchanges.

However, once again, for example, the International Zakat Organization and the International Awqaf Non Governmental Organization could not make the desirable achievement due to different Governmental circumstances, that relatively varies from here and there. Also the subject of the open visa for the members of the Business Owners Union, for which we hardly obtained an endorsement from two countries only, that are Syria and Sudan, for whom we are profoundly grateful for their fruitful and constructive response.

Perhaps, we may be accused of some shortcoming of some our organs of Islamic Chamber, however, there is no way that we can overcome this deficiency only one hope “after the support of Allah” which is patience, persistence and the positive attitude that the goodness shall remain in this Ummah till the day of judgment, as we have been promised by our beloved and honest Messenger Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him. Therefore, we shall continue to be persistent so as to obtain the green lights to move forward with out commitment to realize the economic growth of the entire Ummah, especially that we realized there are other nations, who were born after us and not far away from here, “nothing gathers them other than worldly shared objective” while we share all the objectives that unite us on common values and norms and our hearts are connected with strong and light bonds “those nations managed to be united and their unity is the core of their strength that takes them to the glories”.

From this platform, I call upon my brothers the executives to give up the unilateralism and to give priority to the interest of the Ummah as they usually do and to put its benefit at the front as the always do. Since this is the only way for our success and the benefit of our Ummah. I ask myself and my brothers in the business and capital sectors, not to deprive what Allah has bestowed on them and to employ what Allah has given them for the construction of land and for raising the status of the Ummah and I don't ask the two integrated parties with more than collectively being an effective tool that translates the ideas of our Honorable Kings, Presidents and Emirs, in tangible reality. Particularly, after we took upon our shoulders the responsibility and we have all become equal before the divine accountability and we are all responsible and we are all answerable to Almighty Allah.

May Almighty Allah Guide us all for what He likes.

Wasallamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahu Wabarakatuh.

ANNEX

6

Original : English

**AGENDA
OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC
(İstanbul, 5-8 October 2010)**

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
2. World Economic Developments in conjunction with OIC Member Countries.
 - *Annual Economic Report*
3. Review of the implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States
 - *Mid-term Review of the OIC Ten Year Program of Action*
 - *Evaluation of the Plan of Action*
 - *Cooperation in the area of Tourism*
 - *Cooperation in the area of Transportation*
 - *Review of the Activities of the Statistical Working Group*
 - *Report of the Sessional Committee*
4. Intra-OIC Trade
 - *Trade Prferential System of OIC (TPS-OIC)*
 - *Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade*
 - *WTO Related Technical Assistance*
 - *Trade Financing Activities*
5. Private Sector Cooperation
 - *Islamic Trade Fairs*
 - *Private Sector Meetings*
6. Poverty Alleviation and Economic /Technical Assistance to OIC Countries
 - *Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA)*
 - *OIC Cotton Program*
 - *Cooperation among Development Cooperation Institutions of the Member States*
 - *OIC Vocational Education and Training Program (OIC-VET)*
 - *Food Security Program*

7. Financial Cooperation among the OIC Member States
 - *Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges*
 - *Cooperation among the Central Banks*
8. Exchange of Views on "Agriculture and Rural Development"
9. Development of the OIC Halal Food Standards and Procedures
10. E-government Applications and their Economic Impact on the OIC Member States
11. Date of the 27th Session of the COMCEC
12. Any other business
13. Adoption of the Report

ANNEX

7

Original: English

**RESOLUTION
OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(İstanbul, 5-8 October 2010)

The Twenty-Sixth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held in İstanbul, the Republic of Turkey, from 5 to 8 October 2010;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conference, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, in particular thereof, the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, the 37th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the 25th Session of the COMCEC and the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009,

Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) adopted at the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005,

Having regard to the objectives of the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States,

Considering the progress reports, working papers and studies 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), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Organization of Islamic Ship-Owners Association (OISA) on the agenda items,

Expressing appreciation for the efforts made by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office and OIC institutions working in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, namely, SESRIC, IUT, ICDT, IDB, ICCI and OISA.

I. World Economic Developments with Special Emphasis on OIC Member States

Takes note of the Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries 2010 by SESRIC, and **urges** OIC Member States to follow-up the recommendations deemed appropriate in the report.

Entrusts the SESRIC to continue to monitor world economic developments and their implications on the Member States and to report thereon to the annual sessions of the COMCEC with a set of policy recommendations.

Expressing its deep sympathy felt over the flood disaster to the people and the Government of Pakistan **calls upon** the Member States to increase their support to Pakistan in overcoming the challenges faced following the flood and **requests** the IDB and other relevant OIC institutions to review their current mechanisms in order to assist the Member States facing emergency situations due to natural disasters.

II. Review of the Implementation of the TYPOA and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the OIC Member States

i) Mid-Term Review of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action

Takes note of the recommendations of the preparatory meeting on the mid-term review of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action held in İstanbul on 28-30 July 2010.

Requests the IDB to cooperate with the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office in defining a mechanism for its financial support and technical assistance to COMCEC programs and projects.

ii) Evaluation of the Plan of Action

Takes note of the evaluation report on the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States of the OIC, jointly prepared by the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office.

Invites the COMCEC Coordination Office, in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat to further study on the Plan of Action so as to make it a more comprehensive and up-to-date framework of cooperation with an effective implementation mechanism.

iii) Cooperation in the area of Tourism

Invites all Member States to take appropriate measures to effectively implement the OIC Framework Document on Tourism.

Welcomes the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the 7th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers on 28 November – 1 December 2010 and **calls on** Member States and concerned OIC institutions to participate in this Session at the highest level.

Also welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize a workshop on 9-12 December 2010 in İzmir for the private sector representatives of the OIC Member States in the area of tourism.

iv) Cooperation in the area of Transportation

Emphasizes the importance of the revitalization of the cooperation in the area of transportation and **welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize an expert group meeting in the area of transportation in 2011.

v) Review of the Activities of the Statistical Working Group

Calls upon the National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) and other relevant institutions in the Member States to actively cooperate with the OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC-SWG) with regard to data collection and capacity building.

Welcomes the offer of the IDB to host the Third Meeting of the OIC-SWG in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; and the offer of SESRIC to organize, in collaboration with the General Department of Statistics of Jordan, the Experts Group Meeting to identify new statistical indicators such as early warning systems, climate change and Islamic statistics.

Also welcomes the offer of SESRIC and IDB to organize the 1st Meeting of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-SC) in April 2011, in Istanbul, and **calls on** the National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) of the OIC Member States and relevant OIC institutions to actively participate in the Session.

Calls on the National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) to provide SESRIC news related to their institutions to be published in the semi-annual Newsletter of OIC-SWG.

Requests SESRIC to report on the activities of the OIC-SWG to the annual Sessions of the COMCEC and Follow-up Committee Meetings.

vi) Report of the Sessional Committee

Adopts the report of the 17th Sessional Committee and **welcomes** the positive developments regarding the implementation of the projects that are in the agenda of the Sessional Committee and **reiterates** its request from the concerned Member States to actively participate in the implementation process of the COMCEC projects.

III. Intra-OIC Trade

i) TPS-OIC

Welcomes the entry into force of the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) on 5 February 2010 and **calls upon** the Member States which have ratified PRETAS to notify the Trade Negotiating Committee Secretariat, at the earliest convenience, their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of products and the MFN applied rate applicable on 1 October 2003, which is the base rate of the tariffs to be used for reduction.

Welcomes the recent ratifications of the Rules of Origin by Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Syria, thus bringing the total number of ratifications to nine Member States, and **calls upon** the Member States which have ratified the Rules of Origin to complete the necessary internal legislative and administrative measures, such as printing the TPS-OIC Certificate of Origin and providing specimen impressions of stamps to the Trade Negotiating Committee Secretariat in order to make the TPS-OIC operational.

Urges the Member States to sign and ratify the TPS-OIC Agreements, in particular the Rules of Origin, in order to make the TPS-OIC operational.

ii) Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade

Requests the OIC Institutions to carry out the activities in the Executive Program and the IDB Group to provide necessary financial assistance for the achievement of the activities and projects included in the Executive Program.

Urges the Member States to give the required support to the OIC Institutions for the implementation of the Executive Program.

iii) WTO Related Technical Assistance

Underlines the importance of an early conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) with the objective of fully realizing its developmental components.

Calls on IDB Group, ICDT and other related OIC institutions to continue extending their technical assistance to the Member States on issues related to the WTO.

Welcomes the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize a workshop on WTO related impacts on the OIC Member States in 2011 and **requests** all OIC Member States to participate actively.

iv) Trade Financing Activities

Urges Member States to increase their support, coordination and cooperation with the IDB Group (ITFC and ICIEC) to ensure that greater achievements in these areas materialize.

Requests the ITFC to review mark-up rates and terms of its trade financing programs in order to render them competitive with the other international or national financial resources.

Also requests the ITFC to develop special programs designed to meet the needs of the private sector during the crisis and to respond to the demands of its customers in a timely manner.

IV. Private Sector Cooperation

i) Islamic Trade Fairs

Urges ICDT to deepen and expand the content of its trade fairs and exhibitions by collaborating with trade promoting organs in the OIC Member States.

Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Tunisia to host the First OIC Health Expo in Tunis on 24-27 February 2011 and **urges** the OIC Member States and private sector representatives to actively participate in this Fair.

Urges the Member States to actively participate in the 13th Trade Fair of OIC Member States to be held in Sharjah, State of United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 24 to 29 April 2011.

Urges the Member States to actively participate in the 2nd Tourism Fair of OIC Member States to be held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt in 2011.

Welcomes the offers of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3rd and 4th Tourism Fairs in 2013 and 2015 respectively and requests ICDT to follow up on this matter.

Also welcomes the offer of the Republic of Iraq to organize the 16th edition of the Trade Fair of OIC Member Countries in 2017.

Requests the ICDT to prepare progress reports regularly on the trade fairs as well as the tourism fairs of OIC Member States and the other specialized exhibitions and submit them to the COMCEC Sessions and related OIC fora.

ii) Private Sector Meetings

Takes note of the 14th International Business Forum (IBF) organized by the Independent Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (MUSIAD) on 6 October 2010.

Takes note of the 2nd OIC Business Forum/13th Private Sector Meeting on the sidelines of the 37th Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in May 2010 in Tajikistan and **calls upon** the Member States, OIC and the IDB to give further consideration for economic cooperation between Central Asian Republics and the other Member States.

Welcomes the offer of the Chamber of Commerce of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the First Conference on Health Tourism of OIC Member States on 2-4 November 2010.

Takes note that the 14th Private Sector Meeting will be held in Sharjah along with the 13th Islamic Trade Fair from 22 to 24 April 2011 and the 6th Businesswomen Forum will be held in Sudan in February 2011 and **calls upon** all Member States to encourage their private sector to attend these meetings and expand their network.

Welcomes the initiatives of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on concentrating its activities on the private sector of the African region and in the area of economic empowerment of businesswomen.

Reiterates its call on the Member States to facilitate issuance of visa for business community.

Requests the ICCI to hold sector-specific Private Sector Meetings and submit a report thereon to the COMCEC Sessions.

V. Poverty Alleviation and Economic / Technical Assistance to OIC Countries

i) ISFD and SPDA

Calls upon the Member States to contribute more financial resources to ISFD to reach its capital amount of USD 10 billion.

Urges pledging Member States to fulfill their commitments to the ISFD.

Appeals to the Member States which have not done so to announce their contributions at their earliest convenience and **urges** the Member States which have announced their contributions inconsistent with their economic potential and capacity to pledge more contributions.

Calls upon all Member States, Donor Countries and International Development Agencies to mobilize resources to cover the estimated USD 8 billion gap in the SPDA between contributions by the IDB Group and the total amount of USD 12 billion proposed for the SPDA.

Urges the IDB to facilitate the processes of allocating resources of the ISFD.

Requests the IDB to submit report on the implementation status of the ISFD and SPDA regularly to the COMCEC Sessions.

ii) OIC Cotton Program

Endorses the decisions of the 4th Steering Committee Meeting and the 3rd Project Committee Meeting for the implementation of the OIC Cotton Plan of Action held in Casablanca, Morocco on 27-28 September 2010.

Urges the owner countries of the project proposals to submit an official request of finance to the IDB Group through their competent authorities.

Appeals to the IDB Group and to other concerned financial institutions to continue their support to the programme.

Invites the OIC General Secretariat, ICDT and the IDB to take new initiatives with a view of mobilizing more funds from international financial institutions in addition to IDB Group financing.

Adopts the proposal of the 4th Steering Committee on Cotton to extend the period of the OIC Five Year Cotton Plan (2007-2011) for further five years (2011-2016).

Invites the General Secretariat of the OIC, the Chairman of the Steering Committee, IDB Group and ICDT to organize meetings for evaluation of the programme as well as the 4th Project Committee and the 5th Steering Committee Meetings in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco in 2011 and report to the 27th Session of the COMCEC.

iii) Cooperation among Development Cooperation Institutions of the Member States

Welcomes the establishment of the OIC Development Cooperation Forum (OIC-DCF) by the Second Meeting of the Development Cooperation Institutions (DCIs) of the Member States held in Abu Dhabi on 3-4 May 2010.

Requests DCI's of the Member States to expand their cooperation through exchanging their experiences and joint programs in the Member States, particularly in the least developed ones.

iv) OIC-VET Program

Underlines the critical role of the National Focal Points (NFPs) for the successful implementation of the OIC-VET Programme, and **calls upon** the NFPs to pool and coordinate their efforts to the planned and ongoing pilot projects under the Programme.

Endorses the concept paper and the work plan on "OIC-VET Sub-programme on Trade, Economy and Finance (OICVET-TEF)" which was prepared by the Task Force composed of the representatives of the IDB,

SESRIC and COMCEC Coordination Office, and **requests** the task force to finalize its work for the initiation of the sub-programme in early 2011.

Takes note of the increasing number of the Member States which have already designated their NFPs for the OIC-VET, and **calls upon** the other Member States to do so.

Welcomes the OIC International Students Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP), which has been recently developed under the International Business Forum (IBF) in the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, and **calls upon** Member States to actively participate in the OIC-ISIP for promoting competitiveness of OIC economies through increasing the knowledge and skills of university students about to enter into the labour market.

Welcomes the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee of the OIC-VET in 2011.

v) Food Security Program

Takes note with appreciation the Report of the 3rd Meeting of the COMCEC Task Force on Food Security concluded on 4 October 2010.

Calls on donors within the OIC Community as well as volunteering Member States to support the implementation of high priority national programs for food security and South South Cooperation, as well as the work of the Task Force.

Thanks the Government of Turkey for organizing the High Level Officials Meeting on food security on 28-29 September 2010 in İzmir and **endorses** the recommendations contained in the Report of the Meeting.

Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Sudan to host the 5th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in Khartoum, on 26-28 October 2010 and **requests** the Member States to actively participate in this Conference.

Takes note of the workshop to be organized by ICCI and IDB in collaboration with the Government of Uganda and the Uganda Chamber of Commerce, on food security along with the Forum on Agro-Food Industries in OIC Member Countries in Kampala, Uganda in December 2010.

VI. Financial Cooperation among the OIC Member States

i) Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges

Takes note of the recommendations of the 4th Stock Exchanges Forum Meeting held on 2-3 October 2010 in İstanbul.

Welcomes the progress achieved in the cooperation among Stock Exchanges of OIC Member States and **requests** the Stock Exchanges to coordinate their cooperation activities.

Recalling the decision of the 25th Session of the COMCEC to develop a cooperation mechanism for Capital Markets' Regulatory Bodies of the Member States, **welcomes** the offer of Turkey to organize a meeting in 2011 with the participation of Capital Markets Regulatory Bodies of the Member States.

ii) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities

Takes note of the recommendations of the 10th Governors of Central Banks Meeting held on 26-27 September 2010 in İstanbul and **requests** the Central Banks to coordinate their cooperation activities.

VII. Exchange of Views

i) Agriculture and Rural Development

Takes note of the report of the Workshop on Agriculture and Rural Development successfully organized by IDB and SESRIC on 16-18 September 2010 in Antalya, and **calls upon** the Member States in cooperation with the concerned partners to benefit from its recommendations in their efforts for agriculture and rural development.

Draws attention to the successful experiences that were specified at the Workshop on Agriculture and Rural Development and **calls upon** Member States, in collaboration with regional as well as international partners, to study the feasibility of replication in their countries. It **also calls upon** the Member States to study the feasibility of the projects through the establishment of partnerships.

ii) Theme of the next Exchange of Views Session

Decides on “The Impact of Transportation Networks on Trade and Tourism” as the theme for the Exchange of Views at the 27th Session of the COMCEC and **requests** the SESRIC, in association with the IDB, the OIC General Secretariat, relevant OIC institutions and other related international organizations to organize a workshop on this topic prior to the 27th Session of the COMCEC and to submit its report to the said COMCEC Session.

VIII. Development of the OIC Halal Food Standards and Procedures

Takes note of the Report of the 10th Meeting of the Standardization Expert Group (SEG), para 65 of the 25th Session of the COMCEC, resolution No: 5/37-E/4-5 of 37th CFM/OIC.

Takes note as non-binding reference documents the “OIC General Guidelines on Halal Food”; "Guidelines for Bodies Providing Halal Certification"; and "Guidelines for the Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Halal Certification Bodies".

Any further discussion on this topic will be based on these documents.

IX. E-government Applications and Their Economic Impact on the OIC Member States

Takes note of the report presented by SESRIC on “E-Government Development and E-Participation: The Performance of the OIC Member Countries” and the recommendations made by the Member States at the "International Conference on e-Government: Sharing Experiences" (eGOVsharE2009).

Requests SESRIC to develop and manage an e-Government Information Sharing Platform within the framework to be decided by the E-Government Working Group (eGovWG).

X. Date of the 27th Session of the COMCEC

Decides that the 27th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 10-12 May 2011 and the 27th Session of the COMCEC will be held in Istanbul on 17-20 October 2011.

Any Other Business

Welcomes the entry into force of the Statute of the Standard and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in May 2010 and the establishment of SMIIC on 2 August 2010 and **requests** the Member States which have not signed and ratified the Statute of SMIIC to do so.

i) Renewal of the Bureau Members

Agrees on the new composition of the General Assembly Bureau in accordance with the Rule-2 of the COMCEC Rules of Procedures:

1-	Republic of Turkey	:	Chairman (Permanent)
2-	State of Palestine	:	Vice-Chairman (Permanent)
3-	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	:	Vice-Chairman (Permanent)
4-	Senegal	:	Chairman of the Current Summit
5-	State of Qatar	:	Vice-Chairman (Representing the Arab Region)
6-	Republic of Kazakhstan	:	Vice-Chairman (Representing the Asian Region)
7-	Republic of Mali	:	Vice-Chairman (Representing the African Region)
8-	Islamic Republic of Pakistan	:	Rapporteur

ii) Integration of Central Asia with Other Member States and Rest of the World

Welcomes the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat and its relevant institutions to prepare OIC Special Programme for Central Asia and **calls upon**

the Member States from this region to actively cooperate with the OIC General Secretariat in devising this programme.

iii) Intra-OIC Trade Dispute Resolution Mechanism

Requests the IDB Group to prepare a study on the relevance of establishing a mechanism to settle intra-OIC trade and investment disputes considering the existing mechanisms and submit the study to the next session of the COMCEC.

ANNEX

8

Original: English

**THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE
BY H.E. PROF. EKMELEDDİN İHSANOĞLU,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF OIC,
AT THE CLOSING SESSION**

(İstanbul, 8 October 2010)

Bismillahi Arrahmani Arrahim

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies Ministers/Heads of Delegation,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamu Alaekum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu

I wish to salute Your Excellencies and distinguished delegates as the 26th Session of COMCEC draws to a close. I congratulate you on the impressive and successful outcome of this meeting, which is an indication of quality of contributions and inputs from all participants.

The various resolutions reached at this meeting would, no doubt, assist the OIC General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions in pursuing necessary actions in a timely fashion, for the realization of the objectives of greater economic welfare for our peoples and for the desired transformation of the respective economies of OIC Member States.

Your far-reaching decisions on the ways and means to achieve poverty alleviation through the additional mechanism of promoting agriculture, rural development and food security are highly commendable, practical and action-oriented. In this regard, the endorsement of the recommendation to create an OIC Framework for Agriculture Development and Food Security will certainly be pursued by the General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions with the same

attention as has hitherto been given to intra-OIC Trade, Financial Sector Reforms and Investment, Cotton Action Plan and capacity-building programmes.

We shall similarly energize our regional and international cooperation and partnerships, as we seek to take advantage of the various momentous resolutions emanating from the 26th Session of the COMCEC. In the agricultural sector, we look forward to the forthcoming 5th OIC Ministerial Meeting on Agricultural Development and Food Security in Khartoum, Sudan, on 26-28 October 2010 as a springboard for the operationalization of the outcome of this meeting.

This meeting will also be followed by a combined OIC Agro-Food Industry Development Forum and ICCI's Capacity Building Workshop in Kampala, Uganda, on 10-13 December 2010.

Finally, let me congratulate and welcome all those OIC Member-States (Qatar, Mali and Kazakhstan), which have been admitted to the reconstituted COMCEC Bureau. We will look forward to working closely with them in advancing the overall interest of our Organization.

While renewing my most sincere appreciation to the President, Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for facilitating the success of this meeting, I wish Your Excellencies and distinguished delegates safe journey as you return to your respective destinations.

I thank you all.

Wassalamu Alaekum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu.

ANNEX

9

Original: English

**CLOSING STATEMENT OF
H.E. Dr. CEVDET YILMAZ,
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
(İstanbul, 8 October 2010)**

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

We have successfully wound up the 26th Session of the COMCEC after an intensive and concerted working program. During the Session of this year, we have dealt with many crucial issues with a view to further enhance our economic and commercial cooperation.

Distinguished Delegates,

Over the last year, the global economy has struggled to recover from one of the worst crises of modern times. Although the crisis seems to be over now with relatively stable commodity prices and resurgent global economic activity, it leaves much to be desired to redress the damage caused by the crisis. I am optimistic that in coming years, the negative effects of the crisis could be minimized through appropriate policy measures.

At the Session of this year, we seized the opportunity to review the Ten-Year Program of Action, as we are already half way through. While progress made in the first half of the Program is noticeable, there is much to be done with a more cooperative spirit and stronger political commitment for the next 5 years. We have also extensively discussed the relevance and status of implementation of the “Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States of the OIC”. I would like to thank the COMCEC Coordination Office and the OIC General Secretariat for their evaluation report which provided a useful basis for our discussions. I would like to state that we need to produce more comprehensive and up to date framework of cooperation with an effective implementation mechanism which will address the current needs and requirements of our people.

As you would remember, last year, we have decided to revitalize our cooperation in the field of transportation. I believe that the Expert Group Meeting to be hosted by Turkey in 2011 will be an important beginning to explore cooperation in this important sector.

Also, the Exchange of Views Session to be held on the “Impact of Transportation Networks on Trade and Tourism” will be an ample opportunity for us to deepen our cooperation in this key sector. In this regard, I kindly request the Member States to actively participate in the preparations of the Exchange of Views Session including the Preparatory Workshop and the Expert Group Meeting to be held on this topic.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The exceptionally deep contraction of world trade in 2009 has brought difficulties to our economies. As a result, besides remarkable decrease in the global trade of OIC countries, we are also witnessing stagnation in the level of intra-OIC trade which remained around 16,6 percent for a couple of years. Obviously, we need extra stimulants to reach the 20 per cent intra-OIC target by 2015. It is therefore crucial to implement the TPS-OIC without delay. I am quite pleased that the PRETAS has already entered into force last February and with nine ratifications in Rules of Origin, we are only one step behind from the full operationalization of the TPS-OIC. I sincerely believe that one ratification is ensured shortly and the System will start functioning in 2011.

An important development regarding trade this year has been the establishment of the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries. Having reached 11 ratifications, the Standard and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries has already commenced its activities in Turkey. We believe that, the standards to be developed by this Institute will provide additional stimulus to trade among our countries.

Distinguished Delegates,

We are well aware of the fact that the private sector has a growing role in the countries' development endeavors. We need to benefit increasingly from the dynamism of the private sector in our multilateral economic and commercial relations. Within this framework, it is of great importance to make full use of trade fairs and private sector meetings which are vital platforms for expanding intra-OIC trade. We should also work harder to further encourage the

participation of private sector in economic and commercial cooperation activities. Within this context, I would like to highlight that COMCEC's determination vis-à-vis cooperation in this area will be maintained. This year, the MUSIAD International Business Forum and Fair has been a very important side event of the 26th Session of COMCEC. This activity has attracted thousands of businessmen from around the Islamic World with a common agenda, which I think serves the objective I mentioned.

We also aim to enhance financial flows among our countries. The OIC Stock Exchanges' Forum and Cooperation among the Central Banks of OIC Member Countries are all initiatives towards that end. We expect these initiatives to produce new mechanisms and instruments to strengthen our financial cooperation. Launching cooperation among the Capital Markets Regulatory Bodies of Member Countries will also contribute to our financial cooperation and enhance investment flows among us.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

Poverty is one of the most crippling problems of OIC community. Therefore, reducing poverty should always be a priority item in our agenda. I believe that the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, once it has enough resources for implementing more programs, will become an instrumental vehicle in this regard. Therefore, I would like to invite all member countries that have not done so, to contribute to this fund in commensurate with their financial capabilities.

The implementation of the Cotton Plan of Action is another important project in the area of poverty alleviation. I believe that as the project-owner member states submit their individual project proposals to the IDB through appropriate official channels, the implementation of the OIC Cotton Plan of Action will gain a new impetus. I also hope that the Steering and Project Committees will review the current program to improve cooperation in the newly extended period.

There are some other projects underway which I believe will also contribute to poverty alleviation efforts in OIC member countries. Among these, I would especially like to underline the OIC Vocational Education and Training Program, and Cooperation among the Development and Cooperation Institutes of the Member Countries. I would like to request the Member Countries once again to give necessary support to these initiatives.

Distinguished Delegates,

The theme of this year's exchange of views session is agriculture and rural development in member countries, which could be regarded as a complementary to and extension of last year's theme, "improving food security". In fact, all these issues are interrelated and their handling require a holistic approach.

Rural Development and Food Security are crucial issues of development and sustainable poverty reduction, particularly in countries where a substantial segment of population lives in rural areas. As you are all aware, more than 50 percent of the total population of the OIC lives in rural areas. Therefore, in order to alleviate poverty and enhance the welfare of our population, we must attach paramount importance to agriculture and rural development projects and programs. In this regard, I would like to call upon the Member Countries to give support to the Task Force on Food Security.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the casualties and damage caused by the flood disaster. I call upon Member Countries to give their support to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan during this emergency period.

Finally, I would like to thank all the delegates, representatives, OIC General Secretariat, Islamic Development Bank, Casablanca and Ankara Centers, and other OIC institutions and international organizations such as FAO for their invaluable contribution to the success of the meeting. I would like to express my special thanks to the staff of the COMCEC Coordination Office, the organizers, the translators and interpreters for their unfailing efforts. I hope you had a pleasant stay in Istanbul, and wish you a safe flight back home with the belief that we have cemented our cooperation further.

Thank you.

ANNEX

10

Original: English

**REPORT ON THE STRATEGY
AND PLAN OF ACTION TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC
AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AMONG THE MEMBER
STATES OF THE OIC: A CRITICAL EVALUATION**

INTRODUCTION

The 25th Session of the COMCEC, which was held in Istanbul in November 2009 has “*requested the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office to examine the relevance of the existing Plan of Action and submit a report on this matter to the 26th COMCEC Session.*” The COMCEC Economic Summit, which was held following the 25th Session of the COMCEC, has, in the Istanbul Declaration, requested the COMCEC “*to consider the relevance of the Strategy and Plan of Action in line with current needs and requirements of the OIC Member Countries and if necessary to produce a Vision Document for the COMCEC.*”

In fact, besides the mandate given by the highest decision making bodies of the OIC on the matter, the 7th Islamic Summit, having adopted the Strategy and Plan of Action, has also given a mandate to the COMCEC for the implementation and revision, whenever necessary, of the Plan of Action.

This document has been prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat. This is a document which assesses the Strategy and the Plan of Action adopted in 1994, in terms of the content of these two documents as well as their implementation.

The first part of the document evaluates the objectives, content and coverage of the Strategy and Plan of Action. It explores the extent to which the objectives address the aspirations of the OIC Community, and whether programs, modalities envisaged fulfill those objectives.

The second part focuses critically on the implementation mechanism of the Plan, as it has been conceived in the document and in practice. The 16 years period, since the adoption of the Plan, has given sufficient time to observe the effectiveness of the its implementation in a number of dimensions such as financing mechanism, institutional set-up, and member country ownership.

In the document, there is also an account of the relevance of the 10 Year-Program of Action to the Plan of Action, the extent to which objectives and policy prescriptions cited in these two documents complement each other, and how their implementation mechanism approximate.

The perspective of this study is a *critical* one aimed at assessing the performance of the Strategy and the implementation of the Plan and whether these documents properly address the current status of the OIC economic cooperation.

**PART I:
EVALUATING THE OBJECTIVES, CONTENT
AND COVERAGE OF THE PLAN OF ACTION**

A- Background Information

Matters related to economic cooperation and major economic issues of the day have been on the agenda of OIC summits and conferences since early 1970's. As economic activities of the OIC diversified and became widespread, there was a need to consolidate and systematize them in a single policy document. Within this context, the Third Islamic Summit Conference held in 1981 had adopted the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among Member States. At the same Summit, a resolution was also adopted to establish a standing committee assigned with the responsibility of coordination and follow-up all activities pertaining to economic cooperation within the framework of the OIC. The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) was established and became operational at the Fourth Islamic Summit in 1984, with an overall supervisory role in the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action.

Ten years after its inception and as a result of rapid economic and political changes that occurred in late 1980's and early 1990's, there has been a need for revising the OIC Plan of Action, with a view to defining new targets and devising new strategies. In this context, a number of expert group meetings were held to formulate a new strategy to strengthen economic cooperation among OIC member states, as well as to review and update the OIC Plan of Action in accordance with the new challenges of the time. The 9th Session of the COMCEC, held in 1993, had approved the "Strategy to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among OIC Member Countries" (hereafter referred to as the Strategy), and agreed to update the 1981 Plan of Action in the light of past experiences of the OIC and new global realities.¹ The new Plan of Action has been approved by the next COMCEC Session in 1994² and adopted by the 7th Islamic Summit held in December 1994³. The Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States of the OIC (hereafter referred to as the Plan) was prepared in the light of the Strategy and constituted an integral part of it.

¹ Report and Resolutions of the Ninth Session of the COMCEC, COMCEC Coordination Office, 1993, p. 210.

² Report and Resolutions of the Tenth Session of the COMCEC, COMCEC Coordination Office, 1994, p. 141.

³ Final Communique of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, Casablanca, 13-15 December 1994, <http://www.oic-oci.org/english/conf/is/7/7th-is-summit.htm#top>.

B- The Objectives of the Strategy and the Plan

As stated above, the process of preparing these two documents, namely the Strategy and the Plan took place on separate basis which in turn resulted in a complex relationship between their objectives. Normally, the Strategy must have defined the general course and plan objectives to be dwelt on and broadened by the Plan with more detailed objectives and commensurate actions. This has not been the case, however, as the objectives of the documents are not substantially different from each other in terms of content, breadth and depth.

The ultimate aim of the Strategy is “*to establish a more integrated OIC Community*”.⁴ Targeting a more integrated OIC Community in a document entitled strengthening economic cooperation among OIC member states normally causes some discrepancy as “integration” and “cooperation” implies different levels of economic interaction. Throughout the objectives and basic principles section of the Strategy, both concepts are being employed seemingly interchangeably. The objectives of the Strategy are intended to serve basic aspirations of the OIC Community, defined as (to have) “*a larger share in world economic activity, and a more equitable division of labor vis-à-vis the rest of the world*”.⁵ Undoubtedly, this aspiration would require substantial increase in the production capacities of Islamic countries and their shift from being mainly raw material providers for advanced economies. The objectives of the Strategy and the Plan are formulated by keeping this aspiration in mind. That’s why, along with the ambiguity of cooperation and integration, another important dimension of the Strategy and the Plan is aiming the overall economic development of the OIC Community.

Other objectives that are enumerated in the Strategy are:

- benefiting from the experience of regional and inter-regional cooperation involving the OIC member countries,
- establishing and expanding economic and technical cooperation with the (then) newly independent non-OIC Islamic countries,
- embracing all basic requirements for human development and well-being,
- facilitating diversification of trade and production of goods and services in member countries,
- adopting a realistic and gradual-phased approach and taking into account existing projects and programs in member countries,

⁴ OIC Strategy to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among OIC Member States, SESRTCIC, 1997, p. 1.

⁵ Ibid.

- narrowing the technology gap with the advanced economies,
- increasing food production,
- taking into account joint action for the protection and the preservation of the environment,
- enhancing the development of human resources,
- promoting technical cooperation among member countries,
- promoting, expanding and creating trade among the member countries, and lastly,
- encouraging member countries to focus on development of infrastructure.

It is apparent from these objectives that the Strategy goes beyond the enhancement of economic cooperation among member countries and aims to provide a framework for the overall development of member countries.

The second section of the Strategy is consisted of its modalities and mechanisms. While one may expect to find a concrete, well-defined and viable modality or mechanism in this section, it does not go beyond a mere repetition of the objectives of the Strategy. In fact, it basically provides a highly generic set of recommendations that are meant to help in achieving aforementioned objectives. These include;

- to give priority to joint projects which can be undertaken by small groups of member countries,
- to give more effective role to the private sector,
- to take into account complementarities among member countries and make use of the existing resources, skills technology and capacities,
- to encourage OIC countries for economic liberalization with a view to creating a sound environment for economic integration,
- to encourage joint investments among the member countries, to coordinate the efforts of the OIC and member countries with the aim of enabling the General Secretariat, when necessary, to organize expert group meetings,
- to include cooperation issues, activities or projects in the agenda of the Ministerial Meetings, and
- to secure full participation of member countries at required levels in the various OIC Meetings.

A closer evaluation and comparison of the objectives and modalities of the Strategy reveal that they have not been properly differentiated and there are some duplications between the two as shown in the table below:

Table 1: Examples of lack of clear differentiation between the strategy objectives and modalities

Objectives and Principles	Modalities and Mechanisms
“take into account the existing programs and projects within OIC and in member countries”	“maximum use should be made of the existing programs and projects within the OIC”
“principle of mutuality of interests for all participating countries”	“priority should be given to the identification of mutually beneficial new feasible projects”
“OIC member countries would endeavor to encourage economic liberalization with a view to creating sound economic environment for integration and benefiting more fully from the globalization process and the increasing interdependence at world level”	“OIC member countries will endeavor to encourage economic liberalization with a view to creating sound economic environment for integration and benefiting more fully from the globalization process and the increasing interdependence in the world”
“the more prominent role to be given to the private sector in the implementation of economic cooperation”	“the private sector should be given a more effective role in OIC economic cooperation activities”
“will focus on joint action to promote technical cooperation among member countries”	“priority should be given to technical cooperation within the framework of COMCEC”

The COMCEC has been mandated to undertake a periodic review of the strategy to evaluate its implementation in the light of the results achieved and to take appropriate decisions regarding future action⁶.

The Plan, on the other hand, is a complementary document to the Strategy. It has some major objectives representing a vision of what OIC cooperation should be targeting in terms of both intra-OIC achievements and the role and place of the OIC in the global economy. In its preamble, the Plan highlights six major objectives as a reflection of such a vision:

- Realizing food security,
- Realizing increased and diversified production,
- Enhancing financial flows,
- Reducing development gaps within the OIC community,
- Improving the quality of human capital and reducing the technology gap between the OIC countries and advanced economies, and lastly,
- Promoting and expanding economic cooperation among the member countries.

While the last objective aims to promote and expand economic cooperation among member countries, it goes far beyond economic cooperation and foresees a gradual integration of the economies of OIC countries with a view to setting up an Islamic Common Market⁷. This objective naturally represents a serious

⁶ Ibid, p. 8.

⁷ Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member Countries of the OIC, p. 2.

ambiguity and discrepancy as to what should the ultimate aim of the economic and commercial cooperation among OIC member countries.

On the other hand, a glimpse into the objectives of the Strategy as well as those of the Plan reveals that they neither complement nor comply but rather overlap and duplicate each other. All six major objectives of the Plan are already cited in the Strategy which makes room for further questions as to the appropriateness of their existence. This situation can be interpreted as a sign of poor planning and coordination in the preparatory phases of these documents.

C- The Structure of the Plan of Action:

The Plan consists of three parts; it starts with a preamble where objectives are introduced, goes on with its main part outlining objectives and programs of action for each sector, and ends up with the part on follow-up and implementation mechanism.

The Plan includes ten sectors and/or areas of co-operation. While some basic sectors of the 1981 Plan have been maintained, some others have been reconstituted and/or introduced to reflect realities and the global agenda of the 1990's. These sectors are food, agriculture and rural development; industry; energy and mining; foreign trade; transport and communication; tourism; money, banking and capital flows; technology and technical co-operation; human resources, development; and environment. For each sector, there are three sub-sections, the first one defines problems and issues, the second sets forth objectives, and the third outlines a program of action for the sector concerned.

The problems and issues section gives a picture of both structural and conjunctural problems faced by the OIC economies in respective sectors at the time the Plan was formulated. Then the objectives are enumerated for each sector, followed by a list of possible actions and/or activities that emphasize joint or cooperative activities and/or programs, together with national action required in support of cooperation and joint OIC action.

The heterogeneity of OIC economies and breadth of objectives might have made it even harder to define programs of action that properly address the problems and issues designated for each sector. This fact was admitted in the Plan as follows: *“Because of the encompassing nature of the sectoral objective, while the programs had to be kept indicative in nature, leaving the formulation of the specific projects to member countries; it was found neither possible nor necessary to secure a one to one correspondence between the objectives and the*

action programs”.⁸ Nevertheless, the problem of relationship between the objectives and programs of action for sectors is more serious than this and in some cases, the distinction between the objective and action program is blurred. Some examples of this matter are as follows:

Table 2: *Examples of lack of clear differentiation between the objectives and programs of action of the Plan*

Sector	Objective	Program of Action
Food, Agriculture and Rural Development	Make maximal utilization of the existing potential for food production to attain collective self-reliance and continuity of supply in food at the OIC level	Developing modalities of cooperation and joint action among member countries to promote collective self-reliance and ensure continuity of supply in food for the OIC community.
Energy and Mining	Encourage and support R&D activities within the OIC Community	Cooperation and Coordination between scientific research centers with a view to consolidate R&D capacity
Tourism	Encourage and promote extensive private sector involvement and cooperation in tourism through joint ventures	Encouraging and facilitating joint tourism ventures in the member countries by the private sector
Human Resource Development	Special emphasis to the development of basic education, integrating training in basic skills into the curricula.	Development of integrated multidimensional programs on basic education and training in the OIC member countries.

D- Setting Measurable Targets, Time Frame and Priorities:

The plans naturally include some measurable targets and a time-frame within which those targets are expected to be met. Since each and every target cannot be realized simultaneously, there has to be a prioritization among these targets. The Plan, however, refrains from setting quantitative targets, determining a time frame, and prioritizing objectives.

The absence of quantitative and/or specific targets and objectives in the Plan is explained as follows: *“Since this document (the Plan) is addressed to the realization of the collective aspirations of a large number of member countries, with different levels of development and differing priorities at the national level, it was not found possible or feasible to set for it specific quantitative and temporal targets and objectives similar to those that would normally be found in a typical national development plan”*.⁹ However, the lack of specific quantitative targets and objectives constitutes one of the basic problems relating to slow progress the implementation of the Plan.

⁸ Ibid, p. 3.

⁹ Ibid, p. 1.

It may be understandable to not put specific targets and time frames, and rather setting a number of general and sector-specific objectives, given the extremely heterogeneous nature of the OIC community. On the other hand, these objectives are so broad, widespread and generic that they are rather difficult to achieve.

Another important shortage of the Plan is that there is no distinction between short, medium and long term objectives, which gives an impression that all the objectives set forth in the Plan are to be realized in an unknown future once and for all. This represents another divergence from the basic concept of planning, as plans by definition, cannot be open-ended and timeless. Setting a time frame within which planned actions are expected to be taken and concluded, is a basic condition for effective implementation and follow-up.

Priority-setting is another crucial step in drawing up a plan, thus forming the very basis of the concept of planning. The already scarce resources available can be rationally allocated amongst different needs only by assessing them in accordance with a set of criteria to determine priorities. Trying to realize all of the objectives of the Plan at the same time would naturally result a total failure in all objectives. Therefore, the absence of a criterion or process by which different objectives can be prioritized is another major shortage of the Plan. The Plan has left this issue to the implementation process. In practice, however, contrary to what has been said in the Plan, the expert group meetings were not held on a priority basis due mainly to absence of prioritization.

The developmental focus of the Plan and spreading the cooperation to a wide range of areas rather than intensifying efforts on and consolidating all the objectives around a single practical theme such as trade were main reasons of the Plan's inability to set specific time-frames and quantitative targets for achieving its objectives, especially given the extremely heterogeneous nature of OIC economies.

Although the Plan has originally foreseen 10 sectors of cooperation without prioritization, in practice, the sectoral progress of OIC economic cooperation has been uneven. An indication of this case can be found in the most recent report prepared by the OIC General Secretariat on the review of the Plan of Action, wherein six areas of cooperation were being mentioned. These were; trade, finance, agriculture, transportation, tourism and poverty alleviation¹⁰. The level

¹⁰ Background Report of the Implementation of the OIC ten Year Program of Action and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States, submitted by the OIC General Secretariat to the 26th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC, May 2010.

of cooperation in the fields of industry, energy, human development, technology, and environment lagged far behind other sectors. Eventually there has been a prioritization, but the distinction between the sectors of cooperation has been natural, rather than intentional.

E- Coordination and Review:

Both the Strategy and the Plan assigns the COMCEC as the appropriate body to review and evaluate their implementation. During the annual sessions of the COMCEC, the progress recorded within the context of the Plan would be reviewed under a permanent agenda item entitled “review of the implementation of the Plan of Action”¹¹. In practice, however, this modality was proved ineffective in providing a sustained monitoring mechanism and what basically discussed under that agenda item was the reporting of meetings held within the context of the Plan. As the scope of OIC activities was expanded, some cooperation projects that were either unrelated to or not mentioned in the Plan were also to be reviewed under this agenda item¹².

After the adoption of the OIC Ten Year Program of Action in December 2005, the developments with regard to the Plan and the Program have started to be reviewed under a single agenda item during annual COMCEC Sessions. The result of this practice has been further negligence and outdateding of the Plan.

The Plan also does not give a place to OIC institutions and what measures should be taken in order to make maximum use of their existing experience as well as of human and institutional capacities.

Another important issue that hinders progress in implementation of the Plan is that the Plan does not assign the follow-up task to any institution that has the ability of take up this mission. The Strategy¹³ and the Plan¹⁴ assign the COMCEC as the appropriate platform to follow-up, review and evaluate their implementation. COMCEC meetings are held annually with an extensive agenda with the participation of member countries in addition to subsidiary, affiliated and specialized OIC institutions. Within this state of affairs, an effective review mechanism has not been established, and an institutional ownership could not be developed.

¹¹ Ibid, p. 33.

¹² The cooperation initiatives such as OIC stock exchanges forum, cotton action plan, development of halal food standards, and various poverty alleviation programs (SPDA, ISFD) were neither cited in the Plan nor launched in accordance with the methodology prescribed in the Plan.

¹³ The Strategy, p. 8.

¹⁴ The Plan, p. 33.

F- Responsiveness of the Plan to the Possible Challenges:

The Plan naturally reflects the problems and challenges of the time of its formulation. While it makes mention of some serious problems of especially LDC countries such as droughts, natural disasters and global warming, the Plan does not go beyond aiming to develop measures to contain the adverse effects of such phenomena. It also does not put forward a mechanism or modality as to how to handle such crises when they occur or how the OIC community should respond to them.

Global economic and financial crises are also among issues that were not properly addressed in the Plan. Under the heading of money, banking and finance, the most highlighted problem is the heavy debt burden which then crippled the majority of the OIC countries and was a characteristic problem of late 80's and early 90's. The Plan naturally could not foresee the occurrence of major financial and economic crises such as the 1997 Asian economic crisis and the global economic meltdown of 2008-2009. Therefore it does not include appropriate measures to mitigate negative effects of these crises such as the establishment of a contingency fund, etc.

Subsequent food, energy, and economic crises of 2008-2009 have had considerable effects on OIC economies. While the rise in food and energy prices have positively affected food and oil exporting member countries, it had catastrophic effects on net food importers and food insecure member countries, specifically the LDC's. The most recent global economic crisis has also negatively affected most, if not all, member countries in varying degrees. All these developments have been touched upon during annual COMCEC Meetings. Furthermore, a number of workshops and expert group meetings were held with a view to address these issues. However, all these initiatives were realized on short notice and have remained mainly consultative in nature.

The Plan recognizes the different levels of economic development of the member countries and determines to reduce the development gaps that exist within the OIC community as one of its major objectives. The Strategy also points out to the special problems of the least developed, land-locked and/or Sahelian member countries. Although these problems have been identified by the Plan and their mitigation, if not solution, has been emphasized as a major objective, there are no mechanisms or action plans that are aimed to that end. The Plan puts forward the same objectives and action plans for both least developed and high-income member countries, and thus seemingly adopts a one-size-fits-all approach.

PART II:
EVALUATING THE FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION
MECHANISM OF THE OIC PLAN OF ACTION

A- Implementation Mechanism

Fulfillment of the objectives designated by the OIC Strategy and the Plan of Action requires an effective implementation and follow-up mechanism. In the original Plan of Action Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) constitute the main instrument of the implementation mechanism which would start with an inter-Sectoral Expert Group Meeting that would cover ten priority areas of the Plan and then in each of these areas Expert Group Meetings would be held, as shown in the Appendix 1.

In the EGMs, experts from the member countries would discuss rudiments of each sector and review the requirements for action with a view to generating project proposals. Following identification of specific project proposals in the course of Expert Group Meetings, for each proposal, a “Project Committee” composed of all interested Member States, would be formed under the chairmanship of the country originally proposing the project. This Project Committee would be responsible for arranging all activities for the implementation of the project concerned.

With a view to ensuring coordination between related sectors of the Plan, the inter-sectoral EGMs would report to the COMCEC through its Follow-up Committee. If and when need arises to review the progress achieved at the level of EGMs and Project Committees, Ministerial Meetings would be held, either separately or concurrently with the annual sessions of the COMCEC.

In 2003, with the adoption of a supplementary mechanism as an addition to the one already in place, the Sessional Committee has also become part of the implementation mechanism by regularly bringing together the OIC institutions to evaluate projects proposed under the Plan of Action.

B- Implementation Mechanism in Practice

Since the inception of the Plan of Action in 1994, project proposals have been submitted to the COMCEC Sessions via the instruments envisaged in the Plan of

Action and the Supplementary Mechanism. As can be seen in Appendix 2, member states occasionally raise project proposals directly to the COMCEC sessions and similarly some project ideas were directly brought to the COMCEC from the OIC Summits.

In practice, the inter-sectoral EGMs, EGMs, project committees and ministerial meetings have not been convened as envisaged in the Plan of Action. Although the Plan envisages that the implementation process starts with the holding of an inter-sectoral expert group meeting, no inter-sectoral EGM was held so far.

Uneven progress in the 10 priority areas/sectors of the Plan has shown itself in the number of Ministerial Meetings. While more than one ministerial meeting have been held in some sectors such as tourism, no such meetings could be held in other sectors such as energy.¹⁵

In terms of the sectoral expert group meetings (EGMs) to date, only in 5 out of 10 priority areas EGMs have been held. These were; Expert Group Meeting on Money, Finance and Capital Flows in Istanbul (Turkey) from 1-3 September 1997; Expert Group Meeting on Foreign Trade Facilitation of the OIC Member States in Karachi (Pakistan) from 24-25 October 1997; Expert Group Meeting on Technology and Technical Cooperation in Istanbul (Turkey) from 6-8 May 1998; Expert Group Meeting on Tourism in Tehran from 11-14 July 2005 and finally Expert Group Meeting on Cotton¹⁶ held in Jeddah from 22-23 March 2005.¹⁷

During the first three EGMs, 40 projects were proposed. The table below illustrates figures concerning the number of proposals, proposing states and institutions, and interested countries by 2004. Of the 57 member states, only 4 proposed projects and 5 showed interest in the given projects. Lack of diversity in terms of proposing and interested states has revealed the problem of ownership by the member states.

Figures of 2010 given in the table below demonstrate that while the number of the interested member states increased, the diversity of the member states proposing projects is still limited. In addition, the member states expressing interest in project proposals have not contributed actively to their realization and their interests have been mostly concentrated on a small number of projects.¹⁸

¹⁵ See Appendix 3: EGMs and Ministerial Meetings since the Inception of the Plan of Action

¹⁶ In the OIC Cotton program the mechanism used was not identical with the implementation mechanism envisaged by the Plan of Action.

¹⁷ See Appendix 3: EGMs and Ministerial Meetings since the Inception of the Plan of Action

¹⁸ See Appendix 5: *Project Proposals List (as of 2010)*

Moreover, Project Committees have been established so far for only four Project Proposals, namely “Technical Cooperation among the Patent Offices in the OIC Member States”, “Creation of a Network of Cross Border Parks and Reserves in West Africa” and “Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Line Project” and “OIC Cotton Program”¹⁹.

Table 3: Main Figures on Project Proposals (2004 - 2010)

<i>Number/Year</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2010</i>
<i>Project Proposals</i>	40	9
<i>Proposing States</i>	4	3
<i>Proposing OIC Institutions*</i>	3	2
<i>Interested States</i>	5	23

Note: Detailed information on Project Proposals Lists in 2004 and 2010 is available in Appendix 4 and 5 respectively.

Slow progress in the implementation of the Plan has necessitated introduction of some amendments to the implementation mechanism.

C- Amendments to the Implementation Mechanism

In line with the resolutions of the 16th Session of the COMCEC, an Expert Group Meeting for Accelerating the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Economic and Commercial Co-operation was held in May 2001 and COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) was requested by the 17th Session of the COMCEC to develop an appropriate mechanism for the implementation of recommendations made by aforementioned EGM.

The supplementary mechanism, proposed by the CCO and endorsed at the 19th Session of the COMCEC, envisages more active involvement of the concerned OIC institutions in the implementation process. This mechanism is seen as an

¹⁹ A Project Committee for the OIC Cotton Program was also established. However, the mechanism in this program is different from the mechanism envisaged by the Plan of Action. Plan of Action suggests that for each Project proposal a Project Committee will be established but in the OIC Cotton Program only one Project Committee was established in order to evaluate and approve the project proposals related to cotton and submit them to the Steering Committee.

addition to the already existing one rather than replacing or nullifying it. Being so, it proposes that the tasks and functions of the sectoral expert group meetings and the project committees be carried out and shared with the concerned OIC institutions, to the extent possible.

The supplementary mechanism thus activates the Sessional Committee as a platform facilitating active involvement of the OIC institutions, where cooperation proposals are reviewed or evaluated. In this mechanism, project proposals are prepared in accordance with the project profile form adopted with the supplementary mechanism in order to ensure the development of an identical format for all the project proposals. The supplementary mechanism also includes the assignment of “coordinator OIC institutions” for each COMCEC projects.

Furthermore, it introduces the project cycle management (PCM) concept which provides a consistent approach for all stages of the project cycle to ensure a comprehensive overview of projects²⁰. It was thought that this approach would enhance feasibility, relevance, and sustainability of projects and programs within the OIC Plan of Action²¹. It was also expected that PCM system would help the concerned OIC institutions to better manage their respective tasks and assignments.

Finally, supplementary mechanism stresses the vitality of adequate and stable financial resources for funding the projects and thus invites the concerned OIC institutions to consider a financial mechanism for the implementation of the projects.

D- Have Amendments Addressed the Shortcomings?

Though the shortcomings of the previous system (such as lack of an implementation mechanism including active involvement of OIC member states and institutions, and financing mechanisms) are identified accurately by the supplementary mechanism, the problems remained unsolved.

The Sessional Committee, composed mainly of OIC institutions, was assigned to review and evaluate the projects. In line with this new mandate, in its 5th Meeting held during the 20th Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC in May 2004, the Sessional Committee reviewed the original 40 project proposals²² and

²⁰ 19th COMCEC Report, Supplementary Mechanism, p.215-216.

²¹ Ibid.

²² See Appendix 6: Project Proposals by 2004

deleted 20 of them from the list due to their earlier realization²³ or lack of interest by the member states. It also assigned the concerned OIC institutions as coordinators of some of the projects.²⁴ After the deletion of some projects or addition of new ones, the current list given in Appendix 7, was shaped by the 16th Meeting of the Sessional Committee in May 2010.²⁵

Despite the introduction of the PCM approach by the Supplementary Mechanism, it has not brought the expected results in practice, due mainly to the fact that the Sessional Committee could not undertake its task mentioned above adequately, as most of the OIC institutions that form the Sessional Committee do not have a separate project evaluation unit with the necessary expertise.

Moreover, while addressing the need for an effective financing mechanism, the supplementary mechanism failed to propose one for the realization of the COMCEC projects.

To sum up, besides its contributions to implementation mechanism by bringing in the OIC institutions, supplementary mechanism failed to provide the expected dynamism to the implementation process. The result has been the same with the previous implementation mechanism: from the projects proposals made so far, almost none of them has been put into practice.

E- Constant Setbacks of the Implementation Mechanism

Despite efforts made so far, implementation of the Plan of Action is still limited. It is possible to identify some constant setbacks of the implementation mechanism. These setbacks can be enumerated as follows:

i) Lack of an Effective Institutional Set-Up

One of the main challenges of the Plan of Action was the lack of an effective institutional set up. The following were the main shortcomings in this regard:

First; the Plan of Action does not assign any institution which would be responsible for its implementation and follow up.

²³ For example: the Project entitled as “Islamic Finance Corporation under the Auspices of the IDB” was deleted due to its early realization.

²⁴ The 6th Sessional Committee Meeting which was held during the 20th Session of the COMCEC in November 2004.

²⁵ 16th Sessional Committee Meeting was held during the 26th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee in 2010

Secondly; in the Plan of Action, the link between the OIC institutions and the implementation mechanism could not be established. It does not involve a coordination mechanism which would define the roles of the OIC institutions for the realization or implementation of the Plan. It does not even mention the OIC institutions.

Thirdly, in its original version, before the introduction of the supplementary mechanism, it envisaged the EGMs and inter-sectoral EGMs as the main instruments for the installation of cooperation ideas/projects; however, it has not clearly sorted out what would be the subsequent stages for the effectuation of the projects. In addition, it failed to establish a connection between these EGMs and the OIC institutions.

Similarly, the introduction of the supplementary mechanism did not bring solution to the institutional set-up problem. With the supplementary mechanism, Sessional Committee has been authorized to “[review] and evaluate cooperation projects within the scope of the Plan of Action, in terms of priority, feasibility, financing, and assignment of a coordinator to implement project proposals” and submit “the reviewed and evaluated project proposals to the COMCEC for approval and guidance.”²⁶ As can be seen from the new mandate, the Sessional Committee’s main function has remained limited to review and evaluate the projects. In other words, the Sessional Committee is just responsible for the projects; however, there is still no institutional framework which would define the responsible institutions and their roles for the implementation of the whole Plan of Action.

ii) Lack of Ownership by the Member States

The limited number of EGMs arranged so far is largely due to the difficulty in securing host member countries and delays in getting the already designated host countries to convene the EGMs they offered. This situation illustrates the ownership problem.

Examining the already organized EGMs denotes that besides lack of interest in attending the EGMs, the delegations attending these EGMs were not composed of well informed and technically qualified people. The project proposals were also problematic in the sense that rather than being concrete proposals, they were mere cooperation ideas, generally based on national priorities and actually maintain no

²⁶ Rules of Procedure of the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC for Conducting Activities in Implementation Process of the OIC Plan of Action, Article 4.

regional or multilateral dimensions. It is already mentioned that only limited number of states showed interest in the project proposals. However, even their interests/responses are far from being clear-cut expression of commitment²⁷.

Since adoption of the Plan of Action, although all meetings of the COMCEC, the Islamic Summit Conferences and the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers appealed to the Member States to host sectoral Expert Group Meetings, member states were not prompt in so doing. The Plan of Action does not establish a mechanism to nurture interest of member states.

iii) Lack of a Financing Mechanism

The absence of a well-defined financing mechanism constitutes another setback concerning the implementation mechanism. Although the Plan stresses the importance of financing in a number of sections²⁸, it has not developed a financial framework. The supplementary mechanism, which was an amendment to the Plan, also identifies the problem; however, it does not propose a solution.

It is obvious that devising a financing mechanism for the implementation process is very crucial. Due to the absence of a financial mechanism, some projects in which remarkable progress has been achieved came into deadlock. OIC Cotton Program is an example of this situation. Although the project committee has evaluated and adopted a set of projects and applied to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for funding, the IDB requested each project owner country to submit a separate financial application.²⁹ In other words, due to the absence of a well defined financial mechanism in the Plan of Action, the IDB naturally applied its own methods on bilateral basis to fund the projects. Moreover, in general, there is a tendency to expect the IDB to finance all cooperation projects. However, the resources that the IDB can allocate also have its limits. Rather than relying on a single source, it is important to diversify financing resources and tools in order to accelerate the fulfillment of the projects.

In the absence of adequate and stable funding resources for the projects, it would not be possible to make any progress towards their implementation.

²⁷ Report on the Review of the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action, submitted to the 16th Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC, May 2000.

²⁸ For instance in provision (e) of the Mechanism of Follow-up and Implementation it is stated that *“Involvement of the financing institutions in this process, preferably from the very beginning, would be instrumental in overcoming the chronic problem of finance in the implementation of agreed projects or activities, a problem that impeded OIC joint action in the past”*

²⁹ Another example of this situation can be seen in the project entitled “Sustainable Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa.” Similarly, IDB requested each interested state to apply for funding separately.

iv) Lack of an Effective Project Cycle Management

While the Project Cycle Management was introduced with the supplementary mechanism, in practice, it was not used in the project processes from the preparation to implementation or evaluation of the projects.

At the beginning, it was expected that the Project Cycle Management, which consists of programming, identification, formulation, financing, implementation, and evaluation stages, would facilitate the effective implementation and early realization of the projects due to its systematic framework in which the next step in the cycle is clear / definite.

In practice, however, beginning from preparation to implementation stages of the projects, the project processes were not compatible with the PCM approach. One reason is that the supplementary mechanism does not clearly define which body or institution would take the responsibility of checking the compatibility of practices in the project processes with the PCM stages. It also does not clearly explain the roles and responsibilities of the OIC institutions in terms of the realization of the COMCEC projects in accordance with the PCM logic. Moreover, the composition or qualification of the Sessional Committee has not been fitting to work as a technical committee with the PCM approach. Therefore, the PCM logic has not been put into practice by the OIC institutions in their review or the evaluation of the projects.

To sum up, lack of effective implementation mechanism has been one of the most important obstacles for the realization of the targets set in the Plan. Concerning the implementation mechanism, main shortcomings have originated from the lack of an effective institutional set up, ownership by the member states to the projects, a financing mechanism, and finally, an effective project cycle management.

**PART III:
THE TEN-YEAR PROGRAM OF ACTION AND THE PLAN OF ACTION**

A- The Relationship of the Ten-Year Program of Action to the Plan of Action

The section of the Ten-Year Program of Action (TYPOA) on economic issues is short and not very strongly related to the Plan of Action.

The Ten Year Program of Action (TYPO) was adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held on 7-8 December, 2005. The TYPO document is a comprehensive program covering almost all issues on the agenda of the OIC as well as introducing new ones; such as countering Islamophobia, combating extremism, the rights of muslim minorities and communities, alleviating poverty in conflict-affected areas of the Islamic world, enhancing economic cooperation, and tackling the problem of illiteracy. The Program has been developed “...in order to take practical steps towards strengthening the bonds of Islamic solidarity, achieving unity of ranks, and project the true image and noble values of Islam and its civilizational approaches”.³⁰ The TYPOA has also given emphasis to higher education, science and technology, rights of women, youth and children, and the family in the Muslim world. Nevertheless, economic cooperation is only one of these varied issues in the Program, and thus is short from being elaborate enough to cover the potential and work present in the Islamic forums in this field.

The relatively short account by the TYPOA of the economic issues is observed in the way it has been related to the Plan of Action. Under the heading “Development, Socio-Economic and Scientific Issues,” there is subtitle “Economic Cooperation” which has its first paragraph as follows: “*Call upon the member states ... to implement the provisions of the relevant OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States.*”³¹ There is not any other reference to the Plan of Action which is the main document setting out the strategy and framework of economic cooperation for the OIC. The remaining part on economic cooperation in the TYPOA has almost no reference to the sectors of cooperation in the Plan of Action, excluding trade and environment.

³⁰ Makkah Summit: New Vision to Meet the Challenges of the Twenty First Century, The Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, 5-7 December, 2005, p. 17.

³¹ Ibid., p.24.

The absence of a clear statement as to how the TYPOA is related to the Plan of Action has created an ambiguity regarding how the two documents should concurrently be used as reference for cooperation, how the emerging issues of cooperation should be integrated, and in what format the TYPOA should be implemented. The absence of a financing mechanism in the Plan of Action, as elaborated in previous parts, has persisted in the TYPOA as well. Accordingly, the follow-up of the activities of the TYPOA and the Plan of Action has been somewhat problematic reflecting a mix of the two.

B- The TYPOA and the Implementation Mechanism

The TYPOA has a section on the “Reform of the OIC” with the aim of promoting its role, reactivating its institutions and empowering the Secretary General to enable him to carry out the tasks assigned to him, etc. The Program also announces the creation of an Executive Body comprising of the Summit and Ministerial Troikas, the OIC host country, and the General Secretariat for the follow-up of resolutions³².

Nevertheless, the TYPOA has not envisaged any specific implementation mechanism for economic cooperation as well as any other fields of cooperation. This fact, by implication, refers the implementation of the TYPOA in the economic field to the Plan of Action implementation mechanism that was discussed in the previous part. In practice, the existing mechanism of the Plan of Action, and the institutions operating in the economic field have been utilized. For instance, efforts for achieving the target of increasing the intra-OIC trade to 20 percent by the COMCEC and the relevant OIC institutions already in charge of trade promotion activities. Supporting the member countries aiming to accede the WTO has been an ongoing activity by the relevant OIC institutions and they have continued to do so since the inception of the TYPOA. Creation of a special fund for poverty alleviation (ISFD) and a special program for addressing economic and social development needs of Africa does not really correspond to a new implementation mechanism as they both rely on the existing institutions (IDB and other OIC institutions) operating in the modality that they have been used to. Thus, one can argue, the TYPOA has not envisaged a new implementation mechanism, but relied on the existing one as described in the Plan of Action, and the institutional set-up operating in the economic field.

The reporting of the activities under the TYPOA is made under the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC, the COMCEC Ministerial and various coordination

³² Ibid., p.23.

meetings being held among the OIC institutions. Furthermore, the monitoring, follow-up and assessment of the performance regarding the TYPOA are problematic since the performance criteria are missing as in the case of the Plan of Action. The only exception, perhaps, is the 20 percent target set for the intra-OIC trade. However, even for this specific target, the modality with which this achievement will be materialized is not enunciated.

CONCLUSION: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PLAN OF ACTION AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION (MAIN FINDINGS)

The previous parts have demonstrated the problems in the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among the OIC member countries, and have given sufficient evidence to consider revising these documents.

A- Assessment of the Plan

The content analyses of the Strategy and the Plan documents reveal some discrepancies in terms of the objectives. Promoting and expanding cooperation among the member countries seems to be a frequently stated objective. However, gradual establishment of a common market is also among the objectives of the Plan document. Thus, according to the Plan, the ultimate aim remains ambiguous since while the OIC appears to be pursuing economic cooperation on the one hand, it is on the other hand extending its vision to cover gradual integration of OIC member countries with a view to setting up a common market.

The Plan, in its objectives, overall and sectoral, reflects a *developmentalist* approach, i.e. claims to meet the economic and social development needs of the very diverse member countries on a wide range of sectors. Given the depth of multilateral cooperation among the OIC countries, the low degree of capacity in the OIC institutions, and the immense amount of institutional and material resources needed for the realization of such a vision in a very diverse membership profile is the impediment for building a practical and realistic model of cooperation.

Regarding the structure and the sectors of the Plan, while there is no explanation for why these ten sectors have been chosen, there is also lack of clarity of the link between the problems and issues stated for each sector and the objectives and the programs of action proposed. Written with the aim of being “*a policy document with detailed indicative action programmes to serve as an operational*

complement of the Strategy,”³³ the Plan, nevertheless, lacks specific targets, time-tables and priorities for the sectors listed. The heterogeneity of the member countries’ development needs is given as reason for this. Thus, with the absence of short, medium and long term time-frames, measurable indicators and priorities, the objectives remain broadly defined, generic and devoid of any measure of performance. With these characteristics, the Plan in fact diverges considerably from the concept of “a plan.”

Another conceptual problem is lack of clear differentiation between the objectives and programs of action under the Plan’s sectors where, in most cases, programs of actions are mere repetition of the objectives. Furthermore, there seems to be duplication between the objectives of the Strategy and the objectives of the Plan of Action. Normally, the Plan objectives should be an elaboration of the objectives outlined in the Strategy document.

Some 22 member countries of the OIC are LDCs suffering from adverse effects of poverty, natural disasters, and social crises such as refugee problems. The Plan recognizes the special problems of the least developed, land-locked and Sahelian countries. However, it does not propose a specific mechanism to engage with the problems of these countries. The ten sectors of cooperation are not tailored to differentiate the needs of these countries from the rest of the members.

How the OIC Community can deal with the crises of a global nature such as financial, economic, environmental, etc., is also not addressed in the Plan. There have been reports produced and meetings held in the OIC forums which have remained consultative in nature.

The Strategy and the Plan of Action mention the COMCEC as the forum where the review and evaluation of their implementation would be undertaken. However, no specific OIC institution is designated as the authority for the implementation of the Strategy and the Plan. Given the fact that there are a number of OIC institutions in the area of economic and commercial cooperation determination of this assignment was very crucial.

B- Assessment of the Implementation Mechanism

The implementation mechanism proposed in the Plan is far from addressing the objectives laid out. As envisaged in the Plan, the EGMs, project committees, and Ministerial Meetings to be convened and hosted by the member countries

³³ Plan of Action, Preamble, p. 1.

constitute the framework of implementation. The OIC institutions, while given a role through the Sessional Committee, are still not as effective in the implementation mechanism as envisaged in the *Supplementary Mechanism*, adopted in 2003, in the 19th COMCEC. Furthermore, the involvement of the private sector and the financing institutions, as envisaged in the Plan, does not figure in the implementation mechanism.

In practice, almost no projects / cooperation schemes proposed under the Plan have come to fruition by the time of drafting this report. This has been partly due to the weaknesses in the Plan's concept and organization, and mostly due to the implementation mechanism proposed. The problems in the organization of the Plan were already discussed. The implementation mechanism has been analyzed in the previous part in a number of dimensions:

First, the EGMs, project committees and Ministerial Meetings have not been convened as predicted. Sectoral EGMs were held in only five of the sectors in the Plan since 1994. The number of project committees established was limited under the Plan sectors, and the Ministerial Meetings were far behind the expectations. Second, both the number of projects proposed and the number of countries proposing or showing interest in the projects have been too low. Third, despite the activation of the Sessional Committee and the increased role of the OIC institutions in the implementation mechanism and out of the very limited number of projects that have been carried out to this date, almost none has been realized.

Some of the shortcomings of the previous system such as lack of an implementation mechanism including active involvement of OIC member states and institutions, and financing mechanisms, were partly addressed by the adoption of some amendments during the 19th COMCEC Session, following a review of the implementation of the Plan of Action. In the "supplementary mechanism" adopted, the OIC institutions were given a role in project evaluation of the projects proposed under the Plan with the activation of the Sessional Committee; while the need for creating a financial mechanism was acknowledged. The financial mechanism for the projects proposed under the Plan is yet to be realized. However, the Sessional Committee meetings are being held regularly twice a year to review the projects on its agenda, including or removing them after some evaluation.

This partial amendment has helped to bring in some contribution from the OIC institutions. However, major setbacks in the implementation mechanism such as lack of an effective institutional set-up, lack of ownership by the member states,

lack of a clear financial mechanism, and lack of an effective project cycle management have still remained unsolved. One term that may encapsulate all these setbacks is the absence of “a clearly defined institutional framework” for the Plan of Action’s implementation as well as OIC economic cooperation at large.

C- TYPOA and its Relation to the Plan of Action

It is also necessary to assess how the Ten-Year Program of Action (TYPOA), which was adopted in 2005, relates to the Plan of Action. The part of the TYPOA related to economic cooperation is short and enlists a number of selected areas already under the Plan of Action such as intra-OIC trade and environment. Emphasis on development problems of Africa is another problem stressed by the Program. The TYPOA also sets forth a new area of cooperation, poverty alleviation, and establishes a special fund for this purpose. An innovation of the TYPOA, though applied in one single area, is the quantitative target (20 percent) set for intra-OIC trade.

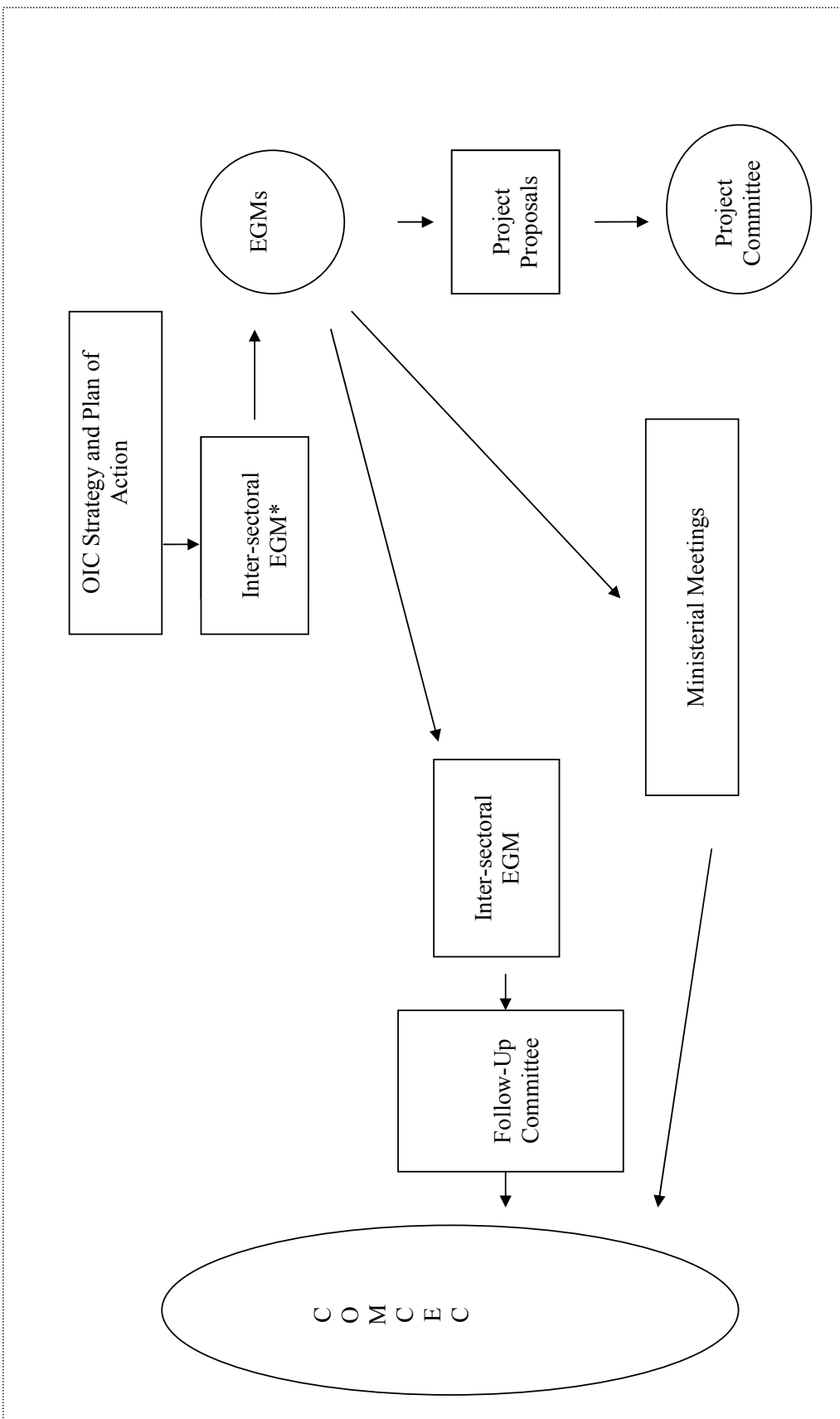
However, the TYPOA does not explain why other sectors of the Plan are not referred to, nor does it propose an entire new set of cooperation areas/sectors. The TYPOA does not propose a new implementation mechanism either. Thus, the TYPOA represents an effort, remaining in the domain of the Plan of Action, to set forth a limited number of prioritized cooperation areas with a time-frame (10 years). Yet, it has had to operate, considerably, within the implementation mechanism of the Plan of Action.

Unavoidably, the TYPOA, by not addressing the challenges faced in the Plan of Action at the outset, has been vulnerable to the setbacks of the Plan stated above. Thus, studying the Plan of Action critically will help to understand the problems faced in the TYPOA as well.

The assessment above demonstrates the need for a radical revision of the Strategy and Plan of Action and its implementation mechanism. The challenges faced in the implementation should be the starting point to re-conceptualize the OIC economic cooperation and to re-consider its institutional framework.

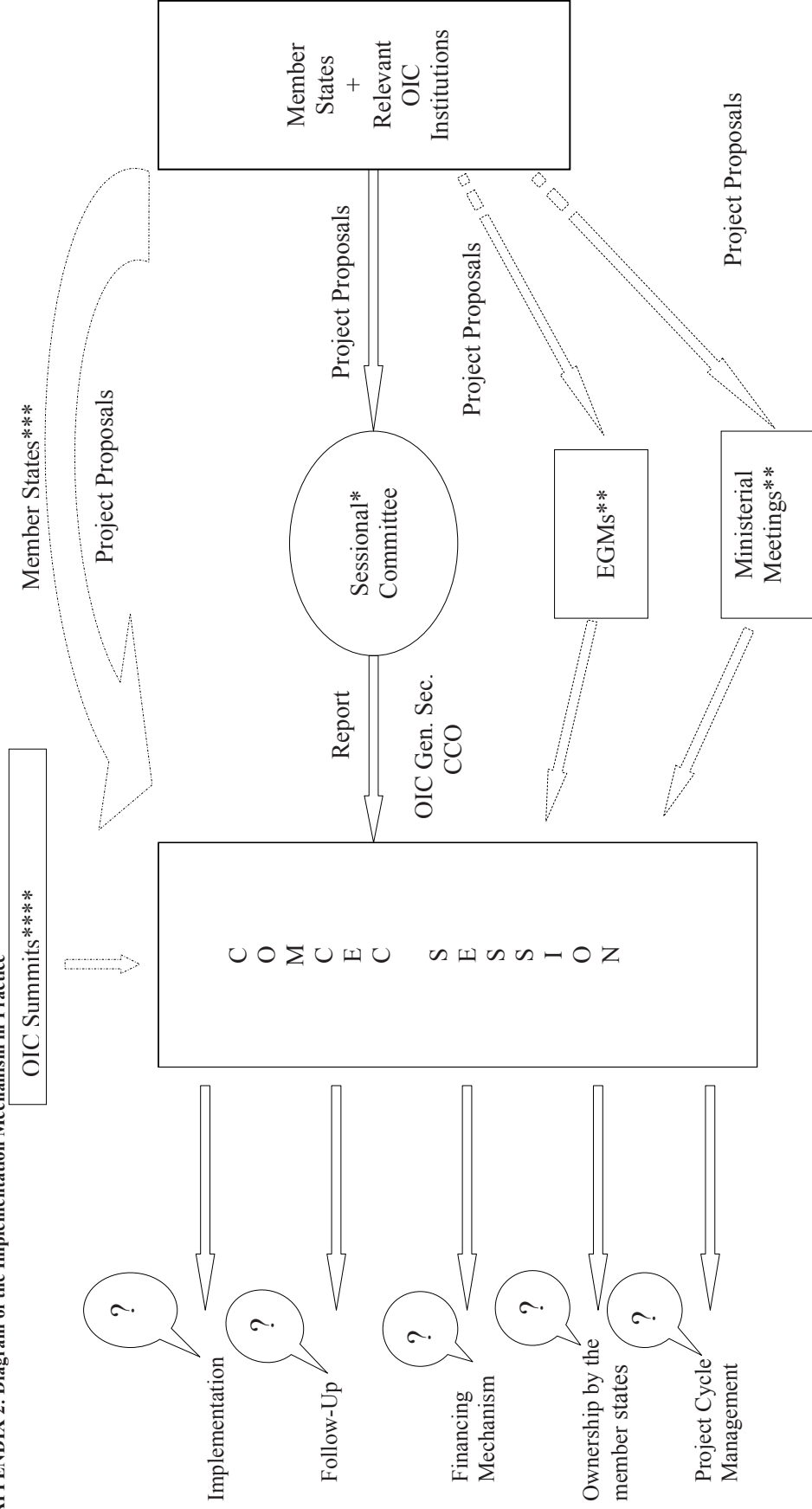
Annex 10 to OIC/COMCEC/26-10/REP

APPENDIX I: Diagram of Implementation Mechanism as Envisaged by the Plan of Action



* In order to start the implementation of the Plan, an inter-Sectoral Expert Meeting which would cover all the ten priority areas of the Plan would be arranged. However, it was found more practical to hold more than one meeting to deal with either with one area or a number of inter-related areas at a time, on priority basis, so the 11th COMCEC invited the member states to host both sectoral and inter-sectoral meetings

APPENDIX 2: Diagram of the Implementation Mechanism in Practice



* Adopted with the supplementary mechanism and mostly used method

** As envisaged in the Plan of Action.

*** Envisaged neither in the Plan of Action nor Supplementary mechanism but member states occasionally raise the project proposals directly to the COMCEC Sessions.

**** Without using PCM approach, some project ideas are directly brought to the COMCEC Sessions from the OIC Summits, for example Dakar Port Sudan Railway Line Project.

APPENDIX 3: EGMs and Ministerial Meetings since the Inception of the Plan

Expert Group Meetings		
Date	Venue	Name
<i>1-3 September 1997*</i>	<i>Istanbul</i>	<i>Expert Group Meeting on Money, Finance and Capital Flows</i>
<i>24-25 October 1997*</i>	<i>Karachi</i>	<i>Expert Group Meeting on Foreign Trade Facilitation of the OIC Member States</i>
<i>6-8 May 1998*</i>	<i>Istanbul</i>	<i>Expert Group Meeting on Technology and Technical Cooperation</i>
13-14 October 2000	Doha	Expert Group Meeting to Study the Implication of Setting up of an Islamic Common Market
6-7 May 2001	Istanbul	Expert Group Meeting on Accelerating the Implementation of the Plan of Action
26-27 March 2002	Casablanca	Expert Group Meeting to Prepare the Draft Regulations for the TF-OIC
24-26 June 2003	Casablanca	Expert Group Meeting on the Trade Preferential System
December 2003	Tehran	Expert Group Meeting on Islamic Common Market
<i>22-23 March 2005*</i>	<i>Jeddah</i>	<i>1st Expert Group Meeting on Cotton</i>
<i>11-14 July 2005*</i>	<i>Tehran</i>	<i>1st Expert Group Meeting on Tourism</i>
28-30 March 2006	Izmir	2 nd Expert Group Meeting on Cotton
9-12 October 2006	Antalya	3 rd Expert Group Meeting on Cotton
9-11 May 2007	Istanbul	2 nd Expert Group Meeting on Tourism
5-6 July 2008	Ankara	Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade

* Apart from the five EGMs, shown in italic, that were held according to implementation mechanism, several meetings were arranged under the title of “Expert Group Meetings”, as shown in the table.

Ministerial Meetings³⁴		
Date	Venue	Name
14-16 January 1995	Tehran	4 th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development
8-11 July 1996	Tehran	3 rd Ministerial Meeting on Posts and Telecommunications
29-30 November 1997	Dakar	4 th Meeting of Information Ministers
1-2 December, 1999	Tehran	5 th Meeting of Information Ministers
2-4 October 2000	Isfahan	1 st Meeting of the Ministers of Tourism
10-13 October 2001	Kuala Lumpur	2 nd Meeting of Ministers of Tourism
7-9 October 2002	Riyadh	3 rd Meeting of Ministers of Tourism
10-11 March 2003	Cairo	6 th Meeting of Information Ministers
14-16 June 2004	Tehran	4 th Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development
28-30 March 2005	Dakar	4 th Meeting of the Ministers of Tourism
9-12 September 2006	Baku	5 th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers
13-14 September 2006	Jeddah	7 th Meeting of Information Ministers
29 June-2 July 2008	Damascus	6 th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers
27-28 January 2009	Rabat	8 th Meeting of Information Ministers

³⁴ The Ministerial meetings before 1995 were not counted, which is the starting date for the Plan of Action. Some ministerial meetings were also held on some areas that are outside the 10 areas prioritized by the Plan of Action. These are: 2nd Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, in Rabat, 12-14 November 1998; 3rd Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, in Doha, 29-31 December 2001; 1st Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the development of OIC Member States, in Istanbul, 20-21 November 2006; 1st Islamic Conference of Ministers of Health, in Kuala Lumpur, 12-15 June 2007; 2nd Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the development of OIC Member States, in Egypt, 24-25 November 2008; 2nd Islamic Conference of Ministers of Health, in Tehran, 1-4 March 2009.

APPENDIX 4: Distribution of the Projects according to proposing and interested member states (as of 2004)

Proposing State		Interested State	
Name	Number of the Proposals	Name	Number of the projects interested in
Turkey	18	Saudi Arabia	6
Jordan	2	Kazakhstan	4
Sudan	4	Burkina Faso	4
Iran	5	Sultanate of Oman	2
SESRIC*	4	Tunisia	1
ICCI	2		
ICDT	4		
TOTAL:	40		17

* Originally, when any one of the OIC institutions propose a Project, this Project proposal must be taken up formally by a member state in order to initiate the establishment of the Project Committee. However, with the adoption of supplementary mechanism, the OIC institutions also involved in the implementation mechanism and propose new projects.

APPENDIX 5: Distribution of the Projects according to proposing and interested member states (as of 2010)

Proposing State		Interested State	
Name	Number of the Proposals	Name	Number of the projects interested in
Turkey	3	Kazakhstan	1
Guinea	1	Syria	1
Sudan	1	Morocco	1
OIC Gen. Sec.	2	Bangladesh	1
COMCEC Coord. Office	2	Pakistan	1
		Yemen	1
		Benin	1
		Gambia	2
		Guinea	2
		Guinea Bissau	2
		Mali	2
		Mauritania	1
		Niger	2
		Senegal	2
		Sierra Leone	1
		Burkina Faso	2
		Cameroon	1
		Chad	1
		Djibuti	1
		Libya	1
		Nigeria	1
		Sudan	1
		Uganda	1
TOTAL:	9		

APPENDIX 6: Original Project Proposals List (by 2004)

I-	TECHNICAL COOPERATION		
Serial No	Project Proposals/Ideas	Proposing State/ Institution	Interested Country
1.	Technical cooperation in the area of Software Engineering Among OIC Member States.	Jordan	
2.	Technical Cooperation in the Area of Heritage Preservation Among OIC Member States.	Jordan	
3.	Production of pulp and paper in Sudan	Sudan	
4.	Strengthening the innovation, Design and Prototype Manufacturing Center	Sudan	
5.	Shelter and Habitat in Sudan	Sudan	
6.	Photovoltaic Cells Production	Sudan	
7.	Technical Cooperation Among Patent Offices in the OIC Member States	Turkey	Kazakhstan
8.	Technical Cooperation in the area of Business Incubators Among OIC Member States.	Turkey	
9.	Cooperation in the area of Technical Development: Medium Range Regional Turbofan Airliner.	Turkey	Kazakhstan
10.	Provision of Technical Assistance for Establishment of Technology Development Foundation in the OIC Member States.	Turkey	
11.	Energy Research and Technology Development Center For Islamic Countries.	Turkey	Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan
12.	Space Agency for Islamic Countries.	Turkey	Kazakhstan
13.	Distance Educational Project.	Turkey	
14.	Technical Cooperation in the area of Environmental Protection: Proper use of coastal zone to prevent Accelerated beach/coast erosion.	Turkey	
15.	Metametrone and Metribuzine Process development for production of the 1,3,4 triazine 6 one deriv, which are used as fungicide in Iran.	Iran	Saudi Arabia
16.	Lonoxyl (totril) Process development for this valuable fungicide and its Dibromo analogue.	Iran	Saudi Arabia
17.	Carbamazepine Process development for production of Carbamazepine at 25 MT/year capacity.	Iran	Saudi Arabia
18.	Sut-SOFT, Software for modeling of Heat Transfer, Mass Transfer and Stress Analysis.	Iran	Saudi Arabia
19.	Field-Test establishment.	Iran	Saudi Arabia
II-	MONEY, FINANCE AND CAPITAL FLOWS		
20.	Establishment of an Islamic Insurance-Reinsurance Corporation.	Turkey	
21.	Islamic Finance Corporation under the Auspices of the IDB.	Turkey	
22.	Multilateral Islamic Clearing Agency (Union).	Turkey	
23.	Development of a cohesive multi-year program for Training and Seminars to be conducted in Financial and Monetary Fields.		
24.	Compilation by SESRTCIC, in collaboration with IDB/IRTI Of a Directory of Muslim Experts in the field of money, Banking and finance.	Turkey	
25.	Regular and Systematic Collection and dissemination of detailed data and information on the money, banking and finance activities in the member countries. Establishment by SESRTCIC, in collaboration with the IDB, of a set of database on the relevant activities comprising such data and information.	Turkey	

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26.	Compilation by SERSTCIC, in collaboration with the IDB/IRTI of a Directory on Banks and Financial Institutions in the member countries.	Turkey	
III-	FOREIGN TRADE		
27.	A Mechanism for Systematic Collection and Dissemination Of Detailed Information on Tariff and Non-tariff Trade Barriers of the Member countries.	Turkey.	Burkina Faso, Oman
28.	Establishment of Islamic Trading House(s).	Turkey	
29.	A Mechanism for Integration of the OIC Member Countries to the World Trade System.	Turkey	Burkina Faso
30.	A Study on the Determination of the Economic Comparative Advantages of the OIC Member countries.	Turkey	Oman, Tunisia
31.	Creation of an Islamic Export Market Development Fund.	SESRTCIC	
32.	Collection and Collation of Statistical Information Regarding the Import Needs and Export Potential of Member Countries.	SESRTCIC	
33.	Development of a Joint Transportation Scheme for The Land-locked Member States.	SESRTCIC	
34.	Preparation of a Detailed Study of Trade Regulations And Procedures of Member States.	SESRTCIC	
35.	Development of a Joint Transportation Scheme for The Land-locked Member States.	ICCI	
36.	Import Management Facilities to be Provided by the National Chambers of the Member Countries.	ICCI	
37.	Program for Training of Trainers in the Area of International Trade.	ICDT	Burkina Faso
38.	Setting up of Regional Companies Specialized in Organization of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions.	ICDT	Burkina Faso
39.	Setting up of Permanent Exhibition Halls.	ICDT	
40.	Organizing a Permanent Virtual Goods Exhibition on The INTERNET Web site of the ICDT.	ICDT	

APPENDIX 7: Project Proposals List (by May 2010)

Serial No	Project Proposals/Ideas	Proposing State/ Institution	Interested Country	Coordinator
1.	Technical Cooperation Among Patent Offices in the OIC Member States	Turkey	Kazakhstan, Syria, Morocco, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Yemen	ICDT
2.	Incubator Managers Training Among OIC Member States	Turkey		ICCI
3.	Study on Air Transportation Infrastructure and Industry in OIC Member Countries	Turkey		SESRIC
4.	Creation of a Network of Cross-border Parks and Reserves in West Africa	Guinea	Benin, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso (Observer)	ICDT/ SESRIC
5.	Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Line Project	Sudan	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibuti, Gambia, Guinea, Libya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Uganda and Guinea Bissau	OIC General Secretariat
6.	The Establishment of the Federation of the Islamic Air Transport Associations	OIC General Secretariat		
7.	The Establishment of the Federation of Islamic Road Transport Associations	OIC General Secretariat		
8.	Launching a Grand OIC/IDB Scholarship Programme in Major Academic Fields	COMCEC Coordination Office		
9.	Establishment of a Dynamic B2B E-Marketplace Web Portal	COMCEC Coordination Office		MUSIAD with ICCI, ICDT and CCO

ANNEX

11

Original: English

**REPORT
OF THE 17th SESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

(İstanbul, 4 October 2010)

1. The 17th Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on 4 October 2010, prior to the 26th Session of the COMCEC.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. M. Metin EKER, Head of COMCEC Coordination Office.
3. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and 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 (IDB)
 - Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)

Some Turkish Institutions, owners of the proposed cooperation projects of the COMCEC, also attended the Meeting.

The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items for consideration:

1. Review of the Proposed Cooperation Projects of the COMCEC.
2. Consideration of the New Project Proposals.
3. Any other business.

Under Agenda Item 1:

4. The Committee made the following recommendations on the Projects:

First of all, the Committee deliberated on the Project entitled “Technical Cooperation among Patent Offices in OIC Member States.” Concerning the two workshops, which were planned to be organized in Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, the Committee was informed that Saudi Arabia intended to organize one of the said workshop until the end of 2010. However, the Committee has not received any information regarding the workshop to be organized in Malaysia. The Committee requested the assistance of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and IDB in order to facilitate the organization of these two workshops.

Regarding the web-portal on intellectual property information, which would be established by the ICDT in collaboration with the Moroccan Patent Office (OMPIC), the representative of the ICDT informed the Committee that the terms of reference for this sub-project was already finalized and submitted to the IDB for funding. The Committee requested the IDB to consider financing the project.

Concerning the Project entitled “Incubator Management Training among OIC Member States”, the Committee welcomed fruitful results of the “The Training of Incubator Managers of the OIC Countries” which was held on 30 September-1 October 2010, in Ankara, Turkey. The Committee decided to remove the project from the list due to its successful completion and requested the ICCI to initiate similar training programs in the future.

With respect to the Project entitled “Study on Air Transportation Infrastructure and Industry in OIC Member States”, the Committee took note of the draft project profile form presented by Anadolu University of Turkey and requested Anadolu University and SESRIC to finalize and submit it two-months ahead of the next Meeting of the Sessional Committee. The Committee welcomed the offer of SESRIC to organize a workshop on Air Transportation Industry with the participation of key players in this sector.

As for the Project entitled “Sustainable Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”, the Committee deliberated on possible ways of attracting more donors and stakeholders for the early implementation of the Project.

With respect to the Project entitled “Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Line Project”, the Representative of the OIC General Secretariat informed the Committee on the results of the “Stakeholders Meeting of the Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Line Project” which was held in Jeddah on 26 May 2010. The representatives of the IDB expressed that due to the size and complexity of the project, a pre-feasibility study should be conducted, taking in existing feasibility studies such as the African Development Bank’s study of the Dakar-Djibouti Railway Project. The Committee requested the OIC General Secretariat and IDB to work on this proposal with a view to accelerate the implementation of the given project.

Concerning the Project entitled “The Establishment of the Federation of Islamic Road Transport Associations,” the Committee welcomed the offer of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) to be a coordinator of the Project. The Committee requested TOBB, in coordination with the ICCI, to submit the project profile form to the next Sessional Committee meeting.

Regarding the Project entitled “The Establishment of the Federation of Islamic Air Transport Associations,” the Committee reiterated its request to the General Secretariat to submit the project profile form to the 18th Meeting of the Sessional Committee.

In addition, the Committee deliberated on the Project entitled “Launching a Grand OIC/IDB Scholarship Programme in Major Academic Fields.” The Committee was informed that IDB has broadened the scope of its scholarship program which already existed within the IDB Group. Therefore, in order to avoid duplication, the Committee decided to delete this project proposal from the projects list of the Sessional Committee.

With respect to the Project entitled “Establishment of a Dynamic B2B E-Marketplace Web Portal”, the Committee took note of the estimated budget of the project prepared by MUSIAD and requested the latter to consult with IDB and ICCI for co-financing the project at the earliest convenience.

Under Agenda Item 2:

5. Under this agenda item, the Committee deliberated on the new project proposal of the ICDT on Technical Cooperation among the OIC Member States in the area of competition law and policy. The Committee welcomed the proposal and requested the ICDT to study details of the said technical assistance program in cooperation with

interested Member States and to submit the Project profile form to the 18th Meeting of the Sessional Committee. In this regard, the Committee also welcomed the offer of the Turkish Competition Authority to host a workshop in Turkey in the second half of 2011.

Under Agenda Item 3:

6. The Committee requested the coordinator OIC Institutions which did not do so, to submit the project profile form of their projects in the agenda of the Sessional Committee to the COMCEC Coordination Office and OIC General Secretariat for circulation to all member states, at least two-months before the following Sessional Committee Meeting.

The projects, for which the project profile forms have not been submitted, however will be considered as proposals pending the submission of their project profile forms to the Sessional Committee.

7. The Committee then concluded its work with a word of thanks.

LIST OF THE PROJECT PROPOSALS

Serial No	Project Proposals/Ideas	Proposing State/ Institution	Interested Country	Coordinator
1.	Technical Cooperation Among Patent Offices in the OIC Member States	Turkey	Kazakhstan, Syria, Morocco, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Yemen	ICDT
2.	Study on Air Transportation Infrastructure and Industry in OIC Member Countries	Turkey		SESRIC
3.	Creation of a Network of Cross-border Parks and Reserves in West Africa	Guinea	Benin, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso (Observer)	ICDT/SESRIC
4.	Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Line Project	Sudan	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibuti, Gambia, Guinea, Libya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Uganda and Guinea Bissau	OIC General Secretariat
5.	The Establishment of the Federation of the Islamic Air Transport Associations	OIC General Secretariat		
6.	The Establishment of the Federation of Islamic Road Transport Associations	OIC General Secretariat		TOBB
7.	Establishment of a Dynamic B2B E-Marketplace Web Portal	COMCEC Coordination Office		MUSIAD with ICCI, ICDT and CCO

ANNEX

12

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 3RD PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING
AND THE 4TH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIC COTTON ACTION PLAN**

(27-28 September 2010, Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco)

1. In compliance with the Resolution no.70 of the 26th Follow up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC held in Antalya, Republic of Turkey, from 11 to 12 May, 2010, the “Third Project Committee Meeting and the Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Implementation of the OIC Cotton Action Plan” were organised by the OIC General Secretariat, ICDT and IDB Group in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 27-28 September 2010.

2. The Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee for the implementation of the OIC Cotton Action Plan was held on 28 September 2010 in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, for the final approval of the project proposals and suggestions presented in the Third Project Committee Meeting.

3. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Ismail KALENDER, the Chairman of the Steering Committee. (General Manager, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Turkey).

4. The following OIC Member States attended the Meeting:

- The Republic of Azerbaijan
- The Syrian Arab Republic
- Burkina Faso
- The People’s Republic of Bangladesh
- The Republic of Cameroon
- The Republic of Indonesia
- The Kingdom of Morocco
- The Republic of Mozambique
- The Federal Republic of Nigeria
- The Republic of Senegal
- The Republic of Turkey
- The Republic of Uganda

5. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), the following OIC Institutions attended the Meeting as members of the Steering Committee:

- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
- Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
- Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB Group)

(The list of participants is attached in annex 1)

Opening session

6. After the recitation of verses of the Holy Quran, the opening ceremony was started by the Message of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) was delivered by Ambassador Nabika Diallo, Adviser to the Secretary General for Economic Affairs.

In his message, H.E the Secretary General considered the fact that the 5-year Cotton Action Plan is aimed at promoting wealth creation, increasing competitiveness in the agro-industrial sector and, at the same time, alleviating poverty in OIC Member States, it is important to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the impact, which this programme has created on the developmental objectives of OIC Member-States.

He mentioned the necessity of the funding mechanism to include all national, regional and international stakeholders. Apart from giving the needed technical support, this approach would seek to mobilize resources for the projects from all possible sources for their timely implementation.

The Secretary General stated that it is very useful to upgrade our contacts with the various development and cooperation agencies in OIC Member States, such as Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), Saudi Fund for Development, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, African Development Bank (ADB) and West African Development Bank (BOAD), Central African Development Bank (BDEAC) for this purpose. Similarly, the various regional economic agencies, such as ECOWAS, NEPAD, ECO, D8, COMESA, GCC, and others do have programmes that can complement our on-going initiatives in the cotton sub-sector.

7. In his welcoming address, H.E. Mr. Allal RACHDI, Director General of ICDT expressed his heartfelt thanks to H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, Secretary General of OIC and to H.E Dr. Ahmed Mohamed ALI, President of the IDB Group for their support of the implementation of the OIC Cotton Action Plan and to all participants for their attendance to these meetings. He recalled the main objectives of these Meetings and stressed the vital role of this sector in OIC Member States economies. He mentioned the efforts made at national level to enhance the value added of cotton and process it on the spot. He underlined that some domestic structural

constraints explain the low processing rate of the cotton fiber estimated at 5% only of local production. Hence the importance of the OIC Member States to pull together their efforts by harmonizing their policies and reinforcing intra-OIC cooperation in the cotton sector and notably to increase investment in the Cotton sector in Africa and in Central Asia. He outlined the importance of seeking other financing sources in order to secure more financial means. Before the end of his welcoming address, he reiterated the full readiness and availability of ICDT to extend to the OIC Member States its expertise and experience to support the efforts made by the Governments to transform this crisis into a positive energy.

At the end of his speech, Mr. RACHDI, conveyed his deep thanks and gratitude to HIS MAJESTY MOHAMED THE VIth, KING OF MOROCCO May God glorify Him for His sustainable support to the OIC's activities in general and the ICDT's activities in particular.

8. Mr. Ismail KALENDER, the Steering Committee Chairman addressed the importance of the Five Year Cotton Action Plan of OIC and summed up the actions being carried out since 2007. He expressed his thanks to IDB Group regarding their continuing final approval stage for the financial contribution to the projects of Turkey and Cameroon. He stressed on the importance of the implementation of the projects as soon as possible in 2011 with the support of all concerned financial institutions. He reminded the Member States to provide informative contributions to the Cotton Web-portal established by the OIC General Secretariat and filling out the survey charts prepared by the Republic of Turkey in order to define sectoral data among OIC Member States. He concluded conveying his sincere thanks to the Kingdom of Morocco, OIC General Secretariat, IDB Group and ICDT for their efforts in organizing these meetings and all other representatives of the Member States and Institutions for their participation.

9. Taking the floor, Dr. Osman Mahgoub ELFIEL, representative of IDB Group and Chairman of the Project Committee Meeting recalled the previous meetings activities on Cotton and mentioned that one year only is left before the end of the 5 year OIC Cotton Action Plan. He stressed the importance of establishing the appropriate mechanism to achieve the objectives of the OIC Cotton Action Plan with the support of all concerned financing Institutions.

10. The Meeting adopted and considered the following Agenda Items:

- a) Evaluation of the 3rd Project Committee Meeting Report and approval of the projects adopted by the Meeting
- b) Monitoring of the Projects adopted by the previous Project and Steering Committee Meetings

- c) Briefing on the questionnaire survey prepared in order to supply the cotton need of Turkey by the OIC cotton producing countries (by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Turkey)
- d) Debate on extending the OIC Five Year Cotton Action Plan (2007-2011)
- e) Briefing on the OIC Cotton Web Portal
- f) Any other business.

(The agenda and the programme are attached in annex 2.)

Agenda Item 1:

11. The meeting adopted the Report of the Project Committee meeting which was held on 27 September 2010 and decided to submit the approved project proposals to the international finance institutions through OIC General Secretariat.

(The report of the Third Project Committee meeting is in annex 3.)

Agenda Item 2:

12. Three important issues are to be considered regarding the follow-up of the already approved operations as well as those which might be proposed in the future.

- I. Better preparation of the “project document” taking in consideration the template circulated during the meeting of the Project Committee. This “project document” should be supported by all relevant studies undertaken by the government entities or by other consultancy firms.
- II. Any project proposal should be supported by an “official request” from the competent government authority.
- III. The proposed project has to be listed within the government projects priorities forwarded for external financing.

13. The meeting underlined the importance given to the Cotton Action Plan by the OIC General Secretariat and called upon concerned OIC Member States and OIC Institutions to give full support for the implementation of this Plan.

Agenda Item 3:

14. The Representative of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Turkey made a presentation on the questionnaire survey prepared in order to meet the cotton needs of Turkey from the OIC cotton producing countries.

15. The Committee requested Member States to fill the questionnaire and send it back to the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Turkey in order to process it and produce a report that will be put on the OIC Cotton Web-Portal.

16. The Committee also invited ICDT to take into account the outcomes of this survey when preparing the study on « Competitiveness and Improvement of Quality of Cotton in OIC Member States».

17. The Meeting underlines the need to fully utilize the opportunities offered by the OIC Five-Year Cotton Action Plan as a solid ground to promote trade, investment and transfer of technology in the related domain between the concerned OIC Member States.

Agenda Item 4:

18. The Committee examined the issue of extending the duration of the OIC Five-Year Cotton Action Plan for another 5 years period from 2011-2016.

In this context, the Committee recalled that the main objectives of this Action Plan were the following:

- a) Adding value to cotton which is the main source of revenues in many OIC Member States and which contribute to poverty alleviation and provides foreign currency for many African countries;
- b) To contribute to the promotion of trade, investment and transfer of technology between OIC Member States in cotton sector.

The Committee noted that the Action Plan has been set as a platform of exchange of experiences between cotton actors namely: Centers of research, producers, manufacturers and funding institutions.

The Committee further noted that this Plan was highly appreciated and welcomed by concerned Member States; and so far about 30 projects have been approved by the Project Committee and the Steering Committee and some of these projects are under process for financing.

Therefore, the Committee expressed the view that there is a need to extend the Plan of Action for another five years period with a view of building on the experience already established and ensure the overall objective of the Plan. In the meantime, the Committee expressed the view that there is a need to make an interim evaluation of the Plan with a view to drawing the lessons from the past experience, identifying the weaknesses and constraints and build strong ground for an effective implementation of the future programme.

The Meeting mandated the Chairman of the Steering Committee (The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Turkey) to submit to this effect a proposal in this regard to the 26th Session of the COMCEC.

Agenda Item 5:

19. The OIC General Secretariat informed the meeting of the operationalization of the dedicated OIC website on Cotton in three OIC official languages (Arabic, English and French).

20. The committee requested all cotton producing Member States to continue to provide the OIC General Secretariat with the information on their cotton and textile sector on regular basis with a view to updating the website.

21. The Committee also called upon the concerned Member States and the OIC Institutions to give informative contribution to the cotton web portal (www.oic-cotton.org) through the OIC General Secretariat in order to enhance the communication and cooperation among themselves.

Agenda Item 6:

22. The Meeting conveyed special thanks to IDB Group and ITFC for their financial contributions regarding the Cotton Action Plan and encouraged them to continue their action in this domain.

23. The Committee proposed that the venue and the dates of the next meetings of the Project and Steering Committee be decided on the sidelines of the 26th Session of the COMCEC.

24. The Committee expressed its thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and to ICDT for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to participants and for the excellent arrangement made for the holding of these meetings.

25. The Meeting welcomed the message of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, the Secretary General of the OIC, and expressed its appreciation for his valuable support for the implementation of the OIC Five Year Cotton Action Plan.

26. The Meeting expressed its thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for supporting the OIC Five-Year Cotton Action Plan, and to the Chairman of the Steering Committee for his contribution in the preparation and implementation of the said Plan.

27. The Meeting also expressed its thanks to the IDB Group for their financial contribution as well as to the COMCEC Coordination Office for its valuable support.

ANNEX

13

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 3RD PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIC COTTON ACTION PLAN
(27 September 2010, Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco)**

1. The Third Meeting of the Project Committee was held on 27 September 2010 in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco.
2. Dr. Osman Mahgoub ELFIEL, from the IDB Group, Chaired the Third Project Committee Meeting.
3. OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, the countries members of the Steering Committee, the Centers of Excellence, OIC concerned institutions, namely SESRIC, ICDT, and project owners (Azerbaijan/Bangladesh/Burkina Faso/Cameroon/ Indonesia/Mozambique/Nigeria/Senegal/Syria/Turkey and Uganda) and Morocco took also part at this meeting
4. Opening the meeting, the Chairman made a brief introduction on the importance of the deliberations of the Project Committee. He also recalled the work and recommendations of the 1st and 2nd Project Committee Meetings.

After adoption of the Agenda, the following items were considered.

Agenda item 1: Briefing on the current statute of projects approved during the 1st and 2nd Project Committee Meetings (by IDB Group);

5. To date, IDB has received 14 project proposals on cotton sector development in 7 Member Countries. The proposals cover wide range of activities targeting capacity building, training, research, production, marketing, pest management, etc. The cost of the proposed projects varies from US\$ 100,000 to US\$ 82 million (Annex-1 shows the summary of proposals received from OIC General Secretariat).
6. The 14 project proposals received from the OIC General Secretariat are being reviewed to assess their technical soundness and economic viability. As per IDB procedures, these proposals will be further discussed with the countries concerned to explore possible financing modalities to determine their priorities for inclusion in the country work program. Upon agreement on the financing modalities and receipt of the official request from the Governments of concerned countries, these proposals will be considered by IDB for financing under different financing windows.

Three official requests received from Cameroon, Turkey and Syria and the respective projects are at different stages of processing in the IDB.

RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEM 1

7. The Committee recommended the following with the view of speeding up the process of financing and implementation of the projects already approved or to be approved within the Programme.
 - Each project shall be accompanied by official request from the relevant authority of the government;
 - Each project shall be included in the priority list of projects of the country to be negotiated with the financial institutions;
 - In order to streamline the format of the project proposals, a new update format has been circulated, project owners shall submit their project accordingly (project profile is attached in the annexes);
 - The committee underlined the need to expedite the implementation of the project through the following steps:
 - To constitute contact group (comprising the OIC General Secretariat, IDB Group and ICDT) to make contact with the funding institutions to expedite the implementation of the Programme;
 - To convene donor conference comprising (expected potential donors namely the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), Saudi Fund for Development, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, OPEC Fund, Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), African Development Bank (ADB), West African Development Bank (BOAD), Central African Development Bank (BDEAC), FAO, UNIDO, IFAD, etc); concerned Member States, project owners, private sectors, OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC, IDB Group, ICDT and ICCI with the view to attracting not only financing but also joint ventures in cotton sector.
 - To give priority to regional projects;
 - In view of the huge amount required by the submitted projects, the Committee recommended to widen the fund raising to more institutions in addition to IDB Group.

Agenda item 2: Presentation and evaluation of the New Projects.

8. The committee considered 17 projects and recommended the following:

COUNTRY	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOTAL BUDGET	Remarks
AZERBAIJAN	Ministry of Agriculture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application and spread of cotton varieties and efficient cultivation technologies at small farms households 2. Studying the correct sowing technology in cotton farm households 	49,999,87 US \$ 1,500,000 US\$	<p>The Committee cleared this project and decided to submit it to the Steering Committee</p> <p>The Committee recommended to submit the said project to the 4th Project Committee Meeting for consideration</p>
BURKINA FASO	Alok industries Ltd	Establishment of a spinning mill in Burkina Faso	41,682,000 US \$	The Committee endorsed this project with the understanding that a comprehensive feasibility study will be submitted in due course to the OIC General Secretariat for necessary action
INDONESIA	Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development	Improvement of Cotton Development Program in Indonesia	140,000 US\$	The Committee endorsed this project and decided to submit it to the Steering Committee
TURKEY	Nazilli Cotton Research Institute	A Training Course for Improvement in Cotton Production and Technology in Afghanistan	46,000 US \$	<p>The Committee cleared this project and decided to submit it to the Steering Committee</p> <p>The Project Committee recommended that such project should be widened to cover other beneficiaries in Asia.</p> <p>The Committee further recommended to organize such training programs for the other regions namely Africa and Arab countries in coordination with the relevant Centres of Excellence.</p>
CAMEROON	SODECOTON	Oilseed Development Project in the cotton zone of Cameroon	23,459,884 €	The Committee endorsed this project with the understanding that a comprehensive feasibility study will be submitted in due course to the OIC General Secretariat for necessary action
BANGLADESH	Ministry of Agriculture	Strengthening extension activities and quality seed production of cotton under cotton development board	3,600,000 US \$	The Committee cleared this project and decided to submit it to the Steering Committee

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SENEGAL	Ministry of Agriculture	Support to Senegalese cotton sector	9,387,000 €	The Committee cleared this project and decided to submit it to the Steering Committee
NIGERIA	Institute for agricultural Research	1. Mitigating the devastating effect of leafrollers through molecular and conventional breeding approaches	1,310,650 US \$	The Committee endorsed the first project for submission to the Steering Committee and recommended to submit the other projects to the 4 th Project Committee Meeting
		2. Cotton development in Nigeria in the changing global climate conditions	3,484,581.6 US \$	
		3. Structure, conduct, performance and the role of value chain actors in cotton marketing in Nigeria	784,239.05 US \$	
		4. Multi-stakeholder approach to cotton production in Nigeria	2,080,000 US \$	
ICDT	ICDT	1. Forum and Exhibition on Trade and Investment in Cotton, textile and Garment Sector in OIC Member States (Revolving project – Next edition will be in Ouagadougou / Burkina Faso in 2011)	120,000 US \$	The Committee endorsed this project for submission to the Steering Committee and invites the relevant OIC institutions to provide support for the event and appeals to concerned Member States and business community to submit well prepared projects for consideration by the investment forum. The Committee decided to establish a preparatory Committee for the Forum, which will comprise Burkina Faso as host country, OIC General Secretariat, IDB Group, ICDT and the Chairman of the Steering Committee
		2. study on competitiveness and improvement of quality of cotton in OIC Member States	200,000 US\$	

SESRIC	SESRIC	1. Cotton growing and irrigation techniques, quality improvement and treatment of cotton diseases 2. Cotton processing	70,000 US\$ 70,000 US \$	The two projects were endorsed for submission to the Steering Committee and the Committee invited SESRIC to organize such training courses in close collaboration with the Centres of Excellence specialized in cotton research in order to improve the quality of the training programme
MOZAMBIQUE	Mozambique Institute for Cotton	Plan for the revitalization of Cotton in Mozambique	65, 678, 000 US \$	The Committee requested the Republic of Mozambique to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study and appeals to OIC Institutions to provide technical assistance to the Republic of Mozambique to prepare this study.

9. The representative of Uganda raised the issue of implementation of the project entitled **“Funding Pesticides, Spray Pumps and Fertilizers to Small Holder Cotton Farmers in Uganda”** already submitted by his country. The Committee informed the delegate of Uganda that this project was already endorsed by the previous session of the project committee and it will be processed whenever the official request is received.

Agenda item 3: Reports from the Centers of Excellence (Egypt and Syria; Pakistan and Turkey; Nigeria and Senegal)

10. The Meeting discussed ways and means for strengthening the role of the Centers of Excellence in implementing the OIC Cotton Programme (duties and responsibilities of the Centres of Excellence are contained in the **“Report of the Meeting Bringing together the Six Centers of Excellence and the Research & Development Centers in the OIC Member Countries” held in Izmir on 2-5 February 2009 in annexes**). The Meeting is of the opinion that the selected centers are invited to present periodical progress reports highlighting their activities and achievement as well as constraints that they may face in the discharging of their duties. In this respect, the Meeting recommended that each Centre of excellence shall submit a periodical report to OIC General Secretariat and Nazilli Cotton Research Institute within one month and subsequently to each project committee meeting.

Agenda item 4: Any other business:

11. Concerning the working procedures of the Project Committee Meeting, the Committee reiterated the following:
 - a. all project proposals should be submitted to OIC General Secretariat;
 - b. all project proposals should be submitted, at least, two months before the date of the Project Committee Meeting. Any project proposal submitted after this date will be sent to the following Project Committee meeting;
 - c. Centers of Excellence are highly requested to submit their opinion, view, appreciation, comments on the project proposals.
12. With regard on the organization and budget of further Project Committee Meetings that will be held in the future, the Committee recommended that participants, institutions and project owners, should endeavor to meet their own expenses for the coming meetings, unless the host country or any other institution offer assistance in this regard.
13. The project committee decided to submit its report and recommendations to the steering committee for consideration.
14. The project committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and to ICDT for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to participants and for the excellent arrangement made for the holding of this meeting.
15. The project committee concluded its session with thanks to the chair for his efficient steering of the proceedings.

ANNEX

14

Original: English

CONCEPT NOTE ON “OIC-VET SUBPROGRAMME ON TRADE, ECONOMY AND FINANCE (OICVET-TEF)”

1 Introduction

The “OIC-VET Sub-Programme on Trade, Economy and Finance” (OICVET-TEF) is a sub-programme focusing on trade, finance and economy areas. The concept was originally proposed by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and further developed and improved by the Task Force comprising of the representatives of the IDB, SESRIC and COMCEC Coordination Office, established in pursuant to the recommendation of the 26th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC held in Antalya during the period 10-12 May 2010 with the purpose of studying the concept and work programme for the sub-programme and submitting it to the 26th Session of COMCEC for further discussion and examination by the OIC Member Countries.

This document presents the basic modalities of implementing this sub-programme to improve the quality of vocational training in the areas of trade, economy and finance in the public and private sectors with the aim of supporting and enhancing the opportunities for individuals in the member countries to develop their knowledge and skills and thus to contribute to the development and competitiveness of the economies of their countries. It also provides a brief background to the sub-programme and highlights its main objectives and structure.

The proposed sub-programme will support and supplement the activities of the OIC Member Countries, to improve the competencies and skills of the people according to the needs and priorities of labour markets through intra-OIC partnerships at institutional level. The Programme will focus on increasing accessibility and raising the quality of vocational training in the concerned areas, and provide an opportunity for organisations to build OIC partnerships, exchange best practices, increase the expertise of their staff and develop the skills and competencies of the participants. The Programme will cover the training areas included in the national training programmes in the member countries by introducing a transnational perspective in conformity with national priorities of the member countries.

2 Background

Historically, growth in OIC trade remained below that in total trade of OIC countries. In the beginning of 2000s, intra-OIC trade represented about 11-12 percent of their total trade. By 2009, intra-OIC trade amounted to 16.5 percent of the total trade of OIC countries. Accordingly, intra-OIC exports accounted for 15.6 percent of the total exports while intra-OIC imports comprised 17.4 percent of the total imports.

OIC Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) calls upon the Member States to sign and ratify all existing OIC trade and economic agreements, and to implement the provisions of the relevant OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States. It highlights intra-OIC trade and economic liberalisation as priority areas for cooperation among the Member States. Moreover, it envisions international trade and finance corporation to play a greater role in promoting intra-OIC trade through strengthening ongoing trade financing activities in the OIC Member States.

The Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (TPS-OIC) is expected to become operational following the receipt of the instrument of ratification of the Rules of Origin of the tenth Member State by the OIC General Secretariat.

Against this background, the OIC Member Countries are increasingly focusing on problems associated with promoting intra-OIC trade, in particular human resource development to step up efforts related to capacity building of the OIC Member States, thereby helping them overcome some of the pertinent challenges observed in enhancing intra-OIC trade.

Originally proposed by the IDB, the OICVET-TEF is a timely initiative to achieve progress on trade related items on the OIC agenda. In this respect, it is aiming at contributing to achieving trade related targets set out in the TYPOA; increasing intra-OIC trade to 20 percent target by the end of 2015. Also, as trade facilitation and trade finance are of particular importance to enhancing intra-OIC trade as well as is referred to in the Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade, adopted by the 24th Session of the COMCEC Ministerial Meeting in October 2008, this sub-programme will deserve special attention in the OIC Member Countries.

3 Rationale

Since 1970s, trade has been paid special importance in improving the economic linkages and coordination among OIC Member Countries which has led to numerous agreements. The Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC) aims at promoting trade among the member states through the exchange of trade preferences on the basis of equal and non-discriminatory treatment among all participating Member Countries. However, it was not until 2002 that the Agreement became effective upon ratification by 10 member states. Related to that agreement, the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS) entered into force in 5 February 2010 after ratification by 10 participating member states while the agreement on TPS-OIC Rules of Origin is still waiting for entering into force.

On the other hand, the role of finance in trade promotion has gained importance as trade finance is today one of the most referred operations to increase exports of a country. Thus, the linkage between trade and finance has been further strengthened and began to play a more pivotal role in the economy. Since intra-trade among OIC Member Countries is steadily increasing, the OICVET-TEF may contribute to human resource development needs of member countries for a better outcome in trade volumes.

Through OICVET-TEF people will have access to enhanced occupational knowledge and better jobs through participation in appropriate projects which will also contribute to improving their economic prospects and livelihoods. Beneficiaries of this sub-programme are likely to have an immense opportunity to exercise, train and develop new initiatives related to trade, finance and economy areas.

OICVET-TEF is expected to play a vital role in promoting economic and commercial relations among OIC Member Countries that are trade partners with each other. On the other hand, as new trade agreements are expected to play a positive role in expanding intra-OIC trade in the coming years, the sub-programme may contribute towards the ratification of TPS-OIC Rules of Origin through its support to projects that encourage OIC Member Countries to take more concrete action in expanding their trade ties with each other. Accordingly, it may significantly contribute to increasing intra-OIC trade to 20 percent target by the end of 2015.

4 Objectives

The proposed sub-programme will be based on a common framework of objectives aimed at supporting and supplementing the member countries' initiatives in the field of vocational training. Main objectives for implementing the OICVET-TEF are as follows:

- to provide the exchange of people involved in vocational training throughout OIC Member Countries, so as to increase placements in enterprises;
- to improve the quality and capacity of vocational training systems and arrangements including developing competencies and knowledge in the member countries;
- to establish networking of the initiatives in the member countries in the field of vocational training in trade, economy and finance particularly for vocational guidance and promotion and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in vocational training;
- to strengthen links between vocational education, training and guidance systems and all sectors of the economy;
- to advance the innovation capacity of member countries' vocational training systems, and to facilitate the transfer of innovative practices from one participating country to others;
- to promote the quality and the volume of cooperation among training institutions, enterprises, social partners and other relevant bodies throughout member countries.

5 Structure

The current structure of the OIC-VET Programme is suitable to addressing the challenges faced by institutions and individuals involved in trade, finance and economy areas. Therefore, the structure used in the OIC-VET Programme will also apply for the OICVET-TEF. There are three types of actions under the framework of OIC-VET Programme which suits to the needs of different institutions and individuals.

OIC Transnational Exchange Projects (OIC-TEPs)

The OIC Transnational Exchange Projects (OIC-TEPs) cover the transfer of competencies and of innovative methods and practices in the field of vocational training in TEF among the member countries. Exchanges shall give the beneficiaries an opportunity to improve and share their knowledge and experience in a different country and organizational context. This action targets a strong cooperation between training institutions; including universities, and enterprises in different countries, as transnational partnership is an essential component of the OIC-TEPs. There will be three different types of training activities under the OIC-TEPs:

- i. **OIC-VET for professionals (OICTEP-P)** will support transnational exchange projects between enterprises and public/private training organizations and/or universities, with the focus on the preparation of transnational training programmes. Beneficiaries of the OICTEP-P will be professionals with diverse responsibilities for decision making / guiding / mentoring / teaching / training in all forms of vocational training in TEF.
- ii. **OIC-VET for People in Labour Market (OICTEP-PLM)**, on the other hand, targets people in labour market, including young employed workers, job seekers and recent graduates entering into the labour market in accordance with national legislation and/or practices. OICTEP-PLM includes vocational training and work experience undertaken by a beneficiary in another country organized through intra-OIC partnerships. Beneficiaries of the OICTEP-YW will be employed workers, job seekers and recent graduates entering into the labour market in accordance with national legislation and/or practices. Since the young population rate in the OIC countries is relatively high, implementing projects for people working in the labour market will increase the rate of employability for young people.
- iii. **OIC-VET for University Students (OICTEP-US)** includes vocational training and work experience undertaken by a beneficiary in another country organised through intra-OIC partnerships. Beneficiaries of the OICTEP-US will be university students including both graduate and postgraduate levels. OICTEP-US is intended to offers new advantages to students by enabling them to acquire new experiences or essential knowledge through interaction with their fellow students. OICTEP-US is intended to improve the quality and increase the volume of cooperation between higher education institutions and enterprises through apprenticeship, as well as support the development of innovative ICT-based content, services and practice for lifelong learning.

OIC Transnational Innovation Projects (OIC-TIPs)

Moreover, OIC Transnational Innovation Projects (OIC-TIPs) encourage innovative practices to take place in universities, research and training centres as well as governmental and non-governmental institutions. It aims at providing support for an enhanced quality and innovation capacity of VET systems and arrangements at local, national or regional level. OIC-TIPs focus on stimulating the process of innovation and enhancing the quality of training and vocational guidance. These projects also facilitate development of concrete products on training materials (new training modules, simulators, curricula etc.) adapted to the specific needs of each vocational area or economic sector and self-teaching methods, using new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) where appropriate. Innovative practices in terms of methods, contents or products in the field of vocational training and guidance are expected to be integral parts of these projects.

OIC Training Networking (OIC-NETWORKS)

OIC-NETWORKS aim at establishing of training networks among various actors involved in vocational training to improve the quality, transnationality and accessibility of activities in the field of vocational training in TEF. These actors include research and vocational training centres including universities, local authorities, chambers of commerce, trade organizations for employers and employees, and enterprises.

OIC-NETWORKS will help strengthen cooperation among governmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations involved in trade promotion and trade finance in the OIC Member Countries; thus is likely to play an important role in building stronger economic relations among Member Countries through implementation of projects in trade, finance and economy areas. Furthermore, this will also pave the way for future cooperation and implementation of joint projects with regional and international institutions working in the areas of trade, finance and economy and lead to better understanding of common challenges and actions to be considered by the OIC Member States in the long run.

6 Mechanism

Based on the request received from the IDB, the 26th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC has welcomed the idea of establishing a Task Force comprising of representatives from IDB, SESRIC and COMCEC Coordination Office, in order to study the concept of the OIC-VET Sub-Programme on TEF and prepare a work programme to submit to the 26th Session of COMCEC.

The Task Force will have the overall responsibility for directing and coordinating the OICVET-TEF in line with the objectives of the OIC-VET Programme. It will, in particular, have the task to drafting the implementation mechanism and terms of reference of the sub-programme identifying the roles and responsibilities of the each institution in the Task Force, and clarifying all the necessary technical, administrative and financial aspects (including administrative and financial handbooks and operational guides for applicants and beneficiaries) of the Programme in accordance with the needs and capacities of the OIC Member Countries.

The Task Force will be responsible to specify priorities, targets, criteria for the Programme and the selection procedure of the projects. The Task Force will also be responsible for the follow-up activities of the sub-programme. The Task Force will meet regularly until the terms of the reference of the OICVET-TEF is finalised.

Each institution will be actively involved and represented in the Task Force. Furthermore, they will designate at least an officer who will work closely with other members of the team as well as other partners involved in the sub-programme on the overall coordination and the smooth implementation of the planned activities.

On a periodical basis to be predetermined by the Task Force, SESRIC and IDB will work on identifying challenges of people working in the areas of trade, finance and economy and prepare a report in consultation with the COMCEC Coordination Office to submit to OIC Member Countries at various OIC fora, including regular COMCEC Sessions, to acquire the attentions of OIC Member Countries to enhance their ongoing efforts related to trade, finance and economy areas while initiating new projects to enable more people to benefit from this sub-programme.

7 Proposed Work Programme

Activity	Months					
	October	November	December	January	February	March
Submit the Concept Note to the 26 th Session COMCEC and get approval	X					
Incorporation of feedbacks received during the COMCEC Session		X				
Draft the Implementation Mechanism			X			
Draft Terms of Reference			X			
Prepare necessary technical documents				X		
First Consultative Meeting with National Focal Points					X	
Announce Calls for Project Proposals						X

ANNEX

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Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 3RD MEETING OF THE COMCEC
TASK FORCE ON FOOD SECURITY**

(19 September 2010, Antalya, concluded on 4 October 2010 in İstanbul)

The Third Meeting of the COMCEC Task Force on Food Security was held on 19 September 2010, following the Workshop on Agricultural and Rural Development in the Context of Poverty Reduction, convened by the Islamic Development Bank from 16-18 September, at the request of the 25th Session of COMCEC. The meeting took place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Hameed Opeloyeru, Deputy Secretary General for Economic Affairs, OIC. Present were:

I. Members of the Task Force:

1. OIC General Secretariat

- i. H.E. Amd. Hameed Opeloyeru , Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Economic Affairs
- ii. Mr. Jakhouar Khasnov, Professional Officer in the Economic Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat
- iii. Mr. Cheikh Oumar T. Sow, Director General, Economic Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat (4 October only)

2. COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO)

- i. Mr. Metin Eker, Head of CCO (4 October only)
- ii. Mr. Metin Genckol, Expert

3. IDB

- i. Mr. Ousmane Mahgoub Ahmed El Fiel, Division Manager, Agriculture and Rural Development Department

4. FAO

- i. Mr. Abdul Kobakiwal, Chief, Integrated Food Security Support Service (4 October only)
- ii. Ms. Barbara :Huddleston, Senior Food Security Expert, FAO Resource Person
- iii. Mr. Ali Gurkan, Senior Food Security Expert, FAO Resource Person (19 September only)

II. Invited Observers (19 September only):

1. IFAD

- i. Fawzi Rihane, Adviser

2. Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
 - i. Dr. Salah Abdelgadir, Director of Food Security Department
3. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Turkey
 - i. Mr. Ayhan Baran, Representative of the Ministry

The meeting considered the following agenda items:

1. Task Force Work Plan and Arrangements for its Implementation
2. Preparations for Upcoming Food Security-related OIC Events
 - a) 26th Session of COMCEC, 5-8 October, Istanbul, Turkey
 - b) High Level Officials Meeting on Food Security, 28-29 September, Izmir, Turkey
 - c) Fifth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, 26-28 October, Khartoum, Sudan;
 - d) OIC Forum on Agro-Food Industries Development in OIC countries, First half of December 2010, Kampala, Uganda;
 - e) IDB Follow-up Workshop.

The points discussed and conclusions reached are as follows:

I. Task Force Work Plan and Arrangements for its Implementation

It was recalled that the Task Force, at its 2nd meeting, had requested that FAO finalize two action proposals -- one on identifying national food security programs having a high priority for resource mobilization efforts, and the other on launching an OIC South-South Cooperation initiative for food security – for consideration and approval by the Task Force at its 3rd meeting. Subsequently, it was decided to focus attention first on securing the human and financial resources that would be required to implement these action proposals, and only thereafter to finalise them.

The Task Force considered its Work Plan for the next 12 months, and related implementation arrangements, based on decisions already taken at previous meetings, and on the outcome of the just-concluded IDB Workshop on Agricultural and Rural Development in the Context of Poverty Reduction. Task Force conclusions and recommendations on the work plan for 2010-2011 and human and financial resources required for its implementation are reported below.

Task Force Mandate and Membership

The Task Force agreed to include agriculture and rural development, in addition to food security, in its mandate in view of close relationship among these three themes. It also agreed to expand its membership as required in order to implement this expanded

mandate effectively. It identified IFAD, SESRIC, and OIC DCF to be invited for membership.

Work Plan for 2010-2011

As follow-up to the recommendations that emerged from its first four months of work, and bearing in mind the recommendations of the IDB Workshop that: (i) the mandate of the Task Force be expanded to cover Agricultural and Rural Development as well as Food Security, and (ii) an Executive Framework for Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security for OIC Member States be established, the Task Force agreed that its Work Plan for the coming year should be comprised of two elements:

1. Immediate actions to mobilize resources for high priority national food security programs and SSC agreements.

As a part of resource mobilization efforts, the Task Force requested IDB to include in the agenda of its next Coordination Group Meeting a briefing by the Task Force on its activities.

2. The preparation of an Executive Framework for Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security for OIC Member States, embodying identified Programmes and Projects in the critical sectors with time-lines and benchmarks, accompanied by Lead Countries, Lead MDBs and Regional and International Organisations working on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security.

The Task Force stressed that in preparing this Framework due attention should be given to the existing Regional Programmes on Agriculture and Food Security especially the African Union's Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), as well as the Strategy for Sustainable Arab Agricultural Development and Emergency Programme for Arab Food Security and the African Union-Arab League Joint Plan of Action on Food Security with similar programs available for Asia such as the Regional Programme for Food Security of ECO and similar programs for ASEAN and SAARC countries.

A detailed implementation plan for the above-mentioned two elements is contained in Attachment One.

Human and Financial Resource Requirements

The Task Force agreed that resource requirements for implementing the 2010-2011 work plan should be covered by voluntary contributions of OIC institutions and partners. It agreed that the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) should continue to support the Task Force, and the development of OIC Executive Framework for Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security.

The Task Force expressed the view that, in carrying out its tasks it might solicit voluntary contributions from COMCEC member states and institutions, among other resources. It suggested that, besides the Turkish Presidency, other members of the COMCEC Bureau might also be asked to assist in this effort. It felt that other OIC institutions might also be able to make contributions in accordance with their various mandates. For example, SESRIC might be asked to create the GIS database and provide the spatial analyses needed to evaluate opportunities for intra-OIC SSC agreements in support of agriculture, rural development and food security in member countries. It acknowledged with appreciation the human-resource contributions that FAO had made during the past year, and welcomed FAO's indication that this support would continue and even be increased during the coming year.

II. Preparations for Upcoming Food Security-related OIC Events

The meeting resolved to submit to 26th Session of the COMCEC a comprehensive report on the activities of the Task Force to date, including the suggestion for expansion of the mandate of the Task Force to cover Agriculture and Rural Development. The outcome of both the Workshop on Agricultural and Rural Development in Antalya and High Level Official's Meeting on Food Security in Izmir should also be made available to COMCEC.

The Task Force discussed at length the process by which the IDB Workshop recommendation regarding establishment of an Executive Framework for Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security would be moved through various upcoming OIC events.

Several participants at the Task Force Meeting felt that it would be important for COMCEC to have before it not only the results of the IDB Workshop, but also the recommendations of recent similar events such as the Expert Group Meeting on Food Security in May, the IDB Symposium at the Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors in Baku in June, and recent Summits of the League of Arab States. It was agreed that a synthesis of recommendations emerging from all these events would be

prepared by one of the FAO Resource persons and presented by either OIC or IDB at the High Level Officials Meeting in Izmir.

It was also agreed that the Concept Paper for Izmir should be modified so that it put forward the recommendations that emerged from the IDB workshop as the basis for discussion, rather than trying to come up with a new list. Participants would be encouraged to endorse the IDB recommendations with their own additions and refinements, such as, for example, those emanating from Turkey's experience with grain reserves and grain board.

Following Izmir, the COMCEC Coordination Office would prepare a short summary document summarizing the results of the IDB workshop, the Task Force activities over the past year, and the rationale for the recommendation that an Executive Framework for Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security be established.

The Task Force also noted that the draft agenda for the Fifth OIC Ministerial Conference on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security, 26-28 October, Khartoum, Sudan currently appeared very similar to the agendas of all the previous meetings held recently on this thematic issue. It was noted that the reason for all this duplicative activity was attributable to the fact that all OIC institutions had taken up the food security challenge following the food price crisis of 2007-2008. Members all agreed that once the Executive Framework had been established, it would be much easier to avoid such duplication in future, and concentrate attention on implementation of the agreed programs and projects. In this regard, it was recognized that the Task Force would have an important role to play in ensuring that the timelines and benchmarks set out in the Framework were respected. The Task Force urged the OIC to consider amending the agenda for the Khartoum Conference so as to allow preliminary proposals for elements to be included in the Executive Framework to be considered.

The Task Force was informed of plans of the OIC General Secretariat in collaboration with the Islamic Chambers of Commerce (ICCI), to hold a Forum and Workshop on Agro-Food Industries Development in OIC countries during the first half of December 2010, in Kampala, Uganda, which would focus on the contributions the private agro-food processing sector could make to advance intra-OIC cooperation on agriculture, rural development and food security. This would be followed by a Forum for Buyers and Sellers, where connections could be made and contracts signed. Agro-processing initiatives that could be showcased include, for example, Uganda's grain warehousing scheme, WFP's fortified biscuits, and the IDB Project for Utilization of Hajj Meat. It was pointed out that the UAE would be holding the Global Agri-business and Food

Trade Show, with around 3000 participants, in Abu Dhabi in the last week of November, and that OIC might wish to link the timing and format of its Forum in such a way that interested participants in the Trade Show would be encouraged to continue on to Uganda.

Mention was also made of IDB's plans to follow up the workshop just held, with another one targeting decision-makers. IDB indicated that it could be flexible about the dates for this workshop. It was tentatively agreed that this workshop might be the appropriate venue for obtaining decision-makers' endorsement of the Executive Framework, following review of the Framework by the 26th COMCEC Follow-up Committee in May.

Next Meeting

The Task Force agreed to have its next meeting on the margin of the OIC Forum and Workshop on Agro-Food Industries Development in OIC countries on 10-13 December 2010, in Kampala.

Attachment One: Task Force Work Plan Calendar, October 2010 – September 2011

ATTACHMENT ONE. COMCEC TASK FORCE ON FOOD SECURITY, PROPOSED WORK PLAN, 2010-2011

OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	2011												
		2010												
		N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	
IDENTIFICATION OF HIGH PRIORITY NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS AND INTRA-OIC SSC OPPORTUNITIES														
Priority food security programs requiring support have been identified	Gather information about status of food security-related strategies, policies and programs in member countries													
	Complete <i>Matrix for Prioritising Food Security Programming Efforts in OIC Member Countries</i>													
Program documentation required by potential funding partners has been prepared	Mount technical support missions to assist priority countries in formulation and re-formulation work, as required													
	Gather information about status of agricultural and rural development strategies, policies and programs in member countries, and their funding requirements													
Formulated agricultural and rural development programs requiring support have been identified	Create a GIS database for analyzing agricultural production potential, current farming systems and opportunities for technological change in OIC member countries													
	Gather information about particular technologies and farming practices that have proved successful in some parts of the OIC but are not known or practiced in other parts with similar agro-ecological conditions													

	Match availability of SSC expertise in the OIC with technical assistance requirements in the areas of agriculture, rural development and food security in OIC member countries											
MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES FOR HIGH PRIORITY NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS AND SSC AGREEMENTS												
Potential sources of funds for national food security programs and SSC agreements have been identified	Contact members of COMCEC Development Forum and OIC financial institutions to identify the funding potential and funding priorities of each of them in the fields of agriculture, rural development and food security											
	Prepare a report describing the documentation needed by each potential donor to obtain funding approval for formulated programmes and SSC agreements											
Priority food security programs and SSC agreements have been funded	Engage in dialogue with potential funders of food security actions in OIC member countries and facilitate finalization of funding agreements for formulated food security programs											
	Facilitate negotiation of bilateral SSC agreements, to be funded through IDB capacity-building program, OIC member contributions to FAO Trust Fund for Food Security, or by SSC providers themselves											

EXECUTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY										
Main action areas to be included in the Executive Framework have been identified	Building on outcome of Fifth Ministerial Conference for OIC Ministers of Agriculture, prepare a concept note for the Executive Framework for endorsement by the Task Force and the COMCEC Bureau									
Expert Group comprised of one expert for each action area has been formed	Identify and designate one expert for each action area included in the endorsed concept note									
Expert Group Report and start-up work plan for Executive Framework have been prepared and approved	Facilitate expert group meetings and report preparation process, and obtain approval by 26th COMCEC Follow-up Committee									
OIC partnerships and information-sharing activities for agriculture, rural development and food security have been strengthened	Establish procedures for regular sharing of information among all OIC institutions and partners working on agriculture, rural development and food security									
	Enter into new partnership arrangements with relevant non-OIC organizations and institutions Create and maintain a Web Site									

ANNEX

16

Original: English

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP ON
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
“SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES AND SUCCESS STORIES
WITHIN THE POVERTY FRAMEWORK”
(Antalya, 16-18 September 2010)**

1. **Preamble:** In the light of the 25th Session of COMCEC, it was decided that IDB, in collaboration with SESRIC in its capacity as the coordinator institution of the Exchange of Views Sessions of the COMCEC, to organize a workshop on ‘Agriculture and Rural Development within the Poverty Reduction Framework’ as preparation for the “Exchange of Views Session” to be organized during the 26th Session of COMCEC to be held in October 2010. The main objective of the workshop was to prepare a short background paper to be submitted to the Ministerial Meeting of COMCEC, for their further consideration and deliberation. The Workshop was actively attended by more than 37 experts from OIC member countries¹ as well as Regional and International organizations². Within the framework of Agriculture and Rural Development, the workshop was organized under 5 broad themes, namely, Agriculture, Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation; Integrated Value Chain Development; Small Holder Agriculture; Integrated Community Driven Development; and Food Security.

As evident in the evaluation carried out at the end of the workshop, the participants from the member countries, the OIC, COMCEC, International and Regional Organisations (**see footnote 1 and 2**) highly appreciated IDB’s organisation of the workshop, as well as the relevant deliberations, which has resulted in development of this paper, with its recommendations. Appreciation is extended to the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC and COMCEC, which collaborated with IDB in carrying out this workshop, with special thanks to all of the International and Regional organizations, who supported the whole process and also helped out in the various related activities including the drafting of this document.

¹ Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Senegal, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen

² AAAID, ACSAD, AGRA, AOAD, COMCEC, FAO, ICARDA, ICCI, IDB, IFAD, OIC, SESRIC

2. **Context:** Results from this workshop are presented below, which also refer to working sessions and frameworks that have previously taken place, as well as those which are to take place in the future. This has been done in the spirit of the Paris Declaration, with an aim of aligning and harmonizing the respective outcomes in respect of developing a more systematic and comprehensive framework for Agriculture and Rural Development including Food Security. The deliberation of this workshop refers to general recommendations, as well as those directly relating to Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security.

It is to be noted that most of the poor are located in rural areas, where agriculture is the main source of their livelihoods. Agriculture is a major contributor of GDP and has a large job market in OIC Countries. Therefore, efforts and investments in agriculture, rural development and Food Security will lead directly to poverty reduction. Given the Regional nature of this workshop, as well as its results and outcomes being utilized at a high-level meeting, it is expected that the recommendations outlined in this paper will contribute directly towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – **Goal 1:** Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; **Goal 7** – ensuring environmental sustainability, and **Goal 8:** Developing a global Partnership for Development.

3. **Methodology:** In order to have maximum benefit from this workshop an integrated methodology was adopted, whereby presentations, questions and diverse comments from the participants were incorporated into the key findings, as well as to the general and specific comments. In the light of this, there were 3 data-sets that were utilized as follows:
- i) The findings were derived from the country experts (see Annex 1) from the various Member Countries through their presentations, as well as from their discussions, who were from the Ministry relating to Agriculture & Rural Development.
 - ii) A questionnaire on key challenges and key recommendations was given to the participants from the 12 countries and there were 29 responses obtained from them (in most cases more than one participant represented a country). This data has been synthesized and presented in Annex 2, with relevant graphical illustrations.

- iii) This was further supported and strengthened by the discussion and reflections of the senior experts from 12 key organizations working in the subject area which included OIC Entities as well as Regional and International Organizations. (**Annex 3** – provides the full details)

The key findings and key challenges/binding constraints are therefore derived from the strength of these 3 data sets and thus incorporate Country, Regional and Global level perspectives.

4. Key Highlights:

Success Stories: It is to be noted that as per one of the objectives of the workshop, success stories and best practices were determined and presented by the invited participants from the member countries and relevant regional and international organizations (**see footnote 1**). The full details of these successful cases are presented in **Annex 4**, for reference and its validity could be verified from the concerned countries through the Ministry of Agriculture or the related Agencies as stated in **Annex 4**.

Enabling & Relevant Policies & Programmes: Within this category, there were six examples that were presented as outlined below:

- i) In Turkey agricultural reform has brought about systemic improvements in productivity.
- ii) The case of Malaysia’s intervention through Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry indicated significant success through its packaged programme, which incorporated funding, technology transfer, motivational training and infrastructural development.
- iii) In the case of Senegal, the GOANA programme, which was triggered by the fiscal and regulatory policies, resulted in a shift and improvement in performance in the agricultural sector.
- iv) In Malawi the intervention resulting from the introduction of ‘smart subsidies’, which provided access of farmers to seeds and fertilizer positively impacted the agricultural sector. (Case presented by AGRA).

- v) Tunisia's National Programme, which subsumed 326 projects made large impact on the population through its integrated rural development programme covering agriculture, fisheries, rural infrastructure, as well as organizing people, including women and building their capacities.
- vi) AOAD's regional policies and programmes shapes up in combating poverty in the Arab world, with a combination of projects ranging from small-scale fisheries development to rural women's school and integrated agricultural development.

Integrated Research Approach & Technology – There were some interesting examples within this category as illustrated here:

- i) The example of Syria showed that integrated approach to research as presented by ICARDA was a success with the development of the national wheat programme, which improved crop and water technologies. This was done through enabling policy environment, increased farmer's access to modern inputs, increased adoption and maximised impact. This led to enhancing land and water productivity, which lead towards greater food security in the country.
- ii) ACSAD's progressive breeding programme for small ruminants has raised productivity and improved incomes for benefiting farmers in Arab countries.
- iii) In Niger, AGRA has successfully introduced an integrated approach to input supply, including local multiplication of improved seeds and integrated fertilizer/water delivery, using water harvesting technologies.

Participatory Approach & Community Empowerment: There were several examples within this broad category:

- a) In the case of Pakistan, it was seen that there was social conflict that had developed within a community and this was affecting the socio-economic lives of the people including their livelihood. The Water Users Association that developed within this community was seen to significantly change the lives of a number of families as well impacting on crop maximisation. This has resulted from the community ownership, the appropriate use of

technology making water use more equitable and efficient and maximization of crop production.

- b) The Special Programme for Food Security in Sudan and the New National Agricultural Extension System in Burkina Faso, were seen as positive in the light of their community involvement combined with the efficient use of technology.
- c) The Integrated Community Driven Development Model, which is a part of the National Poverty Alleviation Programme of Indonesia in partnership with IDB-ISFD is seen as an emerging success given its strong community involvement in infrastructure, as well as in livelihood and capacity development. This programme which has very wide coverage has become known for its process of transparency and accountability. The programme has become a flagship for Indonesia and the experience of this model is being shared with other member countries through IDB deliberations. A similar programme with IDB intervention has now started with the Government of Sierra Leone targeting several communities.
- d) Relating to Indonesia the Village – Centered and Agriculture Based Industry for Poverty Alleviation was seen to be able to forge the people, to develop community ownership, as well as build their technical knowledge base.
- e) The Yemen Al-Mahara Rural Development Programme took an integrated approach covering through its 157 sub-projects a wide range of projects by building the capacities of communities and their local institutions and inputting in the area of agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure, drinking water, health, vocational training combined with the development of micro-finance activities.
- f) Successful introduction of Conservation Agriculture by ICARDA in Syria and Iraq and ACSAD in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Mauritania, has proved to be an important technology for conserving water in dry areas. It requires investment in machinery and equipment to widely disseminate this technology, so part of the technology package involves design of simple machinery that can be constructed locally at low cost.

All of the above initiatives had an integrated value chain approach to their development and therefore were integrated with the various sectors.

5. General Highlights:

During the discussion, the participants emphasized that agriculture, rural development and food security will be one of the most important items in the global development agenda in the following years due to the adverse impact of the financial crisis, economic downturn, climate change, energy prices and population growth. In this context, the meeting agreed that any effort to develop a comprehensive programme to deal with Food Insecurity and Agriculture and Rural Development should take into consideration the emerging challenges in the post-crisis world. To this end the following were identified as key points for further considered:

- a. Recent FAO estimates indicate that agricultural production would need to grow globally by 70 per cent over the next 40 years to feed the growing population in 2050. Lack of investment in agriculture over the decades has meant continuing low-productivity and stagnant production in many developing States especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- b. The need for member country Governments to develop strategies leading to the development of comprehensive programmes towards achieving the MDGs, by exploiting the full potential within Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security. This needs to be combined with mobilizing greater resources and investments for enhancing the Agricultural sector in its wider sense to include natural resources, crops, horticulture, livestock, fisheries, forestry and environment.
- c. Rural Finance has been recognized globally as a key instrument for improving the livelihoods of the poorer segments of society and evident of having enormous impact on rural development and poverty reduction.
- d. The need for increased national and foreign resources and investments in the Agricultural Sector particularly Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which brings with itself a bundle of resources in addition to capital such as technology, organizational and managerial skills, as well as market accessibility through the marketing networks of partners.

- e. A successful programme to enhance food security and improve the resilience of the agriculture to the emerging challenges and constraints requires a long-term view addressing activities related to the production, processing and distribution-marketing of agriculture commodities.
- f. OIC Member Countries need to enhance their Agricultural Capacities, which include scientific, technological, organization, institutional and resource capabilities.
- g. Any programme for agriculture, rural development and Food Security is a country driven activity, which should clearly address the links between sustainable agricultural development, poverty reduction and promotion of food security in the country.
- h. The need for close involvement of the community in their own development, thereby empowering them to analyse, plan, manage and monitor their process of development using a community driven methodology.
- i. It is crucial to improve education, training and research to enhance productivity and technical efficiency in agricultural sector.
- j. The need to identify and focus on practical ways and means to support and encourage Private Sector to invest in Agricultural Sector, as well as promote public-private sector partnership (PPP) based investments to develop infrastructure in the agriculture sector.
- k. COMCEC and other relevant Entities need to identify and mitigate the Trade related challenges in agriculture commodities in OIC Member Countries, which will offer good opportunities to strengthen the agricultural resources in sectors for which they have comparative advantage.
- l. Member Countries need to focus on ways and means to enhance strategic Partnerships and collaboration with each other and learn lessons from best practices amongst OIC member countries to promote agricultural and rural development.

m. It is proposed that SESRIC and IDB could support research and publication of relevant success stories and best practices within Agriculture and Rural Development including Food Security amongst OIC member countries as a way to strengthen knowledge sharing and its management.

6. **Key Challenges/binding Constraints.** These could be broadly categorized within 3 main areas, namely, General, Agriculture and Integrated Rural Development. The General Findings at OIC and Regional level are outlined below, while the key challenges/constraints relating to Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security are reflected in **Table 1 A:**

General:

OIC & Regional Level

Absence of an OIC comprehensive Framework for Agricultural, Rural Development, and Food Security, to guide intra-OIC Cooperation, including support for National Processes, Regional Initiatives and International Partnerships.

Regional:

- Lack of Regional Integrated Research Networks to synergize research capacities amongst OIC member countries.
- Lack of FDI in Agriculture.
- Lack of active Regional Trade practices in Agricultural Commodities.

7. **Recommendation to Overcome Key Challenges/Binding Constraints – specific and general recommendations:**

The recommendations are categorized into 3 areas, namely, General and those specific to Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security. The General recommendations at OIC and Regional level are outlined here, while a summary of the findings relating to Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security are reflected below, with further details attached in Table 1 B.

General (OIC & Regional):

- i) COMCEC should mandate its Task Force on Food Security to incorporate Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security and request the Task Force to engage OIC member States and relevant Institutions for the

establishment of an Executive Framework for Food Security, Agriculture and Rural Development and Food Security for OIC Member States. This should embody identified Programmes and Projects in the critical sectors with time-lines, benchmarks accompanied by Lead Countries, Lead MDBs and Regional and International Organisations working Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security.

- ii) The above proposed comprehensive –executive framework should take into consideration the findings of the following deliberations:
 - a) IDB organized EGM on Food Security held in Jeddah on 2nd - 3rd May 2010.
 - b) IDB Board of Governors “Brain-Storming Session on Food Security” held on the 23rd June 2010.
 - c) OIC, COMCEC and IDB organized Workshop on Agriculture and Rural Development held in Antalya held on 16th - 18th September 2010.
 - d) Meeting of High level Officials of OIC Countries on Food Security to be held in Izmir, Turkey on 28th - 29th September 2010, and
 - e) The 5th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development scheduled in Khartoum, Sudan on the 26th - 28th October 2010.
- iii) Consideration should also be given to the existing Regional Programmes on Agriculture and Food Security especially the African Union’s Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), as well as the Strategy for Sustainable Arab Agricultural Development and Emergency Programme for Arab Food Security, with a similar programme available for Asia plus the Regional Programme for Food Security of ECO.
- iv) Based on the several issues relating to agriculture, rural development and food security as evident in Table 1 A, it was flagged by the participants that there is a need for the close involvement of the MDBs and Donor communities.

Regional Level:

- i) Establish suitable Funds and Networks to share the research amongst the member countries.

- ii) Call upon the collaboration of Regional Specialised Agencies and relevant OIC Institutions to link-up with the Private sector aimed at building capacities, linkages and harnessing resources for the development of the agricultural sector.
- iii) Fostering Intra-Trade in Agricultural Commodities.
- iv) Enhancing Intra-OIC FDI in the Agriculture Sector.

Country Level:

There were many recommendations that emerged within the light of the challenges and the constraints that were presented during the workshop (**See Table 1B**) . For the sake of conceptual clarity, these are grouped within 5 broad areas as outlined below.

a. Policies and Institutions:

Public Sector Investment: Increase amount of official investment in agriculture with an intent of achieving self-sufficiency in at least some primary commodities.

Private Sector Investment: Implement incentive policies to create enabling environment for private sector, including Foreign direct investment (FDI); Promote Public-Private sector Partnerships (PPP).

Capacity Building: Build technical capacities for policy, program and project formulation; Prepare long-term action plans, recognizing the time required for impacts to be felt; Conduct awareness campaigns on climate change.

Regional Cooperation: Promote regional water-sharing agreements; promote intra-regional market integration; promote investments in regional infrastructure, promote regional sharing of information and knowledge.

b. Natural Resource Management:

Water Management: Support creation of water users' associations; Improve efficiency of water use and delivery; Maximize water productivity;

Promote water harvesting; Promote supplementary irrigation; Promote conservation agriculture, accompanied by machinery and equipment provision; Provide incentives for sustainable and optimal use of ground water; Promote technologies for use of brackish water for irrigation.

Land Management: Maintain soil quality with appropriate fertilization and soil nutrient maintenance schemes; Keep soil well-drained to prevent salinity, Maintain thick vegetative cover to protect against soil erosion during flooding.

c. Sustainable Productivity Growth:

Research and Extension: Increase investment in agricultural research and extension: Give greater priority to investment in research on how to bridge the yield gap; Better integrate research and extension through holistic programs; Integrate and harmonize official and private sector extension services; Promote franchising of extension services, using NGOs; Conduct research program on adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change, and on development of drought and salt-tolerant crop varieties.

Technology Transfer and Input Supply for Smallholders: Identify and disseminate technologies appropriate for smallholders; Promote literacy and numeracy training; Promote exchange of knowledge and experience, example through SSC; Target technology development to smallholders; Put in place efficient seed delivery mechanisms, including development of informal seed production systems; Integrate fertilizer and water delivery; Invest in development of alternative energy sources (bio, solar); Put in place ‘Smart Subsidies’ for fertilizer and seeds.

d. Market Performance:

Market Institutions: Develop relevant market institutions in order to enhance price discovery processes, improve decision making at each link in the value chain and allow better management of inherent market risks; Create crop insurance schemes and indemnisation funds to encourage farmers to become risk-takers; Create enabling environment for technology transfer (credit, market access).

Integrated Value Chain Approach: For horticulture, introduce precision agriculture in conformity with international certification standards,

establish input delivery systems that provide precision inputs, codify standards and use Intellectual Property Rights to protect quality of inputs and products, place collection points near to production areas and ensure producers gain adequate return for value added, rely on investors at processing and marketing end to create demand and establish standards for target markets; For livestock, Organise producer groups; Introduce improved breeds that meet standards and are appropriate for smallholders; Provide adequate animal health care services and promote good animal nutrition; Facilitate access to land, using participative methods at local level; Introduce simple procedures for establishing processing and marketing enterprises; upgrade local and central markets, with relevant storage facilities to curb post-harvest losses; facilitate to over-come the impediments of rural markets by effectively putting in place measures to mitigate and open-up relevant trade channels.

Reduction of Post-Harvest Losses: Link agro-processing development to productivity; improvement, so as to absorb excess supply; Invest in processing industries that create marketing chains; Reduce post-harvest losses by investing in storage, packaging and transport facilities that eliminate need for long-term storage of bulk commodities.

e. Community Driven Development, Micro-Finance and Women Empowerment:

Community Driven Development: Create greater awareness about the CDD approach and the benefit to both communities and governments; Apply CDD methodologies for establishment and development of farmer organizations, cooperatives, and women's organizations at all levels.

Micro-Finance & Innovative Financing Schemes: Establish funds that mobilize investment capital from rural enterprises for qualifying agricultural and rural development projects; Promote micro-finance schemes for disadvantaged and marginalized persons; developing both informal and formal insurance cover, in order to mitigate inherent and external risks involved in the agriculture and its related sectors.

Women Empowerment: Provide greater access to education-vocational training and technology for women villagers; Provide legal access to land,

assets and credit for women; Ensure that extension services reach women farmers.

Conclusion and Way Forward

A rich body of data was generated by the participants from the member countries, as well as from the reflections and discussions with International and Regional organisations which participated in this workshop.

In the light of the challenges/constraints outlined across the various countries and regions, it is evident that a comprehensive framework is required to develop agriculture and rural development, which is defined here in a holistic manner and includes Food Security.

In order to develop this above framework as well as systematically operationalize it, there is a need for governments, bi-lateral, multi-lateral including MDBs, as well as civil society organisations to be closely involved in this process.

TABLE 1A

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

NOTE: Certain external constraints, e.g., EU trade agreements, restrict access to markets. Such constraints are not included in this matrix, as they are not amenable to resolution by domestic action alone.

WATER	TECHNOLOGY	ACCESS TO LAND AND INPUTS	DEMOGRAPHIC PRESSURES	MARKETS & FINANCIAL SERVICES	INFRA-STRUCTURE	POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS
Water scarcity	Outdated agricultural systems	Uncertain land tenure	Growing rural population	Underdeveloped market structure	Lack of rural roads	Lack of adequate public sector investment in agriculture
Land degradation and desertification	Agricultural technology gap	Lack of incentives for development of input markets	Land pressure	Prohibitive agricultural production costs	Poor road maintenance	Lack of capacity at national level to formulate policies, programmes and projects
Inefficient use of water	Yield gap	Poorly-functioning distribution systems	Fragmentation of land	Low market prices for agricultural products	Lack of access to electricity and telecommunications	Lack of linkage between farmers, extension and research
Increased flooding due to climate change	Low productivity		Decrease in cultivable area	Lack of domestic competitiveness	Lack of agro-processing facilities	Weak performance of extension services
Drought and natural calamities	Lack of entrepreneurial skills		Out-migration of youth and instability of rural communities	Lack of private sector investment (agro-processing, agricultural services, vertically-integrated production systems)	Dependency on fossil fuels and wood for energy	
	Disadvantaged status of women			Lack of access to credit in rural areas, especially farm credit	Lack of access to safe drinking water	
					Lack of access to health facilities	

TABLE 1B

RECOMMENDATIONS

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (Food supply, Farm income)

Policies & Institutions (Public and Private Sector Investment)	Increase amount of official investment in agriculture	Implement incentive policies to create enabling environment for private sector including Foreign direct Investment (FDI)	Promote Public-Private sector Partnerships (PPP)				
Policies & Institutions (Capacity-Building)	Build technical capacities for policy, programme and project formulation	Make long-term projections for when policy impacts would be felt and carry out M&E	Conduct awareness campaign on climate change				
Policies and Institutions (Regional Cooperation)	Promote regional water-sharing agreements	Promote intra-regional market integration	Promote; investment in regional infrastructure	Promote regional sharing of knowledge and information			
Natural Resource Management (Land)	Maintain soil quality with appropriate fertilization and soil nutrient maintenance schemes	Keep soil well-drained to prevent salinity	Maintain thick vegetative cover to protect against soil erosion during flooding				

Natural Resource Management (Water)	Support creation of water users' associations;	Improve efficiency of water use and delivery;	Maximize water productivity	Promote water harvesting	Promote supplementary irrigation	Promote conservation agriculture, accompanied by machinery & equipment provision	Provide incentives for sustainable and optimal use of ground water	Promote technologies for use of brackish water for irrigation
Sustainable Productivity Growth (Research and Extension)	Give greater priority to investment in research on how to bridge the yield gap;	Better integrate research and extension through holistic programs	Integrate and harmonize official and private sector extension services	Promote franchising of extension services, using NGOs	Conduct research on adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change, and on drought and salt-tolerant crop varieties			
Sustainable Productivity Growth (Technology Transfer and Input Supply for Smallholders)	Identify and disseminate technologies appropriate for smallholders	Provide literacy and numeracy training	Promote exchange of knowledge and experience, e.g. through SSC	Target technology development to smallholders	Put in place efficient seed multiplication and delivery mechanisms, including development of informal seed production systems	Integrate fertilizer and water delivery	Invest in development of alternative energy sources (bio, solar)	

RURAL DEVELOPMENT (Poverty reduction, Economic growth)

Market Performance (Market Institutions)	Develop relevant market institutions in order to enhance price discovery processes, improve decision making at each link in the value chain and allow better management of inherent market risks	Create crop insurance schemes and indemnisation funds to encourage farmers to become risk-takers	Create enabling environment for technology transfer (credit, market access)				
Market Performance (Integrated Value Chain - Horticulture)	Introduce precision agriculture in conformity with international certification standards	Establish input delivery systems that provide precision inputs	Codify standards and use Intellectual Property Rights to protect quality of inputs and products	Place collection points near to production areas and ensure producers gets adequate return for value added	Rely on investors at processing and marketing end to create demand and establish standard for target markets		
Market Performance (Integrated Value Chain - Livestock)	Organize producer groups	Introduce improved breeds that meet standards and are appropriate for smallholders	Provide adequate animal health care services and promote good animal nutrition	Facilitate access to land, using participative methods at local level	Introduce simple procedures for establishing processing and marketing enterprises		

Market Performance (Reduction of Post-Harvest Losses)	Link agro-processing development to productivity improvement, so as to absorb excess supply	Invest in processing industries that create marketing chains	Reduce post-harvest losses by investing in storage, packaging and transport facilities that eliminate need for long-term storage of bulk commodities				
CDD, Micro-Finance & Women Empowerment (Community-Driven Development)	Create greater awareness about the CDD approach and the benefit to both communities and governments	Apply CCD methodologies for establishment of farmers' organizations cooperatives and women's organizations at all levels					
CDD, Micro-Finance & Women Empowerment (Micro-Finance & Innovative Financing Schemes)	Establish funds that mobilize investment capital from rural entrepreneurs for qualifying agricultural and rural development projects	Promote micro-finance schemes for disadvantaged persons					
CDD, Micro-Finance & Women Empowerment (Women Empowerment)	Provide greater access to technology for women in villages	Provide legal access to land, assets and credit for women	Ensure that extension services reach women farmers				