

Original: English

**RESOLUTION
OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(İstanbul, 23-26 November 2015)

The Thirty-First Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 23-26 November 2015 in İstanbul, Turkey;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, including the 12th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 42nd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the 30th Session of the COMCEC;

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 on 7-8 December 2005 in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, and to the COMCEC Strategy adopted by the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 August 2012 in Makkah Al-Mukarramah;

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

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

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

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

- 1- **Welcomes** the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy, and **requests** the Member States and OIC Institutions to extend their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.
- 2- **Welcomes** the progress achieved in the implementation of the projects that were funded under the first and second calls of the COMCEC Project Funding. **Also welcomes** the third project call, made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in September 2015.
- 3- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to regularly report the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Sessions and to the Follow-up Committee Meetings.
- 4- **Welcomes** the activities organized by the relevant OIC Institutions (SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, and SMIIC) in 2015 in line with the COMCEC Strategy.
- 5- **Requests** the Member States which have not done so, to register to the COMCEC Working Groups and actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the Working Groups.
- 6- **Also Requests** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Working Groups to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the relevant Working Groups and utilize from the COMCEC Project Funding for realizing their cooperation projects.
- 7- **Welcomes** the holding of the Third Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office on 10-11 June 2015 in Ankara.
- 8- **Calls on** the COMCEC National Focal Points and working group focal points to work more closely with the COMCEC Coordination Office for effective coordination and communication.
- 9- **Commends** the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their field of competence and **welcomes** the policy recommendations of the Working Group Meetings.

10- **Calls upon** the Member States to take into consideration the policy recommendations prepared by Working Groups and welcomed by the COMCEC Session and **requests** the OIC institutions to support the implementation of the policy recommendations.

11- As highlighted by the Member States in the Third Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points **calls upon** the concerned Member States to respond to the “Evaluation Form” circulated by the COMCEC Coordination Office on July 30th, 2015, with a view to following-up the implementation of the Policy Recommendations of the COMCEC Working Groups.

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

13- **Adopts** the recommendations of the 31st Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

OIC Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) (Agenda Item: 3)

14- **Reaffirms** its commitment to the realization of the objectives of the TYPOA and **calls upon** the Member States and the OIC Institutions to extend required efforts towards reaching the objectives of the TYPOA.

15- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of COMCEC, **reiterates its request** the OIC General Secretariat, in preparing the new 10-Year Programme of Action, to facilitate the involvement of all member states and OIC Organs and to give due regard to the COMCEC Strategy in formulating the economic and commercial sections as well as the implementation mechanism to avoid duplication.

16- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 41st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, **reiterates** its request to the OIC General Secretariat to submit a comprehensive evaluation report to the 32nd Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC on the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the 10 Year-Programme of Action during the last 10 years, with specific emphasis on the achievements and challenges, as well as recommendations for the successor programme.

17- **Also requests** the OIC General Secretariat to submit a progress report on the adoption and inception of the successor Programme of Action to the 32nd Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC.

18- **Underlines** the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the new 10-Year Programme of Action by the COMCEC.

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

19- **Entrusts** the SESRIC to continue monitoring the world economic developments and their implications on the Member States and to report thereon to the annual sessions of the COMCEC.

20- **Takes note with appreciation** of the sectoral outlook reports prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office and submitted to the relevant Working Group meetings.

21- **Welcomes** the main theme of 2015 edition of SESRIC's annual economic report as investments and **requests** the SESRIC to focus more on intra-OIC investments in its future reports.

22- **Taking into consideration** various barriers to investment including regulatory restrictions, inadequate financial and human capital, insufficient infrastructure, weak technology and coordination and information failures; **calls upon** the Member States to improve their investment environment and enhance the efficiency of related public and private institutions with a view to increase the FDIs, leverage domestic investments and investment efficiency.

Intra-OIC Trade (Agenda Item: 5)

23- **Takes note with appreciation** of the holding of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on March 26th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "*Improving the Role of Eximbanks / Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) in the OIC Member States*" and **welcomes** the policy recommendations of the Working Group, namely:

- Member States are encouraged to examine and assess the financing needs of their exporters

- Member States are invited to enhance transactional cooperation among their ECAs
- Member States are encouraged to review the soundness of their ECAs with the aim of improving the overall performance of the ECAs
- Member states are called on to empower their private sectors and encourage its participation within the ECA context
- Member states are encouraged to initiate capacity building activities for strengthening institutional and human capacities of their ECAs

(Ref: Document code OIC/COMCEC/D(9))

24- **Also takes note with appreciation** of the holding of the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on September 17th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “*Establishing Well-Functioning National Trade Facilitation Bodies (NTFBs) in the OIC Member Countries*”, and **welXcomes** the policy recommendations of the Working Group, namely:

- Establishing effective communication systems within the framework of the work of the NTFBs
- Involving the private sector in the activities of the NTFBs
- Extending technical assistance to the member states for establishing/maintaining NTFBs
- Designing Performance Evaluation Criteria for the Existing NTFBs

(Ref: Document code OIC/COMCEC/D(10))

25- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to attend the Seventh Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be held on March 26th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “*Strengthening the Compliance of OIC Member States to International Standards*”, and the Eighth Meeting to be organized on October 6th, 2016 with the theme of “*Improving the Border Agency Cooperation among the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade*”.

26- **Requests** the Member States to actively participate in the trade activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in 2016 and **requests** these institutions to send invitations and documents to the Member States sufficiently in advance of their meetings so as to ensure the widest possible participation.

27- **Commends** the ICDT and IDB for successfully co-organizing the following events:

- Seminar on new generation of free trade agreements on 4-6 May 2015 in Casablanca, Morocco,
- Seminar on the new generation of free trade agreements on 25-27 May 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey,
- Workshop on the Single Window Modality and E-Trade on 09-10 November 2015, Casablanca, Morocco.

i) TPS-OIC

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

29- **Invites** all participating states which have ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements and submitted the concession lists, to finalize the necessary procedures which include updating the previously submitted concession lists and notifying the TNC Secretariat on the relevant internal measures to be undertaken for implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin by March 1st, 2016 for the full implementation of the TPS-OIC.

30- **Also welcomes** the consultative meeting of the Ministers of Commerce and Heads of Delegation of the 12 participating states, held upon the invitation of the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Turkey, on the sidelines of the 31st Session of the COMCEC which has reached a common understanding on the deadline of March 1st, 2016 for the full implementation of the TPS-OIC.

31- **Requests** the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to consider convening its session in 2016 upon the completion of the relevant procedures by the participating states.

32- **Expresses** its appreciation for the successful convening of the training seminar on the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin, which was organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office in cooperation with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), on 26-27 January 2015 in Ankara.

33- **Commends** the ICDT for organizing following sensitizing events towards increasing awareness on the benefits of TPS-OIC among the government officials and the private sector in the Member States;

- Training Seminar on TPS/OIC for ECO Countries in Istanbul on 7-9 April 2015, organized in collaboration with the CCO and the IDB Group.
- Training Seminar on “Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States and its protocols PRETAS and Rules of Origin” in Doha on 13-14 April 2015 organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce State of Qatar.
- Awareness-raising Seminar on TPS/OIC and its protocols for the benefit of the Public and Private sectors of the Republic of Suriname and the Republic of Guyana in Paramaribo on June 4th, 2015.

ii) Islamic Trade Fairs

34- **Commends** the improvements in the number and quality of Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions, and **expresses** its thanks and appreciation to the following Member States for hosting Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT:

- The Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and ICDT and the Association of Exhibition Industry (UFI) for organising a seminar on “Exhibition Industry in Middle/East Africa Region” in Marrakesh on 23rd-24th March 2015,
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the “8th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” on 13- 16April 2015,
- The Republic of Tunisia for organizing the 1st Exhibition of Organic and Local Products of the OIC Member States on 28 October -1st November 2015,

35- **Welcomes** the offer of the following Member States to host Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT in 2015/2019 and **requests** the Member States to encourage active participation of their private sector and relevant institutions in these events:

- The State of the United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah) to host the 4th OIC Halal Expo & Congress respectively on 8 - 10 December 2015,

- The State of the United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah) to host the “2nd Tourism and Travel Exhibition” in Sharjah on 8th-10th December 2015,
- The Kingdom of Morocco to host the “3rd OIC Health Expo” in collaboration with OFEC in Casablanca on 24th-26th March 2016,
- The Republic of Senegal to host the “2nd Higher Education Expo and Forum” in Dakar on 9th-12th May 2016,
- The Arab Republic of Egypt to host the “3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States” in 2017,
- The Republic of Iraq to host the 16th edition of the Trade Fair of the Islamic Countries in 2017,
- Republic of Guinea to host the 17th Trade Fair of Islamic Countries in 2019.

36- **Welcomes** Saudi Arabia’s invitation to the member states to participate, with special pavilions, in the 15th Islamic Fair to be held under the auspices of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in Riyadh, in 22-26 May 2016; and **calls upon** member states to actively participate in this fair.

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

iii) Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade

38- **Takes note** of the report of the 7th and final Meeting of the Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC trade held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 2-3 March 2015.

39- **Expresses** its appreciation to the ICDT and other Members of the Consultative Group for successfully concluding its mandate in 2015 and **takes note** of the comprehensive evaluation report prepared in collaboration with other relevant OIC Institutions in line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC on the implementation of the Road-Map.

40- **Welcomes** the offer of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and ICDT to organize “the Conference of the TPOs Network” in Jeddah on 23 May 2016, on the sidelines of the 15th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States.

41- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host and of the ICDT, the Ministry of Trade, Informal Sector, Consumer Affairs, Promotion of Local Products and SMEs of the Republic of Senegal and the International Exhibition of the Muslim Business (SIBM) to organize the African Halal Business Forum in Dakar 2016 and urges the Member States to actively participate in this event.

42 - **Reiterates** its request to the Member States to keep on providing the ICDT with data relating to trade and investment statistics and regulations.

iv) WTO Related Technical Assistance

43- **Calls on** IDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and to carry on their efforts in raising the awareness of Member States on the importance of the WTO trade negotiations and their impact on economies and **requests** them to pool and coordinate their efforts to reinforce the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on an equitable and fair basis.

44- **Calls on** non-WTO members of the OIC to accede to WTO and **requests** the WTO-members of the OIC to assist them in their accession process.

45- **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat, to exert the necessary efforts for ICDT's observer status within the World Trade Organization (WTO), in order to help the follow-up WTO matters, including studies, research, capacity building and reports to OIC Fora.

46- **Expresses** its thanks and appreciation to the IDB Group for organizing various activities, such as, workshops and seminars, under its WTO programme since the 30th Session of the COMCEC for the benefit of the OIC Countries.

47- **Also thanks** the IDB for regularly organizing the WTO consultative meeting of the OIC Trade Ministers on the Sidelines of the WTO Ministerial Conferences, the upcoming one being organized on 14 December 2015 on the sidelines of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference to be held on 15-18 December 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya and **invites** the Member States to participate in this event.

48- **Welcomes** the offer of the Kingdom of Morocco to host and ICDT and the Department of Cooperation and Integration of IDB to organize a workshop on the "Administration of RTAs and the prospects of Regional Integration in the OIC Member

States” in Casablanca on 21st-23rd December 2015 **urges** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

v) Trade Financing Activities

49- **Appreciates** trade finance and trade promotion activities of ITFC and the mobilization of funds from the international market for funding the trade operations in the Member States, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 20 percent.

50- **Commends** the efforts of ITFC in financing the SMEs, Least Developed Member Countries, and diversifying into new markets with innovative financing products and programmes.

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

52- **Takes note** of the progress on the implementation of AFTIAS and Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program of ITFC and **invites** the concerned Member States to actively participate and support the implementation of these initiatives.

53- **Welcomes** the efforts of IDBG (ITFC) for the preparation of the Special Program for Central Asia and **invites** other OIC Institutions and concerned Member States to actively participate and support the implementation of this initiative.

54- **Takes note** of the efforts of the ITFC to organize a Trade Development Forum to raise awareness of the private sectors of the Member States on the trade financing facilities of the ITFC and **encourages** Member States actively participate in the Forum.

55- **Takes note** of the Strategic Partnership on the Deep Dive Initiative between the World Bank Group and IDB Group.

vi) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

56- **Welcomes** the increased activity of the SMIIC through organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence and **requests** the Member States which have not done so far, to join SMIIC to benefit from its services.

57- **Takes note with appreciation** of the activities of the Accreditation Committee and **requests** the SMIIIC Member States to actively participate in the meetings of the Accreditation Committee as well as other technical committees under SMIIIC with their national competent authorities.

58- **Welcomes** the organization of SMIIIC Accreditation Committee (AC) Lead Assessor/Assessor training programme which will be held on 25-27 November 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey to establish an expert pool for the involvement of relevant Muslim stakeholders in the Halal accreditation.

59- **Commends** the organization of SMIIIC Forum 2015 which was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 5 May 2015, to raise the awareness of conformity assessment and halal activities throughout the Member States.

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

60- **Takes note** of the pivotal role played by the private sector in the economic development of the Member States and **commends** the role of the Islamic Chamber by introducing projects aimed at the development of private sector in the Member States under the auspices of the COMCEC.

61- **Requests** the ICCIA to undertake an overall assessment of its organization, functions and activities with a view to enhance its outreach so as to better serve to private sector according to its original mandate and objectives and submit a report to the 32nd Follow up Committee Meeting and 32nd Session of the COMCEC on the matter.

62- **Calls upon** the Member States to support and actively participate in ICCIA's work on the revision of its functions and activities, and encourages their Chamber of Commerce to involve actively in the ICCIA's activities.

63- **Welcomes** the holding of the 17th Private Sector Meeting, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with the 15th Islamic Trade Fair from 22-26 May 2016.

64- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Second Workshop on "Enhancing Cooperation among the Trade Registry Agencies in the OIC Member States" in September 2016.

65- **Commends** the ICCIA for the successful organization of the 8th Businesswomen Forum in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Uganda National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UNCCI) and the workshop on “Development of a Mechanism for Joint Ventures and partnerships among Women-led Enterprises through South-South Cooperation” in collaboration with Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI) both held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda respectively on 26-27 and 28-29 October 2015.

66- **Calls upon** the private sector of the Member States to actively cooperate and interact with the ICCIA in order to fulfill its tasks.

67- **Takes note** of the following activities to be organized by the ICCIA and **calls upon** the private sector of the Member States to actively participate in these activities;

- The 17th Private Sector Meeting, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with the 15th Islamic Trade Fair from 22-26 May 2016,
- The 9th Businesswomen Forum for Islamic Countries in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 22-26 May 2016,
- Senior Managers Leadership Training Program (transforming Good Managers into Great Leaders. (Dates/Venue to be determined),
- Food Trade Exchange Forum among Islamic Countries,
- Annual Halal Conference,
- Excellence Award,
- Specialized Workshop on (Food Security/Entrepreneurship Development/Promotion of Tourism Opportunities/Development of SMEs),
- Conference on Muslim Business-owners’ Union.

68- **Expresses** its appreciation and thanks to the Republic of Tunisia for organizing a seminar on “Competition Policy in the OIC Member States” in collaboration with the ICDT in Tunis on June 2-3, 2015.

Improving Transport and Communications (Agenda Item: 7)

69- **Takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on February 12th, 2015 in

Ankara with the theme of “*Evaluating the Ownership, Governance Structures and Performances of the Ports in the OIC Member States*” and **welcomes** the policy recommendations of the Meeting, namely;

- Member states are invited to enhance the private sector participation in the port sector,
- Member states are encouraged to establish port regulators,
- Member states are called on to promote intermodal container transportation.

70- **Also takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on October 22nd, 2015 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "*Urban Transport in the OIC Megacities*" and **welcomes** the policy recommendations of the Meeting, namely;

- Working on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Urban Transport Financing,
- Enhancing ICT Applications for Traffic Management in OIC Cities,
- Improving institutional structure to ensure the delivery of a sustainable transport strategy

71- **Requests** the Member States to participate in the Seventh Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group to be held on March 24th, 2016 with the theme of “*Enhancing Road Maintenance in the OIC Member Countries*”, as well as its eight meeting to be held on October 27th, 2016 with the theme of “*Improving Road Safety in the OIC Member Countries*”.

72- **Appreciates** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat to sensitize the concerned OIC Member States to the need to include the respective national segments along the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor in their national development plans and **requests** the concerned Member states to submit their well-designed feasibility studies for securing adequate technical support and financing for this project.

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

73- **Takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group on February 5th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “*Travel Facilitation for Enhancing Mobility in the OIC Member Countries*” and **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Encouraging visa facilitation among the Member States
- Developing air linkages and increasing the airline capacity in the Member States

74- **Also takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group on September 3rd, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “*Effective Tourism Marketing Strategies: ICT-Based Solutions for the OIC Member Countries*” and **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Building and strengthening a skilled workforce on ICT-based tourism marketing in the Member States,
- Enhancing cooperation between the government and private sector on ICT usage and diffusion in tourism marketing,
- Developing comprehensive and effective digital marketing strategies in the Member States.

75- **Requests** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the Seventh Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to be held on February 4th, 2016 with the theme of “*Muslim Friendly Tourism: Understanding the Demand and Supply Side in the OIC Member Countries*” as well as its Eighth Meeting to be held on September 1st, 2016 with the theme of “*Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Developing and Marketing MFT Products and Services in the OIC Member States.*” and **requests** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

76- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Niger to host the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers on 21-23 December 2015 and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

77- **Takes note** of the report of the Third Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held on 29-30 January 2015 in İstanbul with the theme of “*International Branding of Tourism Destinations in the OIC Member Countries.*”

78- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to hold the 4th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum on 14-15 January 2016 in İstanbul with the theme of “*Promoting Muslim-friendly Tourism Products and Services in the OIC Member Countries*” and **requests** the Member States to encourage their private sector representatives in tourism sector to actively participate in this event.

79- **Welcomes** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 5th OIC Health Tourism Conference in Mashhad in 2016 and **requests** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

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

80- **Takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group on March 5th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "*Improving Institutional Capacity: Strengthening Farmer Organizations in the OIC Member Countries*" and **welcomes** its following policy recommendations; (*Check Arabic: full para.*)

- Research and extension services of the farmer organizations need to be improved for increasing agricultural productivity,
- The capacity of farmer organizations to have access agricultural market information and dissemination of the market information to their members need to be improved.

81- **Also takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group on October 8th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of "*Promoting Agricultural Value Chains in the OIC Member Countries*" and **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Adopting/developing quality standards, implementing quality control and identifying market opportunities for standard compliance of agricultural products,
- Improving transport and storage facilities for promoting value chain development in the Member States through well-developed public-private partnerships,
- Supporting agro-processing and packaging industries to increase the value added of agricultural products.

82- **Urges** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in the Seventh Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group to be held on March 3rd, 2016 with the theme of "*Reducing On-farm Food Losses in the OIC Member Countries*", as well as its Eighth Meeting to be held on October 13th, 2016 with the theme of "*Reducing Post-Harvest Losses in the OIC Member Countries.*" and **requests** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group.

83- **Welcomes** the organization of “*The Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agri-Business*” on 1-3 December, 2014 in Ankara, Turkey by SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA), (FAO) and Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of UNDP.

84- **Notes with appreciation** the efforts of the Republic of Turkey and SESRIC in organizing training courses on different technical agricultural and food security aspects in the Member States within the framework of the OIC Agriculture Capacity Building Programme.

85- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development and the Inaugural General Assembly of Islamic Organization for Food Security on 26-28 April, 2016 and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

86- **Calls upon** the Member States which have yet done so to sign and ratify the Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security.

87- **Takes note** of the organization of Expo 2016 in Antalya, Republic of Turkey and **invites** the private sector and public authorities of the Member States to participate in this organization.

Eradicating Poverty (Agenda Item:10)

88- **Takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the 5th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group on February 26th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “*Activation Policies for the Poor in the OIC Member States*” and **welcomes** the following policy recommendations;

- Increase the capacity of the institutions providing Public Employment Services (PES) in the Member States through enhancing the quality and quantity of the human resources and developing information technology (IT) infrastructure of the PES institutions as well as an effective partnership with the relevant stakeholders in delivering activation measures.

- Promoting employer engagement in the preparation/implementation of the activation programmes through establishing a sound mechanism for ensuring the active involvement of the relevant stakeholders, and conducting employer surveys to identify the skills/needs in the labour market.

(Ref: Document code OIC/COMCEC-FC/31-15/D(26)-CCO)

89- **Also takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the 6th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group held on September 10th, 2015 in Ankara, with the theme of “*Improvement of Basic Services Delivery in the OIC Member States*”, and **welcomes** the policy recommendations of the Meeting.

(The policy recommendations of the Meeting are integrated to the Policy Recommendations Document prepared specifically for the Exchange of Views Session of the 31st COMCEC Ministerial Session which is annexed .8)

90- **Requests** the Member States to actively participate in the Seventh Meeting of the Working Group to be held on February 11th, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “*Accessibility to Social Protection Programmes for the Vulnerable Groups in the OIC Member Countries*”, as well as its 8th Meeting to be held on November 3rd, 2016 with the theme of “*International Forced Migration in OIC Countries: The Policy Framework Adopted by Host Countries*”.

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

91- **Reiterates** its request to the Member States which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and make fresh pledges on a voluntary basis so as to enable it to finance more projects in Member States and commends the Member States which have already fulfilled their pledges.

92- **Requests** the Member States that have not announced their pledges so far to announce their commitments and in accordance with their economic and financial abilities pay those pledges to enable the Fund to implement its programmes in the Member States.

93- **Also requests** the ISFD to increase its efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including the private sector in the Member States.

94- **Welcomes** the efforts of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for mobilization of resources from different financing institutions for the implementation of the Special Programme for the Development of Africa (SPDA).

ii) OIC Cotton Plan of Action

95- While appreciating the positive interest of the IDB for the OIC Cotton Plan of Action, **requests** the IDB to finalize its consideration for the funding of the capacity building project which combines 14 cotton projects into one project, submitted to the IDB in accordance with the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of COMCEC.

96- **Takes note of** the efforts of SESRIC in organizing training courses on various cotton-related aspects in the Member States within the framework of the OIC Cotton Training Programme (OIC-CTP), and urged the Cotton Research Centers of Excellence to enhance their cooperation with SESRIC in implementing these training courses.

iii) OIC-VET Program

97- **Appreciates** the continuous efforts of SESRIC towards initiating and implementing various capacity building programmes and training courses in different fields and areas of interest to the Member States with a view to enhancing the capacities and quality of human resources in these countries and **calls upon** SESRIC to mobilize more financial resources towards the programme.

98- **Requests** SESRIC and IDB to continue developing and implementing new projects and initiatives under the OIC-VET sub-programmes, and **calls upon** the Member States to participate and support the various capacity building programmes of SESRIC under the OIC-VET Programme through activating the role of their National Focal Points (NFPs) in this important Programme.

Deepening Financial Cooperation (Agenda Item: 11)

99- **Takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the Fourth Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on March 19th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “*Improving Banking Supervisory Mechanisms in the OIC Member Countries*” and **welcomes** the policy recommendations of the Working Group, namely;

- A credit risk data collection strategy for the OIC Member States needs to be developed for reducing risks during episodes of economic turbulence and the risk assessment capacity of the OIC Member States should also be developed in line with the international best practices.
- An Effective Deposit Insurance Scheme for the Banking Sector needs to be developed for achieving a higher degree of financial stability and financial inclusion.
- A Regulatory and supervisory Framework needs to be developed specifically for Islamic Banking in order to benefit from the significant growth potential of Islamic Banking System.

(Ref: Document code OIC/COMCECD(48))

100- **Also takes note with appreciation** of the convening of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on October 15th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “*Retail Payment Systems in the OIC Member Countries*”, and **welcomes** the policy recommendations of the Working Group, namely;

- Increasing awareness of the benefits of modern retail payment systems through providing education on basic financial controls and prudence as well as increasing transparency in order to protect consumer rights,
- Exploring ways to further decrease the cost of retail payments and seeking ways for interoperability,
- Establishing/maintaining OIC payment systems data collection and reporting framework.

(Ref: Document code OIC/COMCEC/D(49))

101- **Requests** the Member States to actively participate in the Sixth Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group to be held on March 17th, 2016 with the theme of “*Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries*”, as well as its Seventh Meeting to be held on October 20th, 2016 with the theme of “*National and Global Islamic Financial Architecture: Problems and Possible Solutions for the OIC Member Countries*”.

i) OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum

102- **Takes note** of the report of the Ninth Meeting of the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum held on November 19th, 2015 in İstanbul.

103- **Welcomes** the offer of the Borsa Istanbul as the Secretariat of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum, to host the 10th Meeting of the Forum in 2016 in İstanbul and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

104- **Requests** the Member States and IDB to support the promotion of both the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index and sub-indices.

105- **Welcomes** the report on “Gold Market Initiative for the OIC Member Countries” prepared by the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum and **requests** it to further study, through its Task Force on Precious Metals, to accelerate the process of integration of exchanges and harmonization of regulatory frameworks with a view to establishing a gold exchange among the OIC Member Countries and submit a report on this issue to the 32nd Session of the COMCEC.

ii) Cooperation among Capital Markets' Regulatory Bodies

106- **Takes note** of the report of the Fourth Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum held on November 19th, 2015 in İstanbul.

107- **Welcomes** the efforts carried out by the Task Forces of COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum on Islamic capital market challenges, database, financial literacy as well as capacity building, and also **invites** the Member States to support the efforts of the Forum through participating in its meetings, contributing to the accomplishment of the mandates of the Task Forces.

108- **Welcomes** the offer of the Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum in 2016 in İstanbul and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

109- **Welcomes** the report on “Real Estate Securities Exchange Initiative” prepared by the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum and **requests** it to further study the matter with the ultimate aim of establishing an exchange for the trading of real estate /

real estate securities for the OIC Member Countries and submit a report on this issue to the 32nd Session of the COMCEC.

iii) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities

110- **Requests** the Republic of Suriname to reschedule the hosting of the 15th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States in January 2016 and **also urges** the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.

111- **Welcomes** the training and capacity building programs organized by the SESRIC among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States in different aspects of cooperation and **requests** the SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the relevant institutions of the Member States.

Exchange of Views on “Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery” (Agenda Item: 12)

112- **Recalling** the relevant decision of the 30th COMCEC Session, **welcomes** the joint study on “Critical Success Factors in Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Current Situation and Prospects for the OIC” prepared and submitted by the IDB and COMCEC Coordination Office and **calls upon** Member States and relevant OIC Institutions to utilize the findings of this Study.

113- **Welcomes** the policy recommendations of the 6th Poverty Alleviation Working on “Post-2015 Development Agenda and Development Challenges of the Islamic Ummah: Improving Basic Service Delivery” organized on 10-11 September 2015 in Ankara, Turkey.

Ref: Policy Recommendations Document (Annex 8)

114- **Urges** the OIC Institutions, in their respective fields of competence, to lend their full support to the Member States for the implementation of the SDGs.

115- **Taking note with appreciation** the ongoing efforts under the COMCEC Working Groups and the COMCEC Project Funding, **requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to take into consideration newly adopted SDGs and their sub-items to be studied within the framework of the working groups and **urges** the Member States to develop projects to be implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding to assist the implementation of the SDGs.

116- **Requests** the SESRIC to identified data gaps and compilation limitations of the OIC Member States related to the SDG indicators and to support the national statistical offices and related public institutions in their capacity development efforts. **Also requests** the SESRIC to Follow-up the inclusion of OIC as a unit of analysis in UN statistical system and report it to the 32nd Follow-up Committee Meeting and 32nd Session of COMCEC.

117- **Taking into the consideration** the ambitious agenda of the SDGs and the need to prioritize among 17 goals at the national level, **requests** SESRIC in collaboration with the CCO to identified the priority SDG areas for the Member States via surveys, field visits for meetings with stakeholders as well as to make capacity needs assessment in these priority areas for the Member States and report it to the 32nd Follow-up Committee Meeting and 32nd Session of COMCEC.

Theme of the next Exchange of Views Session

118- **Decides** on “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” as the theme for the Exchange of Views Session at the 32nd Session of the COMCEC and **requests** the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 32nd COMCEC Session.

Date of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC (Agenda Item: 13)

119- **Decides** that the 32nd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 17-18 May, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey and the 32nd Session of the COMCEC will be held on 21-24 November, 2016 in İstanbul, Turkey.

