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RESOLUTIONS

ON

ECONOMIC ISSUES

ADOPTED BY THE

**46TH SESSION OF
THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (CFM)**

***(SESSION OF 50 YEARS OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION: ROADMAP FOR PROSPERITY
AND DEVELOPMENT)***

**ABU DHABI, STATE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
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24-25 JUMADAH AL-THANI 1440H**

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RESOLUTION No.1/46-E
ON
AGRICULTURE, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

The Council of Foreign Ministers in its 46th session (Session of 50 Years of Islamic Cooperation: Roadmap for Prosperity and Development) held in Abu Dhabi, State of the United Arab Emirates, on 24-25 Jumada II 1440H (1-2 March 2019),

Pursuant to the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on intensification of intra-OIC cooperation in the socio-economic domain,

Recalling the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016,

Also recalling the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States of the OIC, adopted as per Resolution No.1/8-E of the Eighth Session of CFM held in Tripoli, Libya on 16-22 May 1977,

Reaffirming the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the OIC Member States, which was adopted by the Twelfth Session of CFM held in Baghdad, Iraq on 1-5 June 1981,

Recalling the Resolutions on Economic Issues adopted by 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018,

Taking note of the Report of the Secretary General on coordinating activities of subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions of the OIC in line with the Resolution No. 6/18-AF adopted by 18th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 13-16 March 1989,

Reaffirming the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 34th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 26-29 November 2018,

Taking into account the reports on activities of the various OIC institutions in the economic domain, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, and SMIIC,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

A. AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

Reaffirming the Resolutions on Promoting Food Security and Agricultural Development in OIC Member States, especially those adopted by the Seventh OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, from 26 to 28 April 2016,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 34th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 26-29 November 2018,

Considering the critical role of agriculture in stimulating socio-economic growth and sustainable development in many OIC Member States, especially in its least developed countries in terms of income, employment and poverty reduction,

Bearing in mind the need to consolidate the various OIC executive organs working in the agriculture sector,

Taking note of the definitive entry into force of the Statute of Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) with effect from 19 February 2018, and the on-going arrangements to convene the Second Session of IOFS General Assembly in Astana, Kazakhstan in 2019,

Welcoming the support of the Government of Kazakhstan towards the inception of IOFS' Secretariat and financing of IOFS' Administrative Budget for 2018/2019,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for its offer to host the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCFSAD) in the last quarter of 2019,

Being mindful of the on-going action on preparation of OIC programmes of action for development of strategic agricultural commodities (wheat, rice, and cassava),

Commending the efforts of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) towards enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States especially through the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group and COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism,

Taking note with appreciation IDB's agriculture financing approvals in 2017, which amounted US\$720 million for financing 46 projects in the agriculture sector in OIC Member States,

Welcoming the growing collaboration among OIC institutions on funding and exchange of expertise, including partnership with the relevant regional organizations and institutions,

Taking into account the reports on activities of the various OIC institutions in the domain of agricultural development and food security,

1. **Urges** Member States to support the implementation of IOFS 5-Year Plan of Action, including intra-OIC investment in agricultural and rural infrastructure, and cross-border agricultural projects;
2. **Invites** Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Statute of IOFS at their earliest convenience;

3. **Also invites** all Member States and the relevant OIC organs/institutions to actively participate in the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCF SAD) scheduled for Istanbul, Republic of Turkey in the last quarter of 2019;
4. **Urges** Member States to provide the General Secretariat with their national inputs for the preparation of OIC programmes of action for development of strategic agricultural commodities (wheat, rice, and cassava) in a timely manner;
5. **Requests** the Secretary General to submit the drafts of OIC programmes of action for development of strategic agricultural commodities, in cooperation with the relevant OIC organs/institutions, including IOFS, COMCEC, IDB Group and SESRIC, for consideration of the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development.

B. LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

Bearing in mind the provisions of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection, which was adopted at the Second Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM), aimed at promoting intra-OIC cooperation on labour, employment and social protection,

Recalling the outcome of the Fourth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 21-22 February 2018, including its Resolution and Declaration,

Emphasizing the need for expeditious implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection and Resolutions of Islamic Conferences of Labour Ministers, particularly Resolution of the 4th ICLM,

Also emphasizing the need to re-introduce the Executive Programme for the Implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection on thematic cooperation areas, as well as on active support of OIC lead countries in this regard,

Welcoming the signing of the Statute of OIC Labour Centre by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 11 November 2018, as well as the ratification of same by the Republic of Azerbaijan on 1 October 2018;

Being conscious of the fact that as of 2015, unemployment rate of OIC countries was measured at 7.4%, which was higher compared to the world average of 5.7%, thus emphasizing the need to create new employment opportunities and implement the provisions of OIC Framework on Labour, Employment and Social Protection,

Underscoring the effectiveness of intra-OIC collaboration on labour and employment matters, including the implementation of: 1) OIC Agreement on Mutual Recognition

Arrangement (MRA) of Skilled Workforce; 2) OIC Standard Bilateral Agreement on Exchange of Manpower; and 3) OIC Labour Market Strategy,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for its offer to host the Fifth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers in 2020,

Commending the efforts of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) towards enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States, especially through the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group and COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism,

Also commending the various OIC institutions for the implementation of capacity building and technical assistance projects in the field of labour, employment and social protection,

1. **Requests** Member States to indicate their areas of comparative advantage on labour and employment matters for the purpose of capacity development and exchange of expertise in relevant cooperation areas envisaged in the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection;
2. **Also requests** the Secretary General, in consultation with the Chairman of the 4th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers, to work out a new executive programme for the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection, with emphasis on support by lead OIC countries in this domain;
3. **Further requests** Member States to provide the General Secretariat with details of implementation of: 1) OIC Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Skilled Workforce; 2) OIC Standard Bilateral Agreement on Exchange of Manpower; and 3) OIC Labour Market Strategy, respectively;
4. **Reiterates** its earlier request on Member States to sign and ratify the Statute of OIC Labour Center, as the case may be, and at their earliest convenience.

C. **GENERAL PROVISION:**

Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to B to the 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No.2/46-E
ON
INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT, TOURISM AND
TRANSPORTATION

The Council of Foreign Ministers in its 46th session (Session of 50 Years of Islamic Cooperation: Roadmap for Prosperity and Development) held in Abu Dhabi, State of the United Arab Emirates, on 24-25 Jumada II 1440H (1-2 March 2019),

Pursuant to the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on intensification of intra-OIC cooperation in the socio-economic domain,

Recalling the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016,

Also recalling the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States of the OIC, adopted as per Resolution No.1/8-E of the Eighth Session of CFM held in Tripoli, Libya on 16-22 May 1977,

Reaffirming the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the OIC Member States, which was adopted by the Twelfth Session of CFM held in Baghdad, Iraq on 1-5 June 1981,

Recalling the Resolutions on Economic Issues adopted by 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018,

Reaffirming the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 34th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 26-29 November 2018,

Taking into account the reports on activities of the various OIC institutions in the economic domain, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA and SMIIC,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

A. INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Reaffirming the Resolution No.1/45-E adopted by 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018, with regards to intra-OIC trade and investment,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC and the resolution adopted by the 34th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 26-29 November 2018,

Bearing in mind the Report and Recommendations of the Forum on Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) of the OIC Member States, held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 24 May 2016, with particular reference to the need for organization of annual

regional investment forums in key OIC regions to attract more foreign direct investment to such regions,

Being conscious of the need to enhance public-private participation towards promoting intra-OIC investment,

Inspired by the OIC trade and investment facilitation measures, including the implementation of the TPS-OIC and its protocols,

Also recalling the decision of the Joint General Assembly of Subsidiary Organs, particularly with regard to the activities of ICDT and SESRIC on trade and investment-related issues,

Taking note of the Annual Report of ICDT, 2018 on “Trade among the OIC Member States”, and **noting** the increase of the Intra-OIC Net Trade volume by 15.8%, from USD 278.2 Billion in 2016 to USD 322.2 billion in 2017,

Expressing satisfaction at the increase of the share of intra-OIC Trade in the overall foreign trade of Member States by 6%, from 18.7% in 2016 to 19.8% in 2017,

Taking note of the fact that 28 OIC countries have already attained 25% intra-OIC trade target set-up in the OIC-2025: Programme of Action,

Commending the steady increase of trade financing and business insurance by relevant OIC organs, which featured cumulative trade approvals by International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) to the tune of US\$ 3.7 billion at the end of Q3 2018, and the various business insurances by Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) amounting to US\$ 6.79 billion in the first 10 months of 2018,

Also commending the recent submission by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members of an updated list of concessions as required under the TPS-OIC on 21 November 2018,

Emphasizing the need for reflection of national trade priorities in the Work Programme of ICDT in line with the Resolution No.1/45-E (B-1) adopted by the 43rd CFM,

Noting with satisfaction the outcomes of the Workshop on “Post-WTO Eleventh Ministerial Conference (MC11) for the OIC Member States” organized by ICDT in cooperation with IsDB Group in Dubai, UAE, on 19-20 November 2018,

Commending the successful staging of the 2nd Exhibition on Furniture and Decoration of the OIC Member States, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 13-16 March 2018, and the 11th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries in the OIC Member States, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 20-23 March 2018,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for convening the World Halal Summit (WHS) and the 6th OIC Halal Expo, in cooperation with ICDT and SMIIC, in Istanbul, Turkey on 29 November -2 December 2018,

Also expressing appreciation for the successful outcome of the 13th General Assembly Meeting of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 5 November 2018, with particular reference to the adoption of the Major Strategic Activities for the 2019-2020, which highlighted, among other issues, the enhanced social awareness on SMIIC and the OIC/SMIIC Standards; and capacity building and training programmes for SMIIC Member States,

Taking note of the outcomes of the “High Level OIC Expert Meeting on Investment Obstacles in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities”, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 24-25 January 2018,

Also taking note of the successful launching of Astana International Financial Center (AIFC) in Kazakhstan and **encouraging** all Member States to take advantage of the facilities of AIFC, namely AIFC Stock Exchange (AIX), Islamic Finance, Green Finance, and etc,

Commending the successful outcome of the Business Forum of the Agadir Agreement and West African OIC Member States, organized by the ICDT, ITFC and Agadir Agreement Technical Unit (ATU) in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco on 10-11 May 2018,

Also commending the efforts of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) towards enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States, especially through the COMCEC Trade Working Group and COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of the Republic of Tunisia for hosting the Second OIC Regional Investment Forum in Tunis in the first half of 2019,

1. **Reiterates** its invitation to Member States, which have not yet signed or ratified Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC), PRETAS and Rules of Origin, to do so at their earlier convenience, including the submission of their list of products and schedule of concessions;
2. **Calls upon** the Member States to participate actively in the Second OIC Regional Investment Forum, to be held in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia, in the first half of 2019, including submission of relevant bankable investment projects as contained in the relevant General Secretariat’s Notes Verbales, and **calls on** the General Secretariat to notify COMCEC of the proceedings and outcome of the Forum;
3. **Requests** all Member States to participate actively at the “EXPO 2020 Dubai”, scheduled to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 20 October 2020 to 10 April 2021 under the theme of “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future”;
4. **Calls on** ICDT and IDB Group to continue their efforts in raising awareness of Member States on the importance of the WTO agreements and trade negotiations and their impacts on their economies, and **invites** them to pool resources and

coordinate their efforts to reinforce the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States in WTO related matters.

5. **Welcomes** the readiness of the Government of the Republic of Turkey, in particular Investment Support Office, upon the proposal of Secretary General of the OIC, to convene an OIC High Level Public and Private Investment Conference in Istanbul, Turkey in late 2019, in cooperation with the General Secretariat and Islamic Development Bank, and with the participation of relevant public agencies, private investors, private investor institutions, as well as OIC institutions, including Islamic Development Bank Group.

B. PERMANENT OIC INVESTMENT DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM

Pursuant to the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on intensification of intra-OIC cooperation in the socio-economic domain,

Reaffirming the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the OIC Member States, which was adopted by the Twelfth Session of CFM held in Baghdad, Iraq on 1-5 June 1981 and entered into force on 25 February 1988, particularly the Article 17 on the establishment of an organ for the settlement of investment disputes under the Agreement,

Noting that Article 17 of the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments contemplates the establishment of a permanent organ for the settlement of disputes arising out of the Agreement,

Recalling the Resolution No. 1/43-E adopted by 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October 2016, which mandated the Secretary General in consultation with Member States and relevant OIC organs/institutions to propose modalities for the creation of a permanent body for the settlement of disputes arising under the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the OIC Member States,

Also recalling the Recommendation of the Forum of Investment Promotion Agencies of the OIC Member States, held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 24 May 2016 on the creation a permanent body for the purpose of arbitration of investment disputes among investors or corporate bodies operating in OIC Member States,

Expressing appreciation to the gracious support of IsDB by assigning an expert to facilitate the creation of the mechanism,

Pursuant to the Concept Note regarding Establishment of a Permanent Mechanism for the Settlement of Disputes arising out of the Agreement for the Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, submitted by the General Secretariat,

Being conscious of the utmost importance of aligning the Agreement with modern international investment law, sustainable development objectives, and Member States modern investment policies and strategies,

Recognizing that the establishment of a permanent organ for the settlement of investment disputes arising out of the Agreement should contribute to the above-stated objective,

1. **Notes** the Concept Paper contained in the Report of the Secretary General, which proposes modalities to the creation of a permanent body for the settlement of disputes arising under the Agreement for the Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation;
2. **Requests** the General Secretariat to submit the Concept Paper to an open-ended Intergovernmental Experts Group Meeting and then to COMCEC, to enable further discussions among Member States and relevant OIC institutions with a view to determining the appropriate modalities towards fulfilling the requirements of the above Agreement;
3. **Emphasizes** that all legal steps and processes should, in the first instance, be discussed and agreed upon among the State Parties to the said Agreement.

C. **TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT**

Pursuant to the provisions of the OIC Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism among OIC Member States adopted by 6th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic on 29 June - 2 July 2008,

Recalling the Resolution on Tourism Development adopted by 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018, with regard to tourism development in OIC Member States,

Also recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, especially those adopted by the 34th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 26- 29 November 2018,

Reaffirming the Resolution on Tourism Development in the OIC Member States, adopted by the 10th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 5-7 February 2018,

Expressing satisfaction at the increased number of intra-OIC tourist arrivals from 18.4 million in 2000 to 67.7 million in 2017,

Welcoming the celebration of Tabriz as OIC City of Tourism 2018, held in Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran on 25 April 2018,

Encouraging all Member States to take advantage of their participation at the various commemorative ceremonies and activities in respect of Dhaka as the OIC City of Tourism 2019 with the objective of promoting intra-OIC tourism,

Commending the successful conclusion of the Training Course on Improving Islamic Tourism Ecosystem in OIC Member States: Destination and Industry Development, organized by SESRIC in Malatya, Turkey, on 9-12 July 2018, in line with the implementation of the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism,

Also commending the efforts of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) towards enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States especially through the COMCEC Tourism Working Group and COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism,

Further commending the contributions of the various OIC Institutions in the development of Tourism Sector,

1. **Urges** all Member States and relevant OIC institutions to implement the provisions of the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism, especially the identified five key thematic cooperation areas, namely data and monitoring, policy and regulation development, marketing and promotion, destination and industry development and capacity building;
2. **Calls on** all Member States and OIC Institutions to take advantage of their participation at the various commemorative ceremonies and activities in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh as the OIC City of Tourism 2019 to promote intra-OIC Tourism;
3. **Invites** the General Secretariat to liaise with the Government of Azerbaijan on early arrangements for the commemoration of Gabala as the OIC City of Tourism 2020;
4. **Invites** Member States and their respective Private Sector entities to promote intra-OIC tourism by actively participating in the OIC Tourism Fair, scheduled in Kuwait-City, State of Kuwait in 2019, including the sidelines event relating to the Forum on Public Private Investors in the area of Tourism;
5. **Urges** all Member States to actively participate in the 11th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) to be held in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2020.

D. PRIVATE SECTOR

Reaffirming the relevant provisions of the Resolution No.2/45-E adopted by 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, especially those adopted by the 34th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 26-29 November 2018,

Commending the efforts of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) towards enhancing cooperation among the OIC Member States in the area of private sector development especially through the COMCEC Working Groups and the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism,

Recognizing that the private sector is the key driver of employment, growth, investment, trade and innovation and that it has a central role to play in achieving poverty reduction, sustainable development and inclusive growth,

Expressing satisfaction with the fact that by the end of 2017, the cumulative private sector approvals of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) had reached US\$ 5.9 billion in support of 390 projects in OIC Member States,

Also expressing appreciation with the successful outcomes of the 34th General Assembly Meeting of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 22 May 2018, and the 27th Session of the Board of Directors of ICCIA, held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, on 22-23 October 2018, and **welcoming** the appointment of a new Secretary General of ICCIA,

Welcoming the convening of the Training Program on Technology Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Management of Business Incubation and Technology Parks, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23-25 April 2018, organized by ICCIA in collaboration with the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF) and Union of Turkish Chambers and Commerce and Industry (TOBB),

Taking into account the report on activities of ICCIA, especially in the area of trade promotion, organization of specialized trade fairs and business forums, as well as capacity building workshops,

1. **Calls on** all Member States to actively participate at the OIC Private Sector Forum to be held in 2019, for the purpose of mainstreaming the role of Private Sector in socio-economic development;
2. **Reiterate its request** to Member States to designate their umbrella Chambers of Commerce as accredited member of the ICCIA, in order to strengthen the membership of ICCIA as well as consolidating support for this important corporative representative of the OIC.

E. TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT

Recalling the Resolution on Cooperation in the field of Transportation among OIC Member States adopted by the First OIC Ministerial Conference on Transportation, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 7-10 September 1987,

Reaffirming the Resolution No.1/45-E adopted by the 45th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018, with regard to cooperation in transport sector for regional economic integration through multi-sectoral connectivity for shared prosperity,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC and the resolution adopted by the 34th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 26-29 November 2018,

Emphasizing the need for the implementation of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project as a multimodal transport corridor, as well as other cross-border transport connectivity projects in OIC Member States,

Recognizing the importance of intra-OIC transport connectivity in facilitating access to markets, economic opportunities and social services to a number of countries spanning across OIC region, as well as contributing to economic development and poverty alleviation in OIC countries,

Being convinced that an efficient transport system is a crucial precondition for economic development and an asset in international competition,

Being conscious of the fact that transport networks among OIC Member States remain poorly connected, and the need to strengthen cooperation efforts in the transport sector through formulation and execution of joint projects,

Commending the efforts of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) towards enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States, especially through the COMCEC Transport and Communication Working Group and COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism,

Appreciating the ongoing work on convening of the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan,

Taking note with appreciation the efforts of the relevant institutions of the OIC, in particular the IDB, within their respective mandates, to support development of transport infrastructure in OIC Member States,

1. **Encourages** Member States to explore possibilities for cooperation in joint training of human resources and sharing of best practices on integrated transport development, upgrading and maintenance of transport infrastructure;
2. **Requests** Member States and respective OIC development agencies to assist project owners in securing external financial and in-kind support to fast-track the implementation of the various segments of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor, including Dakar-Bamako-Sikasso-Bobo-Dioulasso Railway project;

3. **Also requests** the Secretary General to conclude necessary arrangements with the relevant authorities in the Republic of Sudan for the early convening of the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers;
4. **Further requests** the SESRIC and IDB Group, in consultation with the OIC General Secretariat and COMCEC, to prepare a study outlining potential constraints to connectivity that need to be addressed in order to improve connectivity between various sub-regions of the OIC;
5. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat and relevant institutions, including SESRIC and IsDB, to prepare a study outlining main challenges of Landlocked Countries of OIC (LLDCs) in the area of transportation and development, as well as appropriate solutions.

F. GENERAL PROVISION:

Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to E to the 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 3/46-E
ON
POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

The Council of Foreign Ministers in its 46th session (Session of 50 Years of Islamic Cooperation: Roadmap for Prosperity and Development) held in Abu Dhabi, State of the United Arab Emirates, on 24-25 Jumada II 1440H (1-2 March 2019),

Pursuant to the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on intensification of intra-OIC cooperation in the socio-economic domain,

Recalling the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016,

Also recalling the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States of the OIC, adopted as per Resolution No.1/8-E of the Eighth Session of CFM held in Tripoli, Libya on 16-22 May 1977,

Reaffirming the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the OIC Member States, which was adopted by the Twelfth Session of CFM held in Baghdad, Iraq on 1-5 June 1981,

Recalling the Resolution No.2/45-E adopted by 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018,

Reaffirming the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 34th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 26-29 November 2018,

Commending the various initiatives launched by OIC Member States towards strengthening economic cooperation among the OIC Member States and their respective support for the implementation of relevant OIC resolutions,

Taking into account the reports on activities of the relevant OIC institutions,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

A. POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Reaffirming the relevant provisions of the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation that encourage activities for the increasing intra-OIC socio-economic cooperation,

Recalling the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, which, among others, prioritizes the poverty alleviation,

Also recalling the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States, adopted as per Resolution No.1/8-E of the Eighth Session of CFM held in Tripoli, Libya on 16-22 May 1977,

Further recalling the relevant provisions of the Resolution No.2/45-E adopted by 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018,

Commending the efforts of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) towards enhancing cooperation among the OIC Member States especially through the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group and the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism,

i. Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD):

Recalling the relevant provisions of Final Communique of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 14-15 April 2016, with regard to the need to mobilize resources for the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD),

Reaffirming its relevant Resolutions on the mobilization of funds for the ISFD, particularly the Resolution No.2/45-E adopted by 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in n Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018,

Noting that a total of 49 OIC Member States and IDB Group have made pledges to ISFD amounting to US\$ 2.7 billion, which represents only 27% of the approved target capital of US\$10 billion,

Also noting that 29 OIC Member States and IDB Group have paid their pledges in full, while 9 OIC Member States paid their pledges partially, and other 11 OIC Member States have yet to pay their pledges,

Further noting that the ISFD is still constrained by the low level of mobilized resources, compared to its approved target capital of US\$ 10 billion,

Commending the allocation of a plot of land each by Benin, Burkina Faso and Comoros to ISFD under the Waqf Programme as well as expression of interest by Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Maldives, Togo and Sudan to allocate a Waqf land property as in-kind contribution to the ISFD,

Noting the various interventions on poverty alleviation projects through ISFD, which amounted to US\$ 834 million in 2018,

Recognizing that the main mandate of the ISFD is to contribute to development of a sustainable infrastructure and fostering community-led development in OIC Member States,

Emphasizing the need for further mobilisation of funds in order to make-up for the funding gap of US\$ 7.3 billion to ISFD, as a crucial way of expanding its activities towards alleviating poverty, improving social services and infrastructures in OIC Member States, through diversification of resources,

1. **Renews its call on** OIC Member States, which have not done so, to redeem fully their respective pledges to ISFD and to consider making additional commitments on a voluntary basis, including allocation of Waqf in favour of ISFD, so as to achieve its target capital of US\$ 10 billion;
2. **Also calls upon** OIC Member States, which have not made any commitment to ISFD, to make their respective pledges to ISFD in the spirit of solidarity and mutual assistance;
3. **Further calls on** OIC Member States to support relevant OIC institutions towards enhancing partnership with the Private sector establishments in OIC Member States with a view to mobilizing additional funds to ISFD;
4. **Invites** the Secretary General to continue to report on the activities of ISFD.

B. REPLENISHING OF THE LAKE CHAD

Recalling the relevant provisions of Final Communiqué of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 14-15 April 2016, with regard to the implementation of the Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA), which has effectively contributed to social and physical infrastructure development in 22 OIC countries in Africa,

Reaffirming the Resolution on Assistance to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the Lake Chad Basin countries, which was adopted by the 44th Session of the CFM held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,

Welcoming the Secretary General's Report on the urgent need to support the replenishing of Lake Chad, which is shared by Algeria, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Libya, Niger, Nigeria, and Sudan, and which has shrunk from 2,500 km² in 1985 to 1,500 km² in recent years,

Being conscious of the fact that diminishing water levels of the Lake Chad has resulted in the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems degradation, decline in fishing and irrigation activities, food insecurity, decline in income and consequent deterioration of living conditions, increase competition and conflicts over the little available resource,

Being equally conscious of the fact that the shrinking of the Lake Chad has pushed people, who depend on its water for crop and livestock farming, fishing, commerce and trade to abject poverty, and has triggered mass migration, conflicts and crises in the region, including the Boko Haram insurgency,

1. **Requests** OIC Member States and relevant OIC development financing institutions, including IsDB Group and ISF, to support the Transaqua project, as contained in the Secretary General's Report;
2. **Also requests** OIC Member States and relevant OIC institutions to support the Lake Chad Basin countries' efforts towards addressing humanitarian and developmental needs of displaced persons and communities in the Lake Chad Basin area.

C. OIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION POLICY

Recalling the Final Communiqué of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 14-15 April 2016, on the need for a comprehensive OIC infrastructure development policy in order to realize the vision of an integrated OIC economic community,

Reiterating the provisions of the Resolution No. 3/41-E adopted by 41st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 18-19 June 2014, with regard to the elaboration of a successor programme to the Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA),

Also reiterating the relevant provisions of the Resolution No.1/45-E adopted by 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018, with regard to the elaboration of OIC policy on infrastructure development and regional integration,

Stressing the need to transform the structure of economies in most of OIC Member States as well as to create decent jobs, promote productivity, enhance incomes and achieve sustainable growth and development,

Considering the importance of adequate and efficient infrastructure for facilitating domestic market access and regional integration,

Emphasizing the importance of regional integration for ensuring sustainable development and building trust, as well as stimulating investment, fostering economic growth and increasing trade among OIC Member States,

Reiterating the need to incorporate all OIC regional programmes and initiatives into one comprehensive strategy on infrastructure development and regional integration,

Being fully aware of the ongoing elaboration of the OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy (OIC-IDRIP) aimed at supporting and mobilizing resources for development of necessary physical and institutional infrastructures to foster the regional integration and economic growth in OIC Member States,

Noting the valuable contributions submitted by a number of OIC Member States for incorporating in the Draft OIC-IDRIP,

1. **Commends** Member States, which have so far submitted their comments on the Draft of OIC-IDRIP, and **requests** other Member States to submit their inputs in a timely manner;
2. **Requests** the Secretary General, in consultation with Member States, to organize a series of validation workshops on OIC-IDRIP as a prelude to OIC Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting;
3. **Decides** to establish an OIC Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting to propose a Draft OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy, with the support and participation of the relevant OIC Institutions/Organs, including COMCEC, IsDB and SESRIC;
4. **Reiterates** its requests to the IsDB, in collaboration with the General Secretariat and other relevant organs and institutions, to conduct needs assessment of the Member States in the field of infrastructure development and report to 47th CFM.

D. GENERAL PROVISION

Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to C to the 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 4/46-E
ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO OIC MEMBER STATES AND
MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN DISPUTED/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND NON-OIC
COUNTRIES WITHIN THE OIC MANDATE

The Council of Foreign Ministers in its 46th session (Session of 50 Years of Islamic Cooperation: Roadmap for Prosperity and Development) held in Abu Dhabi, State of the United Arab Emirates, on 24-25 Jumada II 1440H (1-2 March 2019),

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Charter of Organization of Islamic Cooperation on enhancing and strengthening the bond of unity and solidarity among Member States,

Reaffirming the Resolution No.3/45-E adopted by 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018, with regard to Economic Assistance to the OIC Member States and Muslim Communities in Disputed/Occupied and non-OIC countries within the OIC mandate,

Believing that the over-all objective of the economic assistance is to increase the capacity of needy OIC countries to pursue their development,

Also recognizing that the effective use of development assistance is central to a partnership for development in support of the achievement of the OIC development goals, including OIC-2025: Programme of Action,

Desirous of contributing to the creation of conditions for the promotion of the economic and social progress of OIC Member States, especially its least developed countries,

Being concerned about the obstacles OIC Member States face in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable socio-economic development,

Bearing in mind the requests for assistance on the part of the needy OIC Member States,

Commending the OIC Member States, which provided financial and technical assistance in support of the various development projects in the needy OIC Member States and other non-OIC countries,

1. **Calls on** OIC Member States and other potential donors to continue to assist the needy OIC Member States and Muslim Communities in non-OIC countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth in line with the ideals of partnership, mutual assistance and solidarity among OIC Member States;
2. **Commends** the initiatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by cancelling debts owed by Least Developed Countries to the tune of US\$6 billion based on humanitarian considerations;

3. **Renews its earlier calls on** OIC Member States to submit, on an annual basis, information on their respective assistance pursuant to the present and previous resolutions on this matter.

A. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO OIC MEMBER STATES

i. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN:

Confirming full solidarity of the OIC Member States with the Government and people of Azerbaijan at this very critical time of the country's history,

Referring to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions regarding this conflict,

Deploring the Armenia-backed aggressive separatism instigated in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, followed by aggression and occupation by Armenia of about 20 percent of Azerbaijani territories and resulted in violent displacement of almost one million Azerbaijani people from their homes, which, as such, resembles the terrible concept of ethnic cleansing,

Being conscious of the fact that economic damage inflicted upon Azerbaijan in its territories currently occupied by Armenia already exceeds US\$60 billion,

Welcoming and appreciating the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies, United Nations institutions and international organizations,

Emphasizing the fact that despite the efforts and achievements of the Republic of Azerbaijan in solving the problems of Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) and refugees, there is still a need for technical and financial assistance by donor countries and international organizations,

1. **Appeals** to the Member States, International Community and Islamic Institutions to make available to the Government of Azerbaijan the financial and technical assistance with a view of implementing development projects aimed at improvement of social and living conditions of IDPs;
2. **Calls upon** the international organizations to continue to support economic and social development activities of Azerbaijan.

B. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO MUSLIM MINORITIES AND COMMUNITIES IN DISPUTED/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND NON-OIC COUNTRIES WITHIN THE OIC MANDATE

i. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR:

Recalling all previous resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on assistance to the Kashmiri people, particularly Resolution 23/30-E of the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

Expressing deep sympathy to the victims, their families and people of Jammu and Kashmir, who suffered huge loss of life and socio-economic and environmental damage from the massive earthquake that struck South Asia on 8 October 2005,

Expressing concern at the reports of Indian government's selective approach in Indian Occupied Kashmir in assisting flood victims of 2014 on communal basis and ignoring Muslims on the basis of religion,

Also expressing gratitude for the assistance, contributions and pledges of the international community, particularly the Member States for the relief and rehabilitation efforts for the earthquake victims, which reflect the spirit of Islamic solidarity and cooperation to meet the challenges of unprecedented natural disasters,

Acknowledging the interest shown by the Secretary General's Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir, Ambassador Abdullah Alim in extending financial assistance for development projects in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) during his visit to the region in May 2016,

Welcoming the Secretary General's offers of financing development projects in AJK during his visit to Islamabad in 2014,

Further expressing deep appreciation for the assistance extended to the Kashmiris by some Member States and relevant OIC bodies,

1. **Calls** for expeditiously implementing the recommendations contained in the report of OIC Secretary General's Special Representative for Jammu and Kashmir on his visit to Azad Jammu and Kashmir in May 2016;
2. **Encourages** Islamic Solidarity Fund and Islamic Development Bank to finance through grants/soft loans, development projects in Azad Jammu and Kashmir;
3. **Appeals** to Member States and Islamic institutions, such as the Islamic Solidarity Fund, Islamic Development Bank and Charitable Institutions, to grant generous humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people, whose plight has been aggravated by the devastating earthquake of October 2005;
4. **Encourages** the international community, particularly donor countries, international financial institutions and relevant international organizations from the Islamic World to continue to provide necessary fund and assistance to support the ongoing rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the affected areas of Jammu and Kashmir;
5. **Appeals** to Member States to contribute, wherever possible, to the rehabilitation of people affected by the earthquake disaster in order to facilitate the economic and social wellbeing since many means of livelihood have been damaged or destroyed;

6. **Also appeals** to Member States and the Islamic institutions to grant scholarships to the Kashmiri students in different universities and institutions in the OIC countries.

C. GENERAL PROVISION:

Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to B to the 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 5/46-E
ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF THE COMCEC

The Council of Foreign Ministers in its 46th session (Session of 50 Years of Islamic Cooperation: Roadmap for Prosperity and Development) held in Abu Dhabi, State of the United Arab Emirates, on 24-25 Jumada II 1440H (1-2 March 2019),

Reaffirming the relevant provisions of the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation that encourage activities for the increasing intra-OIC socio-economic cooperation,

Recalling the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States, adopted as per Resolution No.1/8-E of the Eighth Session of CFM held in Tripoli, Libya on 16-22 May 1977,

Also recalling the Final Communique and the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016,

Reiterating the relevant provisions of the Resolutions on Economic Issues adopted by 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, in particular the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009,

Taking note of the resolutions of the 34th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 26-29 November 2018,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Turkey, as the host country of the COMCEC, for its continued support for COMCEC activities and for successful implementation of the COMCEC Strategy through its mechanisms, namely COMCEC Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding for the benefit of the Member States,

Commending COMCEC for its efforts for enhanced cooperation among the OIC Member States in the fields of trade, agriculture, transport and communications, tourism, finance, poverty alleviation and private sector development in the light of the COMCEC Strategy coordinated by COMCEC Coordination Office and in collaboration with various OIC Institutions in the economic domain, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIIC,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

1. **Renews** its request to the Member States to further their efforts for the implementation of COMCEC's Resolutions, including the resolution of the 34th Session of the COMCEC No.OIC/COMCEC/34-18/RES as annexed hereto, in a manner consistent with the OIC Charter;
2. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report thereon to the 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No.6/46-E
ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RELEVANT OIC INSTITUTIONS
WORKING IN THE ECONOMIC DOMAIN

The Council of Foreign Ministers in its 46th session (Session of 50 Years of Islamic Cooperation: Roadmap for Prosperity and Development) held in Abu Dhabi, State of the United Arab Emirates, on 24-25 Jumada II 1440H (1-2 March 2019),

Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on follow-up of the implementation of OIC decisions, resolutions and recommendations, including coordination and harmonization of the work of relevant OIC organs,

Reaffirming the Resolution on Activities of the OIC Institutions Working in the Economic Domain adopted by 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018,

Also reaffirming the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 34th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 26-29 November 2018,

Recalling the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, particularly the role of OIC institutions working in the economic domain towards attaining the goals of the Programme in the economic domain,

Taking note of the outcome of the Fourth Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 3-4 December 2018,

Taking into account the reports on activities of the various OIC institutions in the economic domain, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, ICCIA and SMIIC,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General as well as the report of the Joint General Assembly of the Subsidiary Organs,

A. STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)

Recalling the Resolution No.2/8-EC adopted by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Tripoli, Libya in May 1977, with regard to the creation of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC),

Being conscious of SESRIC's role in preparing background reports and studies on the various agenda items of the relevant OIC Ministerial Conferences and meetings,

Acknowledging the noticeable increase in the number and themes of the reports and studies as well as the training and capacity building programmes of the SESRIC in the recent years,

Bearing in mind the continuous efforts of SESRIC towards initiating and implementing a wide range of 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 their human resources,

Taking note of the outcome of the 41st Meeting of the Board of Directors of SESRIC, held in Ankara, Turkey on 18 December 2018,

Having taken note of the report of the SESRIC,

1. **Calls upon** the Member States to endeavour to implement the recommendations and resolutions of the relevant OIC Conferences and Ministerial Meetings in line with the proposals contained in SESRIC's reports and studies;
2. **Invites** SESRIC to continue conducting joint research projects with relevant regional, international and national research and think-tank institutions and universities on developmental issues of interest to the Member States with a view to generating proposals that will initiate and enhance cooperation among them;
3. **Calls upon** SESRIC to initiate research projects on new socio-economic developmental issues, which are challenging the efforts of the Members States towards achieving the SDGs, particularly those which are also stipulated in the OIC-2025 Programme of Action;
4. **Calls upon** the Member States to participate in, and support, the activities of SESRIC through designating their National Focal Points (NFPs) for the Capacity Building and Vocational Education and Training programmes and activating the role of these NFPs in the process of the implementation of these Programmes;
5. **Urges** SESRIC and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group to enhance and increase their cooperation to facilitate the implementation of a wide range of activities such as trainings, workshops, study visits and so on within the framework of the OIC Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET) as well as all other SESRIC OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaBs) for the benefit of the Member States;
6. **Commends** the efforts of SESRIC on the implementation of the Reverse Linkage Projects together with IsDB with a view to increasing the capacity of the Member States through the transfer knowledge, technology and resources, and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in these projects either as a beneficiary or provider with respect the area of cooperation;
7. **Appreciates** the recently initiated economic empowerment programme of SESRIC and IsDB, namely "Syrian Palestinian Employment and Entrepreneurship

Development” - SPEED Project- towards Palestinian refugee families in Turkey via social safety and protection, skill development, capacity building and networking;

8. **Commends** SESRIC and the IsDB for their cooperation on the 3.2.C Initiative for Technical Cooperation as a platform of collaboration among the Technical Cooperation Agencies (TCAs) of the OIC Member States, and **welcomes** the hosting of the Fourth Dialogue Meeting of OIC Technical Cooperation Agencies in Istanbul, Turkey in the last quarter of 2019 by SESRIC, IsDB and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA);
9. **Appreciates** SESRIC’s efforts for hosting the OIC International Internship Programme and the placing of 307 international students from different universities in Turkey to complete their internship in the public and private institutions, NGOs and universities;
10. **Commends** the continuous efforts of SESRIC in cooperation with the Member States towards enhancing the technical capacities of National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of the OIC Member States within the framework of the Centre’s Statistical Capacity Building Programme (OIC-StatCaB) and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in the periodical sessions of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom);
11. **Urges** the Member States, which have not done so thus far, for the on-time and regular payment of their annual mandatory contributions to the budget of the Centre, and to act for the settlement of their outstanding arrears, if any, at the earliest.

B. ISLAMIC CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)

Recalling the Resolution No.2/3-E (IS) adopted by the Third Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 25-28 January 1981, with regard to the creation of the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT),

Bearing in mind the outcomes of the Third Meeting of the ACMOI Trade and Investment Sub Committee, which was held in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco on 8-9 March 2018,

Noting with satisfaction the organization by ICDT of specialized exhibitions on Health, Halal Industry, Agribusiness Industries, Green Economy, Furniture and Decoration and other future events to be held in 2019 such the 16th OIC Trade Fair in Baghdad, Shipbuilding and Fisheries Expo in Dhaka, Tourism and Handicraft; Furniture and Decoration in Kuwait-City, Health, Social and Solidarity Economy in Abidjan, Logistics and Transportation in Casablanca,

Noting with satisfaction the organization by ICDT of Seminars and workshops on TPS-OIC, Single Window, Exports and investment strategies, Dispute settlement, online webmarketing for women entrepreneurs, WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and Multilateral Trade Negotiations, Non-Tariff Barriers,

Noting with satisfaction the implementation by ICDT of the OIC Trade Map and MacMap, the TPOs and NTBs Observatory websites in order to enhance trade facilitation tools for the benefit of the OIC Member States and contributing to the development of the intra-OIC trade,

Noting with satisfaction the outcomes of the Workshop on “Obstacles and Solutions to Investment in Africa” organized by ICDT and ICIEC and SESRIC in collaboration with OIC Mission in Geneva on 23rd October 2018,

Taking note of the outcomes of the 36th Meeting of ICDT’s Board of Directors, which was held in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia, on 14 December 2018,

Having considered the activity report submitted by the ICDT,

1. **Calls on** ICDT to continue extending the technical assistance to the Member States in the context of the multilateral trade negotiations and coordinating the positions of Member States within the WTO in close cooperation with IDB Group;
2. **Requests** ICDT to carry on holding more sector-specific exhibitions and to keep on utilizing professional expertise in these activities, especially in the area of Tourism, Halal Industry, Agribusiness, Green Economy, Health products and services, Higher Education Services, Maritime Economy, Social and Solidarity Economy, Cotton, textiles and garments, Furniture, Interior Decoration and Building, logistics and transportation and to submit regularly progress reports to the relevant OIC fora;
3. **Also requests** ICDT to carry on providing technical assistance and organizing Training and Awareness raising Seminars on the TPS/OIC and its Protocols in the different regions of the OIC in a bid to sensitize the Member States to complete their membership to the TPS/OIC;
4. **Further requests** ICDT to disseminate the guidelines for setting up Single Windows in the OIC Countries and the outcomes of the NTBs survey with aim to facilitating intra-OIC trade;
5. **Requests** ICDT in cooperation with SESRIC to carry on monitoring with World Tourism Organization the project on “the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa“ and **invites** UNWTO, the IDB Group and other OIC and international institutions to support this project notably the mission of formulation of bankable projects and the organization of the Second Donors Conference;
6. **Takes note** of the appeal made by the Director General of ICDT to Member States to grant voluntary contributions to ICDT in order to finance the new initiatives to be launched by the Centre like the Afro-Asia Business Initiative, the Single Window, the OIC HelpDesk and the management fees of the OIC Pavilion during the Dubai Expo 2020 to be held in Dubai on 20 October 2020 to 10 April 2021;

7. **Endorses** the ICDDT draft work programme for the year 2020, which was adopted by the 36th Meeting of ICDDT's Board of Directors held in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia on 14 December 2018.

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

Taking note of the efforts of the ICCIA in fostering greater economic cooperation among the Private Sector through its numerous programmes and activities, and in this context, welcoming the MOUs signed between Turkey & Indonesia and between Saudi Arabia & Indonesia in Jakarta on 23rd October 2018, to further promote trade, tourism, investment, and economic cooperation between their members and the private sector in general,

Also taking note of the outcome of the 26th Board of Directors (BoD) and 34th General Assembly meetings of ICCIA held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 22 May 2018,

Being aware of the outcome of the 27th Board of Directors (BoD) meeting of ICCIA held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia on 22-23 October 2018,

Recalling the inaugural address of H.E. the President of the Republic of Turkey during the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, with regard to establishment of an OIC Arbitration Centre,

Taking note of the ongoing arrangements by ICCIA to establish an affiliated institution to facilitate settlement of commercial and investment disputes within the private sector,

Underscoring the fact that the establishment of the OIC Arbitration Center as an affiliated institution of ICCIA is in conformity with the Statute of the Chamber,

Taking note of the proposal of the ICCIA for establishing Microcredit entities, such as the Family Bank in Sudan in other OIC Member States, and **calling upon** the Member States to extend support in setting-up similar financial windows for women and youth,

Commending the efforts of ICCIA in forging longstanding and productive partnerships with International Institutions, such as the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), by holding specialized training programs for upscaling Private Sector Enterprises in Member States,

Having considered the activity report submitted by the ICCIA,

1. **Calls upon** the Member States to encourage their Chambers of Commerce to be actively involved in the ICCIA's programs, particularly related to Commercial Arbitration, SMEs Development, Food Security, Tourism, Entrepreneurship Development, Poverty Alleviation, Microfinance and Development of Women and Youth-led-Enterprises;

2. **Calls upon** the Private Sector of the Member States to cooperate with the ICCIA and other stakeholders in the activities of halal trade and industry;
3. **Takes note** of the steps in setting up of the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul, as per the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, which will be hosted by the Republic of Turkey and Union of Turkish Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) as an organ affiliated to the ICCIA;
4. **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 the following activities:
 - (a) Workshop on Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities to be held in the first half of 2019;
 - (b) Chambers of Commerce Forum to be held in 2019;
 - (c) Specialized Workshops/Training Programmes to be held in 2019 on:
 - * Promotion of Cottage Industries through SMEs;
 - * Scaling-up existing Enterprises through Skill Development; and
 - * Exploring destinations for Health Tourism.
 - (d) The 17th Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member States/Trade Exchange Forum to be held in 2019; and
 - (e) The 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Countries to be held in 2019.

D. STANDARDS AND METROLOGY INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SMIIC)

Commending the activities of Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in the area of standardization, metrology and accreditation and their impact on trade facilitation and capacity building projects for Member States,

Welcoming the membership of Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Uzbekistan to SMIIC, which has increased the number of SMIIC Member States to 37 along with 3 Observers to be effective from 1 January 2019,

Noting with satisfaction the signing of MoU between SMIIC and Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) on 27 July 2018 to enhance and facilitate cooperation and collaboration between both institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to SMIIC for supporting the organization of the 6th OIC Halal Expo and World Halal Summit (WHS) Istanbul on 29 November – 2 December 2018, Istanbul, Turkey, which was aimed at raising awareness of halal products, engaging in halal production and services in all fields and bringing together market leaders and halal product experts,

Acknowledging the Capacity Building activities of SMIIC for OIC Member States in the fields of quality infrastructure elements,

Also acknowledging the role of SMIIC for the achievement of goals defined in the OIC – 2025: Programme of Action to promote trade exchanges among the OIC Member States, increase production and competitiveness of products as well as to increase intra-OIC trade,

Noting with satisfaction the organization of the 4th and 5th SMIIC Technical Committee Week Meetings and SMIIC Committee on Standards for Conformity Assessment (SMIIC/CCA) meetings held on 16-20 April 2018, and 24-28 September 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey,

Welcoming the publication of “Halal Cosmetics-General Requirements as OIC/SMIIC 4:2018 Standard” and “ISO 50001:2011 Energy management systems -Requirements with guidance for use as OIC/SMIIC 19:2018”,

Noting with satisfaction the organization of 1st Meeting of the Standardization Management Council (SMC) held on 26-27 June 2018, 1st Meeting of the Management of SMIIC Accreditation Council (AC) held on 26-27 February 2018, 2nd Meeting of the Management of SMIIC AC held on 28-29 June and 5th SMIIC Metrology Council (MC) Meeting held on 19-20 April 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey,

Also acknowledging the SMIIC Training Program 2018, which was funded by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) under the project title Harmonization of National Halal Standards with the OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards (2017-SMIIC-437) held on the 16-20 July 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey,

Also welcoming launching of the new web design developed for SMIIC which allows the online sale of OIC/SMIIC standards worldwide,

Having noted the report on the activities of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC),

1. **Urges** the Member States to accede to the membership of SMIIC, which works on the specialized areas of the standardization, metrology and accreditation activities under the mandate of OIC as the sole intergovernmental organization;
2. **Requests** the Member States to actively participate in its Technical Committees (TCs) and other technical activities of SMIIC Councils;
3. **Invites** OIC Member States to adopt and use the OIC/SMIIC Standards as their national standards in order to aid the harmonization of standards and eliminate the technical barriers to trade among OIC Member States;
4. **Calls upon** OIC Member States who are using OIC/SMIIC Standards to officially adopt the standards according to SMIIC adoption guidelines and to be included in the SMIIC database;

5. **Requests** the Member States to engage in close cooperation with SMIIC and OIC Institutions in order to improve the quality infrastructure systems of the OIC Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
6. **Calls upon** the Member States to participate in the 7th OIC Halal Expo and Istanbul 2019 World Halal Summit to be held under the auspices of the Presidency of The Republic of Turkey on 28 November – 01 December 2019 in Istanbul, which is organized in coordination with SMIIC General Secretariat and Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT);
7. **Invites** all interested parties to cooperate on halal standard and accreditation issues with the SMIIC as the technically competent and authorized platform for these issues;
8. **Agrees** on the need for the establishment of a global halal conformity assessment system under SMIIC in order to provide a basis for the mutual recognition of halal certificates between accreditation bodies.
9. **Welcomes** the proposal about Establishment of an Excellence Metrology Center under activities of SMIIC Metrology Council;
10. **Calls upon** the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) to support SMIIC and provide it with any necessary fatwa and advice, particularly regarding halal issues;
11. **Requests** the Member States to participate and contribute to the various training programs conducted by SMIIC, including OIC/SMIIC Standards and OIC/SMIIC 1 Halal Food auditors training programmes;
12. **Invites** IDB Group and related OIC institutions to support SMIIC with training and programmes in the fields of standardization and improvement in quality infrastructure;
13. **Calls upon** the Member States to consider SMIIC as the common platform of OIC for the quality infrastructure related activities and **requests** the Member States to forward all subjects related to the standardization, metrology, accreditation and conformity assesment to be evaulated within SMIIC.

E. GENERAL PROVISION:

Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to D to the 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

Original: English

Annexure

**RESOLUTION
OF THE THIRTY FOURTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC
(İstanbul, 26-29 November 2018)**

The Thirty-fourth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 26-29 November 2018 in İstanbul, Turkey;

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 13th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, which commended the role of the COMCEC under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey in contributing to the realization of OIC objectives in the economic domain and expressed its profound appreciation for the successful implementation of the COMCEC revised statute and strategy adopted at the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the 33rd Session of the COMCEC;

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

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

Taking note of the submission of the progress reports, working papers and studies on the different agenda items submitted by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT),

the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC);

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

Commending the efforts made by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office and the OIC institutions working in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, namely SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, 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; **commends** the Member Countries and the OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to its implementation and **requests** the Member States and the OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

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

3- **Welcomes** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC and **also welcomes** the research studies and sectoral outlooks conducted and prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for enriching the discussions in each COMCEC Working Group Meeting.

4- **Commends** the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their fields of competence and **welcomes** the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in February-April and September-November 2018.

5- **Also commending** the efforts of the Member States and the OIC Institutions for the realization of COMCEC Ministerial policy recommendations, **invites** all the Member States to exert efforts, to the extent possible, to implement the policy recommendations and **urges** the relevant OIC Institutions to support the Member States in this regard.

- 6- **Welcomes** the finalization of thirteen projects funded under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2017 and the progress achieved in the implementation of seventeen new projects under the fifth project call in 2018, and **also welcomes** the sixth project call, made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in September 2018.
- 7- **Invites** the Member Countries to utilize more the COMCEC Project Funding to implement the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations.
- 8- **Calls on** the COMCEC National and Working Group Focal points to work more closely with the COMCEC Coordination Office for effective coordination and communication.
- 9- **Invites** the Member States to ensure the participation of the COMCEC National Focal Points and COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, to the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings and the COMCEC Sessions.
- 10- **Encourages** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Working Groups to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the relevant Working Groups and benefit from the COMCEC Project Funding for realizing their cooperation projects.
- 11- **Noting with appreciation** that the number of Member States having registered to at least one COMCEC Working Group has reached 50, **requests** the Member States which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Working Groups and actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the Working Groups.
- 12- **Welcomes** the holding of the Sixth Annual Coordination Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office on 3-5 July 2018 in Ankara, Turkey.
- 13- **Calls upon** the relevant Member States to respond to the “Evaluation Forms” circulated each year by the COMCEC Coordination Office with a view to following-up the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations.
- 14- **Also calls upon** the working group focal points to be actively involved in the knowledge production efforts of the COMCEC through, among others, assisting in collection and verification of country specific data and providing feedbacks to research studies.

15- **Underlines** that the COMCEC Project Funding can be utilized more effectively by the member States having advanced capacities in various cooperation areas for sharing their experience with the other member States.

16- **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.

17- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to study the feasibility of establishing a new Working Group for covering crucial emerging issues such as industry, innovation, research and development, artificial intelligence and other related issues.

18- **Considering** the recent developments and changing trends in the world, **requests** the relevant OIC Institutions to take into consideration the issues regarding industry, innovation, research and development, artificial intelligence and other related issues in designing their future programs and activities.

19- **Emphasizes** the role of COMCEC in ensuring the overall coordination of the activities of the OIC relating to economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States, in accordance with its mandate.

20- **Further emphasizes** the role of CCO in undertaking activities with the Member States, the OIC Institutions and other international organizations in order to realize to objectives of the COMCEC as outlined in its Statute.

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

22- **Requests** the CCO to consider conducting study visits to the requesting Member Countries to assess the needs and priorities of the Member Countries and assist them in overcoming their common development challenges.

23- **Adopts** the recommendations of the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC held on 9-10 May 2018 in Ankara, Turkey.

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

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

25- **Underlining** the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action by the COMCEC, **requests** the OIC General Secretariat to regularly submit comprehensive progress reports on the implementation of the Programme to the COMCEC Sessions and the Follow-up Meetings in line with the previous relevant resolutions of the COMCEC.

26- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, **requests** the Member States to sign and ratify the agreements in the economic domain for furthering economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.

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

27- **Takes note of** the 2018 edition of SESRIC's annual economic report titled "OIC Economic Outlook 2018: Challenges and Opportunities towards Achieving the OIC-2025" and **expresses its appreciations** to SESRIC for providing the first detailed analysis of the related priority areas of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action through selected key performance indicators.

28- **Invites** Member States to take into consideration the challenges and opportunities identified by the report in order to achieve the goals stated by the OIC-2025 through effective coordination and partnership.

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

Intra-OIC Trade (Agenda Item: 5)

30- **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the 11th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group, which also serves as a preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session, on 7-8 March 2018 in Ankara with the theme of

“Facilitating Trade: Improving Customs Risk Management Systems in the OIC Member States”, **welcomes** its policy recommendations submitted under the following six headings:

- Simplifying trade procedures and documentation
- Legal and regulatory framework
- Physical infrastructure and modernization
- Harmonization and alignment of standards and conformity
- Adopting measures to facilitate transit trade
- Regional/international cooperation

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

31- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 12th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on November 6th, 2018 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving Authorized Economic Operators Programs in the OIC Member States”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Encouraging the design of an attractive package where benefits provided by the AEO program to the private sector outnumber costs borne by firms and traders in order to attract companies to participate in the program,
- Promoting an integrated approach in the legislative, organizational and operational dimensions with other government agencies during the design phase of AEOs in order to eliminate duplications and redundancy as well as burdensome procedures,
- Encouraging the adoption of and increasing the number of mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) as they enable AEO holders to enjoy trade facilitation benefits provided by the partner countries,
- Enhancing the communication with the private sector with AEOs through utilizing client relations management,
- Supporting the participation of SMEs in the supply chain for the operators in order to benefit from the AEO programs to their full extent.

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

32- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to attend the 13th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be

held on March 7th, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Increasing Public Availability of Customs Information in the OIC Member States” and the 14th Meeting to be organized on October 24th, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “Facilitating Transit Trade in the OIC Member States with an Emphasis on WTO TFA” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Trade Working Group.

33- **Commends** the efforts of Suriname and ICDT for the successful implementation of the following projects in 2017 under the fourth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Strengthening SME Support Services in Suriname and Guyana to Enhance Participation in Global Value Chains” implemented by Suriname in partnership with Guyana and Turkey,
- The Project titled “Facilitating Trade: Identifying NTBs among the OIC Member States” implemented by ICDT in partnership with the Kingdom of Morocco, Senegal and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

34- **Also commends** the efforts of Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan and SMIC for the following projects being implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “The Feasibility Study on the Interoperability of Selected Single Window Systems in the OIC Region” being implemented by Morocco in partnership with Cameroon and Tunisia,
- The Project titled “Boosting Intra-OIC Trade Through Improvement of Trade Facilitation Measures in the OIC Region” being implemented by Nigeria in partnership with Morocco and Indonesia,
- The Project titled “Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Single Window Systems in the OIC Member States” being implemented by Sudan in partnership with four other Member States,
- The Project titled “Harmonization of National Halal Standards with the OIC/SMIC Halal Standards” being implemented by SMIC in partnership with 20 Member States.

35- **Requests** the concerned Member States to actively participate in the activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIC in the field of trade and **calls upon** these institutions to send invitations to the Member States sufficiently in advance of the meetings so as to ensure

their active participation.

36- **Takes note of** that Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC) of Islamic Republic of Iran will conduct a joint workshop with SESRIC on “the Impact of Entrepreneurship Strategies on Development of SMEs” in 2019.

37- **Expresses** its appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and ICDT for organizing the High-level Experts Meeting on “Main Investments Obstacles and Investment Facilitation in Africa” on 24-25 January 2018 in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco.

j) TPS-OIC

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

39- **Welcomes** the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretariat on behalf of its six Member Countries, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman and **requests** the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Secretariat to communicate with the concerned participating Member States to ensure the submission of the concession lists in the same format and circulate them among the concerned Member States accordingly.

40- **Welcomes** the notification made by Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Morocco and Turkey to the TNC Secretariat on their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin, and **requests** the other participating Member States to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience.

41- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Sudan to host “Regional Workshop on TPS-OIC and the Multilateral Trading System” in Khartoum on 17-18 December 2018 and the Republic of Suriname to organize a workshop on “TPS-OIC and Intra-OIC Trade Solutions” in Paramaribo in 2019 in close cooperation with TNC Secretariat.

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

ii) Islamic Trade Fairs

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

- The Republic of Turkey for hosting and ICDT and SMIIC for organizing the “5th OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 23 – 25 November 2017,
- The State of Kuwait for hosting and ICDT for organizing the “Exceptional Edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States” in Kuwait-City, on 6- 10 February 2018,
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting and ICDT for organizing the “2nd Edition of the Exhibition of Furniture and Interior Design of the OIC Member States” on 13-16 March 2018 and the “11th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” on 20-23 March 2018 in Jeddah,
- The Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and ICDT for organizing the “4th Higher Education Services among the OIC Member States” in Casablanca on 26-29 April 2018.

44- **Welcomes** the offer of the following Member States to host Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT in 2018-2019 and **requests** all Member States to encourage active participation of their private sector and relevant institutions in these events:

- The Republic of Turkey to host the “6th OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 29 November-2 December 2018 and the “7th OIC Halal Expo” on 28 November-1 December 2019 in coordination with SMIIC,
- The Republic of Cote d’Ivoire to host the “4th OIC Health Expo” in Abidjan in on 7-9 December 2018 and “the Forum and Expo on Social and Solidarity Economy” in collaboration with IDB Group in Abidjan in the first quarter of 2019,
- The State of Kuwait to host “Exceptional Edition of the Tourism and Handicraft Exhibition of the OIC Member States” on 5-8 March 2019 and “Construction and Decoration Fair for the OIC Member States” on 8-12 October 2019 in Kuwait City,
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the “12th Exhibition of Agribusiness

Industries of the OIC Member States” in Jeddah from 26 to 29 March 2019,

- The Republic of Iraq to host the “16th OIC Trade Fair” in Baghdad on 7-13 April 2019,
- The Kingdom of Morocco to host the Expo and Forum on Transportation and Logistics of the OIC Member States concomitantly with LogisMed 2019 in Casablanca on 9-11 April 2019;
- The People’s Republic of Bangladesh to host Maritime Economy and the Shipbuilding and Fisheries Expo of the OIC Member States in Dhaka on 1-4 May 2019;
- The Islamic Republic of Iran to host the “3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States” in Tehran in 2019;
- The United Arab Emirates to host World Expo “EXPO 2020 Dubai” in Dubai from November 2020 to April 2021.

45- **Takes note that** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran will organize 12th International Exhibition of Tourism and Related Industries” and “Halal Orientation, the New Global Trend” Conference concurrently on 12-15 February, 2019, in Tehran and “The 1st Halal Expo of Iran” in November 2019 and **requests** the Member States to actively participate in these events.

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

47- **Also reiterates** its request to ICDDT 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) WTO Related Technical Assistance

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

49- **Calls on** IDB and ICDDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and to enhance their efforts in sensitizing the Member

States to the impact of WTO trade negotiations on their economies and **requests** IDB and ICDT to synergize and coordinate their efforts to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on an equitable and fair basis.

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

51- **Expressing its appreciation** to ICDT, OIC General Secretariat, OIC Geneva Office and IDB Group for organizing a workshop and preparing a study on “Practical Options Towards Increasing OIC Member States’ Coordination at the WTO”, **takes note** of the above-mentioned Study prepared by the ICDT and IDB Group and **requests** the IDB Group and ICDT to further their efforts for better coordination with the WTO and **also requests** permanent missions of the Member Countries to actively participate in the coordination meetings in Geneva.

52- **Requests** the Trade Working Group in its future meetings, where appropriate, to discuss WTO related issues and the COMCEC Coordination Office, in collaboration with IDB and ICDT, to consider the possibility of organizing the WTO-Related Consultative Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the COMCEC Ministerial Session.

53- **Expresses its appreciation** to the State of United Arab Emirates for hosting and ICDT and IDB for organizing a Workshop on Post-WTO Eleventh Ministerial Conference (MC11) of the OIC Member States in Dubai on 19-20 November 2018.

54- **Welcomes** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey to share their WTO-related experiences with the non-WTO Members of the OIC through training programmes in collaboration with the relevant OIC Institutions to facilitate their accession process.

55- **Calls upon** the Member Countries and the relevant OIC institutions to extend support to the Member Countries who need technical assistance on trade facilitation practices including technical, legal and infrastructural aspects as well as towards the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

iv) Trade Financing Activities

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

57- **Takes note with appreciation** that ITFC's cumulative approvals and disbursement in trade finance reached, since its inception in 2008 until now, US\$43.9 billion and US\$34.5 billion respectively, and its total approvals and disbursement in 2017 reached US\$4.9 billion and US\$3.4 billion respectively.

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

59- **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.

60- **Takes note of** the trade promotion and capacity development initiatives being implemented by ITFC under its various flagship programs including Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS), Special Programme for Central Asia (SPCA), Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program (AATB), Trade Development Fund, West Africa SMEs Program and Trade Development Forum to raise awareness of the private sectors on the activities of the ITFC.

61- **Takes note** of the efforts of the ITFC in implementing integrated Trade Programmes for commodity development including Indonesia Coffee Development Programme, Guinea Reverse Linkage Programme and the Cotton Bridge Programme.

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

63- **Takes note** of the ITFC's high level Capacity Building Program provided to CIS countries and Afghanistan on Market Intelligence as part of its trade-related Technical Assistance Programs provided to Member Countries and **calls upon** the relevant OIC Institutions to join and support these efforts.

64- **Commends** the ITFC for organizing the 1st Governing Board meeting of the “Arab-Africa Trade Bridges” (AATB) Program in Morocco, which calls upon the ITFC to continue the successful implementation of the action plan to boost the trade flows between the Arab and African Regions, and calls upon the Member Countries in both regions to support and cooperate with ITFC for the implementation of this program.

65- **Commends** the efforts of the ITFC for implementing the Gambia Aflatoxin Mitigation Programme.

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

67- **Takes note with appreciation** that aggregate business insurance provided by the ICIEC amounted to US\$29 billion over the last 5 years and the Corporation had facilitated US\$ 11.27 billion in trade transactions and foreign direct investments during 2017.

68- **Takes note** with appreciation of the IDB Group’s initiative called “OIC Business Intelligence Center” led by the ICIEC and **requests** the IDB Group, in particular the ICIEC, to start operationalization of this initiative as an OIC Program under one of the IDB Regional Hub, in close partnership with SESRIC and other relevant OIC institutions as required.

v) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

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

70- **Welcomes** the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire, the State of Qatar, Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Uzbekistan as the new members of the SMIIC, which have increased the number of SMIIC Member States to 37 along with 3 Observers and **invites** the concerned Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Councils.

71- **Welcomes** the increasing visibility of the SMIIC and **expresses** its appreciation to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence and **invites** Member States to support to further increase its visibility in international fora, particularly through its accession as an observer to the WTO-Technical Barriers to Trade

(TBT) Committee.

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

73- **Expresses its appreciation** to the Republic of Turkey for hosting and SMIIC and ICDT for supporting the organization of the World Halal Summit (WHS) in Istanbul on 23-25 November 2017 and **calls upon** the Member States to participate in “Istanbul 2018 World Halal Summit” to be held on 29 November - 2 December 2018 under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey.

74- **Notes with satisfaction** of the organization of the 1st Meeting of the Standardization Management Council (SMC) on 26-27 June 2018, 1st Meeting of the Management of SMIIC Accreditation Council (AC) on 26-27 February 2018, 2nd Meeting of the Management of SMIIC AC on 28-29 June and 5th SMIIC Metrology Council (MC) Meeting on 19-20 April 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey.

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

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

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

77- **Takes note** of the organization of Training Program on “Technology Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Management of Business Incubation & Technology Parks” on 23-25 April 2018, in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey.

78- **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 the following activities:

- The 17th Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member Countries/ Trade Exchange Forum to be held in 2019,
- The 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Countries to be held in 2019,

- Specialized Workshops/Training Programs to be held in 2019 on Promotion of Cottage Industries through SMEs; scaling-up existing Enterprises through Skill Development and exploring destinations for Health Tourism,
- Workshop on Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities to be held in the first half of 2019,
- Chambers of Commerce Forum for OIC to be held in 2019.

79- **Takes note** that ICD, the private sector arm of the IDB Group, has provided financing for 44 private sector development projects in 18 countries at a total value of \$910 Million in 2017.

80- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 33rd COMCEC Session and the 45th Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, **welcomes** the recent developments regarding technical preparations and organization of two Task Force Meetings on April 13th, 2018 and July 9th, 2018 on setting-up of the OIC Arbitration Center affiliated to the ICCIA in Istanbul by TOBB and ICCIA and **requests** the ICCIA and TOBB to finalize the technical preparations for the operationalization of the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul in 2019 and **also requests** the Member Countries to encourage their Chambers to actively participate in the activities of the Arbitration Center.

Improving Transport and Communications (Agenda Item: 7)

81- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 11th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group held on March 15th, 2018 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey with the theme of Governance of Transport Corridors in OIC Member States: Challenges, Cases and Policy Lessons”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Developing/Improving an enabling legal, institutional and regulatory framework for ensuring effective coordination and cooperation among the relevant countries and for achieving reform-demanding objectives,
- Emphasizing the importance of a dedicated corridor secretariat/coordination unit for facilitating corridor governance through ensuring permanent communication and coordination among the relevant countries,
- Promoting the development of transport corridor governance in a holistic way, combining hard measures such as infrastructure and soft measures such as political

support, stakeholder consultation and capacity building,

- Seeking support of the related international organizations in carrying forward corridor governance, especially in the initial phase of corridor development.

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

82- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 12th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on October 11th, 2018 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “The Planning of National Transport Infrastructure in the OIC Member States”, **welcomes** its policy recommendations:

- Developing guidelines for the preparation and implementation of national transport master plans by taking into consideration international best practices towards having more integrated and sustainable land and transport plans and solutions.
- Identifying comprehensive and relevant Key Performance Indicators for the effective monitoring and evaluation of the performance of transport plans and their outcomes, and sharing the results with the relevant public and private sector stakeholders.
- Improving the planning capacity of the OIC Member States through applying contemporary methods such as setting a vision with a set of social and economic objectives.
- Improving national transport infrastructure planning process and encouraging public private partnerships (PPPs) particularly for needs assessment, encouraging investments, well-functioning operations and maintenance.

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

83- **Calls upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group, to actively participate in the 13th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group to be held on March 14th, 2019 with the theme of “Improving Transport Project Appraisals in the Islamic Countries”, as well as its 14th Meeting to be held on October 3rd, 2019 with the theme of “Improving Risk Management in Transport PPP Projects in the Islamic Countries” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group.

84- **Commends** the efforts of Cote d’Ivoire in partnership with Burkina Faso and Mali

for the successful implementation of the project titled “Improving the Capacity on Road Safety in Cote d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Mali” in 2017 under the fourth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

85- **Also commends** the efforts of the Gambia, Iran and Jordan for the following projects being implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Analysis of the Road Database Management Systems in the Selected OIC States” being implemented by the Gambia in partnership with Nigeria and Senegal ,
- The Project titled “Feasibility Study of Iran- Caucasus Transport Corridor” being implemented by Iran in partnership with Azerbaijan and Turkey,
- The Project titled “Feasibility Study for Reconstructing the Old Ottoman Hejaz Railway Line” being implemented by Jordan in partnership with Iraq and Turkey,

86- **Welcomes the renewed offer** of the Republic of Sudan to host the Second Islamic Conference of Transport Ministers in 2019 in Khartoum, Sudan and **calls upon** the Member States and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions including the COMCEC Secretariat to actively participate in this important event.

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

88- **Takes note** of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s proposal on prosperity trans-corridor and **refers** the matter to the relevant COMCEC Working Group.

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

89- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 11th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on February 15th, 2018 in Ankara with the theme of “Destination Development and Institutionalization Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Encouraging the establishment of/Strengthening local and regional public-private Destination Management Organizations (DMOs) with the assignment of responsibilities related to destination planning, development, marketing and management,
- Planning supply and demand as well as identifying and monitoring KPIs for

ensuring sustainable tourism development at the destination,

- Encouraging self-funding of DMOs and improving efficiency as well as transparency in utilization and management of resources,
- Promoting destinations through forming OIC country alliances and the alliances with external stakeholders.

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90- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 12th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on September 13th, 2018 in Ankara with the theme of “Destination Marketing Strategies in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Establishing/Empowering a central body (i.e. DMO) to position the destination at a desirable place among the competing destinations, to create the brand image of the destination, and to promote the destination through utilizing such tools as social media, digital marketing, trade fairs, public relations, and fam-trip organizations.
- Encouraging new product development (i.e. events, festivals and other suitable products) to mitigate the adverse effects of seasonality and the risks related to dependence on one product or a single market.
- Managing and regulating existing distribution channels, developing new distribution channels to prevent dependency and minimize power asymmetry between destination stakeholders as well as international intermediaries, and establishing strategic alliances with external stakeholders that would create synergies for the destination and other collaborators (i.e. airlines, event organizers etc).
- Promoting collection, storage, analyses and dissemination of market data on visitor characteristics, seasonality, distribution channels performance, source markets, trends etc., while respecting confidentiality and privacy of individuals, to improve the marketing effectiveness of the destination stakeholders as well as DMOs.
- Utilizing digital platforms, mobile applications and allocating special attention on

social media channels for improving tourist experience, information credibility and interaction among visitors in destination marketing.

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91- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the 13th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group to be held on February 13th, 2019, in Ankara, with theme of “Sustainable Destination Management Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” and its 14th Meeting to be held on September 5th, 2019 with the theme of “Developing Multi Destination Tourism Corridors in the OIC Member Countries” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

92- **Commends** the efforts of Mozambique, Sudan, Gambia and SESRIC for the successful implementation of the following projects in 2017 under the fourth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Enhancing Capacity of Muslim Friendly Tourism Workforce” implemented by Mozambique in partnership with Mali and Senegal,
- The Project titled “Enhancing The Capacity of Craft Producers and Customers in the OIC Member Countries” implemented by Sudan in partnership with Chad and Djibouti,
- The Project titled “Developing a Training and Certification Program for the Muslim Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Industry” implemented by Gambia in partnership with Nigeria and Senegal,
- The Project titled “Training Program on the Development and Promotion of Muslim Friendly Tourism in the OIC Member Countries” implemented by SESRIC in partnership with 18 Member Countries.

93- **Also commends** the efforts of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mozambique and SESRIC for the following projects implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Strengthening the Resilience of Tourism Sector Against Crises through Communication” implemented by Burkina Faso in partnership with Niger and Côte d'Ivoire,

- The Project titled “Training on Crisis Communication in Tourism for Selected OIC Member Countries” implemented by Mali in partnership with four other Member Countries,
- The Project titled “Community-Based Tourism through the Promotion of Heritage Sites for Poverty Alleviation” implemented by Mozambique in partnership with four other Member Countries,
- The Project titled “Improving Islamic Tourism Ecosystem in OIC Member Countries: Destination and Industry Development” implemented by SESRIC in partnership with 13 Member Countries.

94- **Welcomes** the holding of the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) on 5-7 February 2018 in Dhaka/Bangladesh and **commends** the selection of Dhaka/Bangladesh and Gabala/Azerbaijan as the OIC Cities of Tourism, for 2019 and 2020, respectively.

95- **Takes note** of the report of the 6th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held on March 8th, 2018 in İstanbul, with the theme of “Cultural Heritage as a Tool for Sustainable Tourism in the OIC Member Countries” **calls upon** the Member States to participate in the 7th Meeting of the Forum to be held in 2019 in İstanbul, Turkey.

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

97- **Takes note that** the Islamic Republic of Iran will host “the 5th Health Tourism Conference of Islamic Countries” in 2019 and **requests** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

98- **Takes note with appreciation** of the following proposals of the Kingdom of Bahrain;

- Strengthening partnership between the public and the private sectors to diversify tourism projects and attract more investments,
- Achieving utmost efficiency, effectiveness and global competitiveness in tourism sector,

- Developing efficient and modern legislations to ensure flow of local and international tourism investments,
- Enhancing coordination and cooperation at the regional level to utilize cultural heritage sites and natural reserves as tourism attractions.

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

99- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 11th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group on February 22nd, 2018 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving Agricultural Market Performance: Developing Agricultural Market Information Systems” , **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Designing Market Information Systems (MIS) through assessing and reviewing targeted stakeholders with a sustained budget support and an effective monitoring and evaluation framework,
- Building sufficient capacity for stock monitoring, trend analysis and forecasting as well as other relevant subjects beyond providing price information for a better functioning MIS,
- Linking MIS to other market-supporting institutions and/or other risk-management tools to increase the mutual benefits,
- Forming the necessary mechanisms/platforms for an improved coordination among the key stakeholders and ensuring the effective review of the quality of information provided.

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100- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 12th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group held on September 20th, 2018 with the theme of “Analysis of Agri-food Trade Structures to Promote Agri-food Trade Networks among the OIC Member States”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing and implementing preferential market access schemes and intra- as well as cross-regional trade agreements (e.g. TPS-OIC (Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC)) with a view to contributing to collaborative and sustainable agricultural trade development,

- Building supply-side capacity and improving demand side capacity through rationalizing non-tariff measures (NTMs) for a sustained agricultural trade structure among OIC Member Countries,
- Developing and increasing economic connectivity as well as physical and information connectivity to reduce trade costs in agricultural trade markets for a sustainable agricultural trade development.

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101- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in the 13th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group to be held on February 21st, 2019 in Ankara with theme of “Reviewing Agricultural Trade Policies to Promote Intra-OIC Agricultural Trade” and its 14th Meeting to be held on September 12th, 2019 with the theme of “Increasing the Resilience of the Food Systems in Islamic States in Face of Future Food Crises” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group.

102- **Commends** the efforts of the Gambia and Indonesia for the successful implementation of the following projects in 2017 under the fourth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Reduction of Post-Harvest losses in Cereals for Improving Rural Livelihood” implemented by Gambia in partnership with Indonesia and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Improving Income of Small and Medium Scale Farmers in the OIC Member States Through Reducing Losses of Livestock Production” implemented by Indonesia in partnership with Brunei Darussalam, Arab Republic of Egypt, Malaysia and Sudan.

103- **Also commends** the efforts of Indonesia and Turkey for the following projects implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Developing Agricultural Market Information System for Horticulture Farmers” implemented by Indonesia in partnership with six other Member Countries,
- The Project titled “Improving Agricultural Irrigation Extension Services”

implemented by Turkey in partnership with Palestine, Morocco and Tunisia.

104- **Welcomes the renewed offer** of the Republic of Turkey to host the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in the last quarter of 2019 in İstanbul and **calls upon** the Member States and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions including the COMCEC Secretariat to actively participate in this important event.

Alleviating Poverty (Agenda Item: 10)

105- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 11th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group on April 5th, 2018 in Ankara with the theme of “Quality of Education in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Increasing both the quantity and quality of teachers, particularly who teach in schools serving the disadvantaged and the poor through improving wage rates, pedagogical interventions, performance incentives, training and curricula reforms,
- Increasing teaching and learning effectiveness through adoption and widespread use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based new models,
- Promoting better early-childhood learning opportunities through accessible and affordable pre-primary schooling,
- Ensuring progressive universalism for closing the rich-poor gap in learning outcomes,
- Enhancing and reinforcing accountability through parental engagement and involving parents in the monitoring of their children’s education and intensifying the parent-teacher interaction to improve education delivery.

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106- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 12th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group held on October 4th, 2018 in Ankara, with the theme of “Skills Development in the OIC Member Countries: Vocational Education”, **welcomes**

its following policy recommendations:

- Improving access of poor student/youth to vocational education through eliminating/reducing school fees, offering monthly scholarship schemes and providing adequate facilities (i.e. accommodation) for students coming from remote areas,
- Matching the skills taught in TVET institutions with the industrial requirements through job-oriented and demand-driven curriculum update and improving facilities of TVET institutions as well as establishing a training centre inside industrial area,
- Increasing both the quantity and quality of teachers in TVET sector through providing professional development programs, industrial attachment, and recognition of their work based on performance,
- Increasing awareness about TVET and social recognition of its graduates in order to increase enrolment in TVET sectors and create new job opportunities for skilled graduates.

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107- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to actively participate in the 13th Meeting of the Working Group to be held on April 4th, 2019 in Ankara with the theme of “*Access to Health Services in the OIC Member Countries: A Pro-Poor Approach*”, as well as its 14th Meeting to be held on September 26th, 2019 with the theme of “Child and Maternal Mortality in the OIC Member Countries” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

108- **Also commends** the efforts of Albania, the Gambia, Indonesia and Suriname for the successful implementation of the following projects in 2017 under the fourth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Creation of a Road Map for an Integrated Social Service for Housing” implemented by Albania in partnership with Turkey and Indonesia,
- The Project titled “Training on Entrepreneurship and Management of Small Business for Women in the Gambia, Senegal and Sierra Leone” implemented by the Gambia in partnership with Sierra Leone and Senegal,
- The Project titled “Strengthening Community-Based Sustainable Livelihood for Activating Poor by Opening Marketing Channel through E-Commerce” implemented by Indonesia in partnership with Bangladesh, Malaysia and Pakistan,

- The Project titled “Professionalization of Childcare in Selected OIC Countries” implemented by Suriname in partnership with Nigeria and Guyana.

109- **Further commends** the efforts of the Gambia and Indonesia for the following projects being implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Training on Entrepreneurship for Teachers in the Selected OIC Countries” being implemented by the Gambia in partnership with Cameroon and Senegal,
- The Project titled “Improving the Single Window Service System for Social Protection and Poverty Reduction in the OIC Countries” being implemented by Indonesia in partnership with Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

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

110- **Commending** the Member States, who have contributed to the ISFD recently, **reiterates its requests** to the Member States which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and **requests** IDB Group to report back to the next COMCEC Session about the shortfalls in reaching the target capital of the ISFD.

111- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 33rd COMCEC Session on the observations of the Member States for improving the performance of the Fund in serving the purpose of poverty alleviation through, among others, augmenting the project base and outreach of the Fund by focusing on greater number of projects, especially grant based small/medium sized projects, **reiterates its request** to the ISFD to take these observations into consideration during planning its future programmes and activities.

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

113- **Requests** the ISFD to pursue its policy of supporting SMEs.

114- **Also requests** the ISFD to increase its efforts for resource mobilization and

advocacy from different resources including governmental, non-governmental resources and the private sector in the Member States.

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

116- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 32nd and 33rd Sessions of the COMCEC, **reiterates its request** to the IDB to finalize the allocation of the funding to the SESRIC's capacity building project for the successful finalization of the OIC Cotton Programme.

ii) OIC-VET Program

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

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

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

iii) Implementation of the SDGs

120- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC, **takes note of** the list of SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC Institutions compiled by the COMCEC Coordination Office towards the implementation of the SDGs in the Member Countries and **calls upon** the Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions to actively participate in these activities.

121- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to compile the SDG-related activities of the relevant OIC institutions in the prioritized SDG areas of poverty, health, hunger, education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure and climate change.

122- **Taking note with appreciation** of the report presented by SESRIC on the

Tendency Survey on SDGs Priorities of OIC Member Countries, **requests** SESRIC to prepare an annual report on the progress at the OIC level towards achieving the prioritized SDGs as decided by Member States to be submitted to the Ministerial Sessions of the COMCEC, and **also requests** SESRIC to give a special importance to the development of the statistical capacities of the National Statistical Offices of the Member States within the framework of its OIC Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB).

Deepening Financial Cooperation (Agenda Item: 11)

123- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 10th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on March 29th, 2018, in Ankara, with the theme of “Role of Sukuk in Islamic Capital Markets”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Developing an Enabling Legal and Regulatory Framework for Islamic Capital Markets and Promoting Solid Collaboration among the Key Market Stakeholders to improve the ecosystem for Sukuk issuance,
- Improving Market Infrastructure and, where needed, the Existing Tax Framework for Enhancing Sukuk Issuance,
- Developing a Sustainable Liquidity Base to Support Demand for Shariah-Compliant Assets, and Facilitating Diversification of Market Players on the Demand Side of the Sukuk Market,
- Promoting a Sustainable Supply of Sukuk Issuance from the Private Sector in order to Foster Diversification of Industry Participants on the Supply Side and Expand the Benchmark Yield Curve,
- Developing a Seamless Shariah Governance Process for Facilitating Faster Turnaround Time for Sukuk Issuance, Improving Clarity of Sukuk Structures, Promoting Product Innovation, Building Market Confidence and Increasing Market Awareness among the Industry Practitioners.

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124- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 11th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on October 25th, 2018 in Ankara with the theme of “Islamic Fund Management”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Development of Key Measures (developing masterplans, promotional activities,

etc.) to Support a Viable Ecosystem for Islamic Funds,

- Development of a Robust Regulatory, Supervisory and Shariah Frameworks to Ensure Compliance, Growth and Protection of all Stakeholders' Interest particularly Investors',
- Encouraging Establishment of Institutional Funds to Increase Demand for Islamic Funds,

- Encouraging the Development of a Facilitative Tax Framework to Secure Strong Commitments from Supply and Demand Sides to Promote Competitive Positioning for Islamic Funds.

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125- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively participate in the 12th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group to be held on March 28th, 2019, in Ankara, with the theme of “Infrastructure Financing through Islamic Finance”, as well as its 13th Meeting to be held on October 17th, 2019, in Ankara, with the theme of “Improving Takaful Sector in the OIC Member Countries” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.

126- **Commends** the efforts of Nigeria and Turkey for the following projects implemented in 2018 under the fifth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Training and Guidelines on Sukuk Issuance” implemented by Nigeria in partnership with the Gambia and Togo,
- The Project titled “Improving Financial Consumer Protection in the OIC Countries” implemented by Turkey in partnership with 11 other Member Countries.

i) OIC Exchanges Forum

127- **Welcomes** the report of the 12th Meeting of the OIC Exchanges Forum, which has been hosted by Borsa İstanbul on September 11th, 2018 in İstanbul.

128- **Takes note** of the Forum’s decision on renaming the Forum as “OIC Exchanges Forum (OICEF)”.

129- **Takes note** of the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts of the Forum's Task Force on Precious Metals to accelerate the OIC Gold Exchange Project through utilizing the newly developed trading and safekeeping infrastructures of Borsa İstanbul as a preceding step before establishing the OIC Gold Exchange and **requests** the Forum's Secretariat to advance the technical preparations for the establishment of the OIC Gold Exchange and report to the 35th Session of the COMCEC.

130- **Invites** the interested Member States to actively support Forum's Task Force on Precious Metals to finalize necessary works through accelerating the harmonization of regulatory frameworks.

131- **Welcomes** the offer of the Borsa Istanbul as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, to host the 13th Meeting of the Forum in 2019, in İstanbul, and **requests** all Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

132- **Requests** the Borsa Istanbul as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum in cooperation with IDB to continue to work towards the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah 50 Index and its potential sub-indices and to develop effective products and services based on the Index.

133- **Also requests** the Member States to actively support the Forum's Task Force on Indices including the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Shariah 50 Index and its potential sub-indices including but not limited to publishing the Index on the official websites of their Stock Exchanges.

ii) Cooperation among Capital Markets' Regulatory Bodies

134- **Welcomes** the report of the 7th Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum, hosted by Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey on November 8th, 2018 in Ankara.

135- **Welcomes** the efforts carried out by the Task Forces of COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum namely Capacity Building, Market Development and Financial Literacy and **calls upon** 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.

136- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC, the Session **takes note** of the briefing by the Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum on the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate Electronic Platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange among the interested OIC Member States and **requested** the Forum/the Forum's Secretariat to finalize necessary legal, administrative and technological preparations for the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate Electronic Platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange before the 35th Session of the COMCEC.

137- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 33rd COMCEC Session, the Session **calls upon** the interested Member States to actively participate in the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate Electronic Platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange and invited them to identify their authorized bodies as well as notify them to the Forum's Secretariat before the 35th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meeting.

138- **Welcomes** the offer of the Capital Markets Board of Turkey as the Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum, to host the 8th Meeting of the Forum in 2019, and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

iii) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities

139- **Takes note** of the Communique of the 16th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States hosted by the Central Bank of Turkey in Antalya/Turkey on 23-25 September 2018 and **also takes note** of the decision of the said Meeting to continue its activities as the "OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum."

140- **Welcomes** the offer of Central Bank of Turkey, as the Secretariat of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum, to host its 1st Meeting in 2019 and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

141- **Commends** 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 “Facilitating Trade: Improving Customs Risk Management Systems in the OIC Member States” (Agenda Item: 12)

142- **Welcomes** the Policy Recommendations on “Facilitating Trade: Improving Customs Risk Management Systems in the OIC Member States”.

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

Theme of the next Exchange of Views Session

143- **Decides** on “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in Islamic Countries” as the theme for the Exchange of Views Session at the 35th Session of the COMCEC and **requests** the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group in its 13th Meeting, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 35th COMCEC Session.

Date of the 35th Session of the COMCEC (Agenda Item: 13)

144- **Decides** that the 35th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 24-25 April 2019 in Ankara, Turkey and the 35th Session of the COMCEC will be held on 25-28 November 2019 in İstanbul, Turkey.

Any Other Business (Agenda Item: 14)

145- **Calls upon** the Member Countries to sign and ratify the statute of the OIC Labor Center in Baku Azerbaijan.

